



# Non-Motorized Advisory Workgroup (NAW)

## Meeting Minutes

Location: Virtual meeting

Date: Nov. 17, 2022

10 a.m. – Noon

## Welcome – Roll Call

### PRESENT FOR THE NON-MOTORIZED ADVISORY WORKGROUP (NAW):

- Andrea LaFontaine, Chairperson
- John Morrison
- Mary Bohling
- Neal Glazebrook
- Kenny Wawsczyk, Vice Chair (absent)
- Kristen Wiltfang
- Jason Aric Jones
- Lori Hauswirth

### PRESENT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (DNR) STAFF

Tim Novak, Annalisa Centofanti, Michael Morrison, Scott Slavin, Greg Kinser, Blake Gingrich, Jill Sell, Ron Yesney, Paige Perry, Nicole Hunt, Jason Fleming, Kim Kennedy, David Price

**Others:** Jenny Cook, Jean Hartman, Ken Hopper, Carl Slindee, Rick VanGrouw, Nathan Miller, Brent Bolin, Scott Silvers

## Meeting minutes

### ACTION ITEMS

Meeting called to order at 10:02 a.m. by committee Chair, Andrea LaFontaine.

Motion was made by Jason Aric Jones to approve the Sept. 7 meeting minutes and seconded by John Morrison. With all in favor, motion carried.

Jason Aric Jones asked the Chair and committee members to be mindful of limiting the public comments during the meeting, keeping the agenda item discussions within the committee. Andrea LaFontaine announced all public comments will be addressed through the Chair.

Motion was made by Mary Bohling to approve the Nov. 17 agenda and seconded by Kristen Wiltfang. With all in favor, motion carried.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Carl Slindee, representing the Motor City Mountain Bike Association, talked about a current opportunity to work with Island Lake Recreation Area to reclaim a portion of the gravel quarry known as the Bad Lands. Carl expressed challenges with stewardship in moving this request through the approval process.

Jill Sell, DNR, commented, saying she received an email from planning staff regarding she believes to be the same project. Jill does not have a lot of details and understands it is held up in review with stewardship. Jill asked to give her time and she will look into this.

Scott Silvers, representing Motor City Mountain Bike Association, works to help land managers and the public to understand how Ebikes can fit into the existing trail systems. Scott referred to the website; "People for Bikes" to learn more and read about studies that have been conducted.

Jenny Cook, representing equestrians, spoke about how equestrians enjoy working with other trail user groups, being transparent as possible.

## BUSINESS ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

### **DNR FOREST WOLVERINE COPPER COUNTRY CARBON PROJECT**

David Price, DNR, provided a presentation with information on the Michigan DNR Forest Carbon Projects (attached).

### **NATURAL SURFACE NONMOTORIZED TRAILS – DEPT. APPROACH**

Jason Aric Jones discussed challenges and barriers that have been encountered with the DNR stewardship approach in reviewing trail proposals. See attached document for detailed information.

Jason Fleming, DNR, is concerned because the staff is not present at this meeting to take part in this conversation where Jason Aric Jones has mentioned the challenges pointed out with stewardship. Stewardship is not anti-trail. The Department has responsibility to preserve. Jason Fleming suggested to bring in the staff and have a conducive conversation.

Lori Hauswirth mentioned trail development courses or programs may assist with education, relationships, and building overall quality trail experiences.

### **LEAGUE OF MICHIGAN BICYCLISTS (LMB) EBIKE STATEMENT**

Neal Glazebrook provided a statement advocating for statewide program to incentivize Ebike purchases (see attached statement).

### **EBIKES CLASSIFICATION POLICY**

Tim Novak, DNR, stated he has been approached by several trail groups, that are friends of mountain bike communities, requesting a Land Use Order (LUOD) to allow Class I Ebikes on their mountain bike trails. The current policy does not allow Ebikes on mountain bike trails. With the current popularity and tech advancements of Ebikes, we are seeing more of these types of requests. This is a conversation that needs to be revisited.

Lori Hauswirth suggested forming a small research committee. Lori is an advocate for the DNR to open mountain bike trails with a LUOD. Tim Novak it is time to move forward with this and he will take the lead on forming a workgroup to review DNR policies. Jason Aric Jones would like to be a part of the workgroup.

