

MINUTES

Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

2:00 p.m.

Microsoft Teams Meeting / (248) 509-0316 | ID: 640 061 717#

PRESENT FOR THE MSPAC

Attending remotely:

Ann Conklin; Canton Township, Wayne County, Michigan
Julie Clark; Traverse City, Grand Traverse County, Michigan
Jim Bradley; Ogden, Utah
Bob Hoffmeyer; Fort Myers, Florida
Mike MacDonald; Mason, Ingham County, Michigan
Chris Graham; Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan
Shaun McKeon; Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan
Mike Foote; Ada, Kent County, Michigan
Mary Pitcher; Lake Township, Benzie County, Michigan

ABSENT

Dave Nyberg

PRD STAFF PRESENT

Ron Olson, Chief
Jacklin Blodgett
Vicki McGhee
Jason Fleming
Scott Pratt
Kriss Bennett
Eric Jazdzyk
Eric Cadeau
Barbara Graves

OPENING COMMENTS

Committee member Ann Conklin called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m. and asked for a roll call.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ann Conklin motioned for approval of the October 13, 2021, meeting minutes. The motion was moved by **Julie Clark**, supported by **Shaun McKeon**, and passed unanimously.

Ann Conklin motioned for approval of the 2022 MSPAC meeting dates. The motion was moved by **Mike Foote**, supported by **Mary Pitcher**, and passed unanimously.

GENERAL UPDATES

Ron Olson, Chief, PRD

SB 702, 703, 704 were introduced in the legislature. SB 702 deals with funding the park endowment \$5.8M to bring it to its cap. SB 703 enables \$250M for state park infrastructure. SB 704 is for \$150M towards a local parks grant system. There is a \$26M carve out of \$250M for the park in Flint. Right now, there has been no active hearings on the bills. There is a bill pending that Rep. Cherry is working on to open up the Passport. Due to the passing of Proposal 1, 50% is required for infrastructure. This bill would amend the Passport legislation to allow for the 50% for infrastructure and 30% for operations to be blended together.

Julie Clark asked if the \$150 is going through the DNR. Chief Olson said it would go through grants, but not through the Trust Fund Board. Chief Olson encourages the committee to share these bills with their groups. Taylor Ridderbusch, will be the new DNR Legislative Liaison, replacing Craig Brunet. PRD will organize a special meeting after the project list is ironed out.

MSPAC Draft Restructure Plan

There was discussion and input on the draft MSPAC restructure plan. Suggestions including taking out the Blue Ribbon member and adding an MEC member. Chief Olson will verify if the NRC member will have voting rights. It was also suggested to have the At Large position open to someone in the general public who is a camper.

MOTION: With the changes a motion was made by Ann Conklin for PRD to start the reorganization concept and bylaws being finalized by March 2022. The motion was moved by **Mary Pitcher**, supported by **Julie Clark**, and passed unanimously.

2021 MNRTF GRANTS

The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund recommended a record \$50 Million worth of projects this year. Slightly over half went to acquisition projects with the remainder going to development projects.

Grand Prix Move to Downtown Detroit

The Grand Prix will move to downtown Detroit in 2023. The non-profit organization are committed to continue to raise funds for Belle Isle.

National Association of State Park Directors Awards

The National Association of State Park Directors presented the following awards this month.

President's Award:
William "Bill" Doan
Healthy Kidz Inc.
Innovation Award:
DNR Happy Little Trees Program
Orchard Beach Project Tea
Ney C Landrum History Award:
Dan Spegel

Operations

Jacklin Blodgett, Assistant Chief, PRD reported on operations. Seasonal staff are laid off at this time, while winter camping still continues. Vacancies are still being filled. Murdock Jemerson, Rose Lake District Supervisor, has retired and his position will be filled. Planning and other key positions have gone through the interview process. PRD is still dealing with COVID. There is a reminder each day that employees are to fill out a health screening form. The IMT is still meeting every week to update the PRD Operations Plan, if needed. Received word last week that we will not be attending sport shows. Staff continue to remote work, if responsibilities allow for it. The return-to-work date has been pushed back to January 10. Budget - ended the year in the black, about \$13M more than budgeted; the best year ever in the history of Parks, with almost 1.4M camping nights. Passports were up as well.

CAMIS, Camping and Lodging and Waterparks

Jason Fleming, Chief, Resource Promotion and Protection, PRD, went over the 2019/2020 numbers, 2021 camper survey data, and waterpark data.

Capital Outlay Highlights

Eric Jazdyk, Development Planner, PRD, presented the capital outlay highlights.

The PRD Strategic Plan input meeting will be scheduled for January 12.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

Ann Conklin wished everyone happy holidays.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:38 p.m.