## **UPDATES**

### **ARPA FUNDS**

Tim Novak, DNR, reported staff is still working on American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) list. Unit supervisors have submitted project lists to trails staff, which include some nonmotorized natural trail surfaces. Staff is working on the accuracy of funding and appropriation for the projects. The list should be finalized by the end of the year.

### **TRAIL PLAN IMPLEMENTATION**

Jill Sell, DNR, reported she is exploring external assistance to help push trail plan implementation forward. Jill said she is circling back with Public Sector Consultants (PSC) inquiring about a multi-year support contract.

## **NAW COMMITTEE UPDATES**

Lori Hauswirth updated the group that the Hartwick Pines cross country ski trail project has been completed (widen a portion of the weary legs trail to allow grooming).

## **NAW EXPIRED TERMS**

Tim Novak, DNR, mentioned there are several committee members term expiring in January. The Department has received applications and will be interviewing soon. The positions should be filled by the next NAW meeting.

Expiring Terms:

Mary Bohling  
John Morrison  
Kristen Wiltfang

Andrea LaFontaine thanked the members for their time and advice. Andrea is grateful for their commitment, dedication, and service.

Mary Bohling stated it has been an honor to serve on this committee.

Kristen Wiltfang thanked everyone for the opportunity to serve on this committee, there has been some great accomplishments made over the years. Kristen appreciates all the members for their hard work and efforts, and she plans on staying in touch.

John Morrison has enjoyed working on this committee and making the progress they have, as well as look forward to the progress that will be made in the future.

## **REGIONAL TRAIL HIGHLIGHTS**

### **SELP**

Tim Novak provided an update for the southeast Lower Peninsula Trails Specialist (SELP) position. Tim reported he has conducted interviews and is currently checking references. He is hopeful to have someone in place January 2023.

### **NM GRANT SPECIALIST**

Tim Novak provided an update for the Nonmotorized Grant Specialist position. The posting is open at this time and will close tomorrow. Tim said it will be about a 6-week process to move through candidates, interviews, and finalization.

### **NELP**

Blake Gingrich, DNR, introduced himself as the new northeast Lower Peninsula Trails Specialist. Blake started with the Trails Section at the end of October and has been with the DNR since 1995 working in various roles.

**2023 MEETING DATES**

Coming Soon

ROUND ROBIN/CLOSING COMMENTS

Jenny Cook stated in consideration of the Ebike conversations, she hopes to see a trails safe passing plan worked out with all the trails users.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.



# Michigan DNR Forest Carbon Projects

November 2022



anew



## Why MI DNR Carbon Projects?

- Executive Directive 2019-12 Responding to Climate Change
  - Implement policies that advance the goals of the Paris Agreement, aiming to reduce greenhouse gas emission by at least 26-28 percent below 2005 levels by 2025.
  - Accelerate new and existing policies to reduce carbon pollution and promote clean energy deployment at the state and federal level.
- Executive Directive 2020-10 Building a Carbon-neutral MI
  - Achieve economy-wide carbon neutrality no later than 2050
  - Achieve a 28% reduction below 1999 levels in greenhouse gas emissions by 2025.
  - Implement Michigan Healthy Climate Plan



# Michigan Carbon Projects

Year	Acres	Hectares	Landowner	Developer	Registry	Methodology
2013	229,601	92,918	Hancock Timber	Bluesource	CAR	IFM-CAR
2016	18,816	7,615	Huron Mountain Club	Huron Mountain Club	ACR	IFM-ACR
2017	5,637	2,281	The Nature Conservancy	Bluesource	CAR	IFM-CAR
2017	44,870	18,159	Molpus Woodlands	Finite Carbon	ACR	IFM-ACR
2018	62,091	25,128	Molpus Woodlands	Finite Carbon	ACR	IFM-ACR
2019	25,935	10,496	The Nature Conservancy	Bluesource	CAR	IFM-CAR
2019	22,210	8,988	Greenleaf Timber	Bluesource	ACR	IFM-ACR
2019	16,800	6,799	Keweenaw Bay Indian Community	#334	ACR	IFM-ACR
2020	25,000	10,117	The Rohatyn Group (TRG)	Bluesource	ACR	IFM-ACR
2021	3,971	1,607	East Branch Sportsman's Club	Bluesource		
2021	32,984	13,348	Hiawatha Sportsman's Club	Finite Carbon	ACR	IFM-ACR
2021	12,658	5,123	Keweenaw Land Association	Finite Carbon	ACR	IFM-ACR
2021	100,000	40,469	Michigan DNR	Bluesource	ACR	IFM-ACR
2021	10,550	4,270	The Nature Conservancy	TNC	ACR	IFM-ACR
2021	13,500	5,463	Canada Creek Ranch	Bluesource	ACR	IFM-ACR



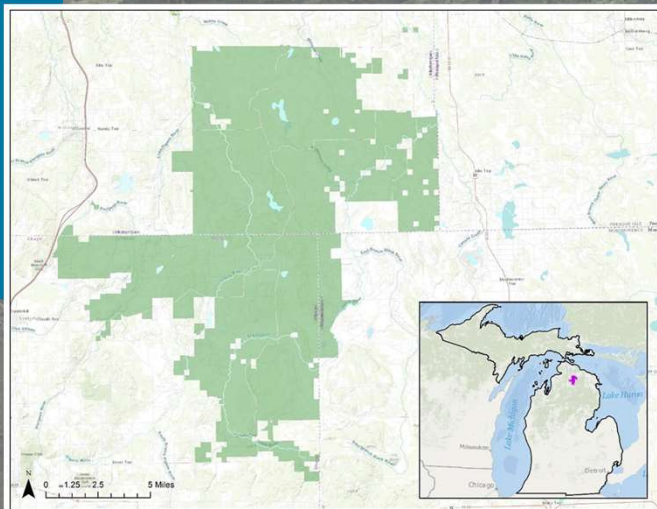
The background of the slide features a photograph of a dense evergreen forest on a hillside, with a body of water in the foreground. The sky is overcast with grey clouds. A solid teal vertical bar is positioned on the left side of the slide, partially overlapping the forest image.

## DNR State Forest Carbon Projects

- Blue source-Michigan DNR Big Wild Forest Carbon Project
  - Over 101,000 acres in the Pigeon River Country Forest Management Unit
  - Listed with ACR in August 2020
- Bluesource-Michigan DNR Wolverine-Copper Country Forest Carbon Project
  - Over 120,000 acres in the northern lower and western upper peninsulas
  - Listed with ACR in December 2021

# Big Wild Forest Carbon Project

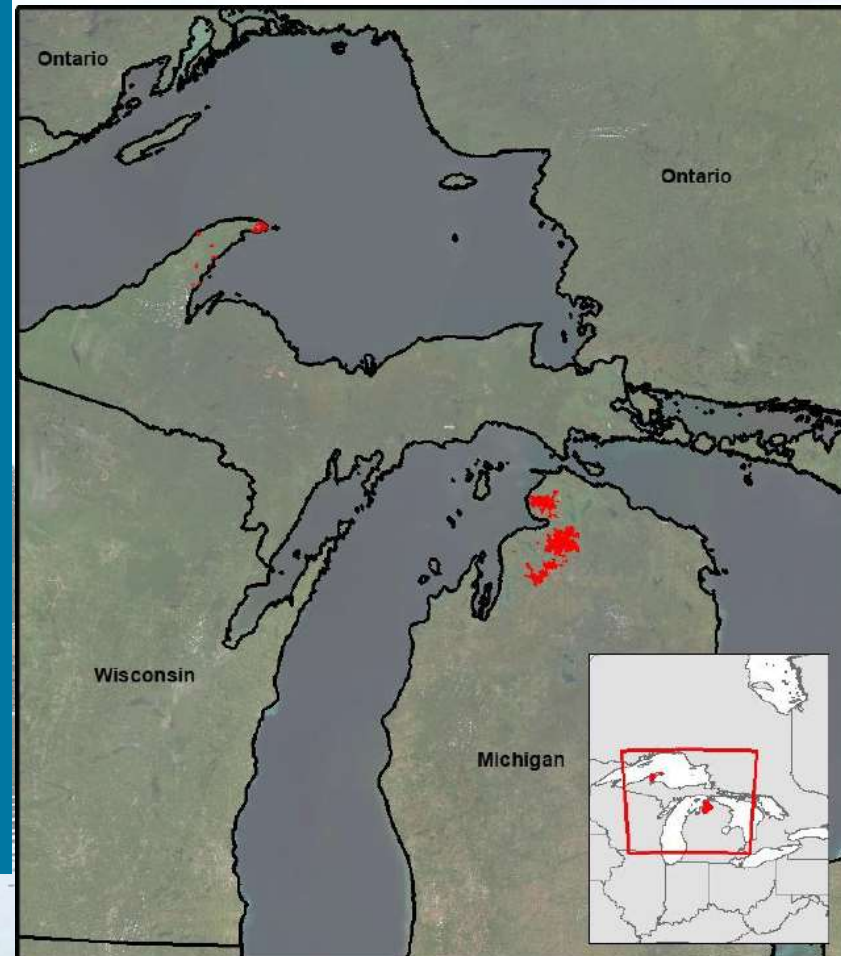
- Largest and most contiguous block of state forest land in northern lower peninsula – 109,000 acres
- Coined “The Big Wild” by conservationist P.S. Lovejoy for its scenic beauty and immortalized in the writing and letters of author Ernest Hemingway
- The heart of Michigan’s elk range
- Contains several premier cold-water trout streams, including the storied Sturgeon, Pigeon and Black rivers
- Hikers, anglers, wildlife watchers and hunters all appreciate this area for its wilderness-like feel



# Wolverine-Copper Country Carbon Project

## State forest management areas:

- **Wolverine Moraines and Emmet Moraines (NLP)**
  - Includes Jordan River valley
  - Over 93,000 acres of northern hardwood forest
  - Heavily degraded by emerald ash borer and beech bark disease
- **Keweenaw(WUP)**
  - Very remote and difficult to manage
  - Premier recreation use







# DNR Request for Proposals Process

- Request for proposals issued in March 6, 2020
- Pre-proposal call on March 17, 2020
- Bidder questions due 3/20/2020. Answers posted 3/25/2020
- RFP deadline April 30, 2021
- Evaluation of bids May 4, 2020 – 3 bids received:
  - The Climate Trust
  - EP Carbon/Nature Bank
  - Bluesource, LLC
- Oral presentations on May 6, 2020
- Contract awarded to Bluesource, LLC on 9/14/2020



# American Carbon Registry

- Using The American Carbon Registry Improved Forest Management Methodology for Non-Federal U.S. Forestlands as the project registry.
- The ACR is a nonprofit enterprise, founded in 1996 as the world's first private, voluntary greenhouse gas registry.
- Focused upon certified managed forestland.
- Required carbon pools:
  - Above- and below-ground standing live wood
  - Above-ground standing dead wood (also in un-managed stands)
  - Harvested wood products
- Accounts for leakage and risk of reversal (acts of God)
- 40-year minimum project length (two 20-year crediting periods)





## About Anew Climate (Formerly Bluesource)

- Oldest and largest carbon offset developer in North America (20 years)
- 200+ projects, 20+ project types, and 150+ million tonnes of emissions reductions
- Voted Environmental Finance's Best Project Developer (North America) and Best Offset Developer (California) for five years running
- 45+ forest carbon projects under management
- Over 1 million acres of forestland enrolled in carbon projects
- Dedicated forestry team: in-house finance, marketing, and legal experts, plus 10 professional foresters with unparalleled forest carbon experience
- Purchased 29,000 acres from Lyme Timber Co in the east UP for a forest carbon project.

# Anew Climate Services



# Project Development Timeline

Stage	Development Period(months)																	
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<b>1 Establishment of ACR Account and Project Listing</b>																		
<b>2 Forest Carbon Inventory</b>																		
Inventory Sampling Design																		
Inventory Field Work																		
Data Cleaning																		
<b>3 Credit Marketing &amp; Contracting</b>																		
<b>4 Carbon Calculations</b>																		
Project Growth and Yield Modeling																		
Baseline Scenario Modeling																		
Quantification of Carbon Offset Generation																		
<b>5 Project Document Drafting</b>																		
<b>6 3rd Party Verification*</b>																		
Project Orientation and Document Submittal																		
Site Audit																		
Responses to Verifier Questions/Findings																		
<b>7 Registration</b>																		
Verification Report Reviewed by Registry																		
Respond to Registry Questions/Findings																		
Credit Issuance																		
<b>8 Credit Sales</b>																		
Credit Delivery to Buyer																		
Payment Made to Landowner																		

**\*Note - Verification begins at the conclusion of the project's one-year reporting period. This accounts for the three-month gap between the conclusion of document drafting and the commencement of verification activities.**

# Big Wild Project Development Timeline

## COMPLETED WORK

- Establishment of CFI plots (Green Timber Consulting Foresters, Inc. – Pelkie, MI)
- DTE Energy commitment to purchase the first 10-years of carbon offset credits
- Final carbon model baseline to determine the volume of credits
- Third party verification of the model by SCS Global Services
- Offset credit registration and issuance
- Sale of credits

## NEXT STEPS

- Invoicing and DNR receipt of funds

# Wolverine-Copper Country Project Development Timeline

## COMPLETED WORK

- Registration of project with ACR
- Establishment and measurement of CFI plots

## NEXT STEPS

- Marketing for a buyer
- Develop carbon model baseline to determine the volume of credits
- Third party verification of the model by SCS Global Services
- Offset credit registration and issuance
- Sale of credits



The background of the slide features a photograph of a dense evergreen forest on a hillside, with a rocky shoreline and calm water in the foreground. The sky is overcast with soft, grey clouds. A solid teal-colored rectangular box is positioned on the left side of the slide, partially overlapping the forest image.

# DNR Public Outreach

- Dedicated project website
- Early and sustained conversations with key stakeholder groups
  - Pigeon River Country Advisory Council
  - Timber and Forest Products Advisory Council
- Communication with native American tribes
- Virtual panel discussion on carbon offset credits
- Legislative briefs
- Press releases and other media efforts
- Many discussions with other states

# A new Marketing Strategy



Develop marketing content



Portfolio development vs. single offtaker



Also selling the project co-benefits

- Largest block of contiguous undeveloped land in Michigan's Lower Peninsula
- 100-year history
- Habitat and biodiversity conservation including unique elk herd, trout streams, caerulean sinkhole lakes, etc.
- Significant public access and community benefits



## Marketing Result

- DTE Energy has committed to purchasing the first 10-years of carbon offset credits (1.38 million) generated by the project.
- \$13,876,308 over first 10-years of the 40-year project.
- First payment in FY23.



**DTE Energy®**





## Impacts Upon Forest Use and Values

- Some decrease in forest management for timber production
- No impact upon public use for forest-based recreation – Camping, hunting/fishing, trail use, etc.
- Increase in forest carbon storage – an ecosystem service

The background of the slide features a photograph of a dense evergreen forest on a rocky shoreline, with the forest reflected in the calm water of a lake or river. The sky is overcast with soft, grey clouds. The title 'DNR Management Obligations' is overlaid on the upper right portion of the image in a bold, dark blue font.

## DNR Management Obligations

- Update management plans on required schedule.
- Implement approved management plans per usual procedures.
- Annually report harvest species, volumes and shape files for completed payment units within project area.
- Advise Bluesource of any pending and actual changes in ownership within the project area.





**Questions?**

*November 17, 2022*

## **Nonmotorized Advisory Workgroup Meeting**

Presentation by NAW Member Jason Aric Jones

### **OUTLINE OF CONCERNS REGARDING DEPARTMENT APPROACH TO NATURAL SURFACE NONMOTORIZED TRAILS**

#### Summary

Presentation noted numerous gaps in Department processes and procedures which present barriers prohibiting suitable acknowledgement, understanding and funding of natural surface, nonmotorized (NSNM) trails on State lands. The below summarizes the gaps identified in the meeting and, in some cases, further expounds on these.

#### **1. Acknowledgement Gaps**

The acknowledgement gap regarding NSNM trails surrounds viewing NSNM trails as a key resource bringing users to State lands, be they lands managed by PRD, Wildlife or Forest Divisions. This gap is partially due to Department structure, and partially due to personnel issues within the parameters of the structure. NSNM trails fall into an odd gap structurally, where they are not suitably acknowledged by the MDNR organizational structure. FRD and Wildlife Divisions make no mention of trails in their org charts. PRD has a Trails Section, but its focus regarding NSNM trails is ill-defined. Many of the NSNM trails in MDNR fall under PRD in various Park and Recreation Management Areas and are technically under the jurisdiction of PRD Unit Operations. While the PRD org chart has numerous carve-outs for the management of certain linear trails and pathways, NSNM trails are assumed to be part of what is “managed” by PRD Unit Managers. Trails Section (for at least a decade plus) has primarily focused on either improved linear trails and pathways in the nonmotorized arena, or motorized trails permitting and expenditures (ORV and Snowmobile). The only specific NSNM trail carve out group under Trails Section would relate to equestrian trails and focus on that user group via the carved out Equestrian Trail Subcommittee. The Nonmotorized Advisory Workgroup, who’s last two chairs have been the Executive Directors of the Michigan Trails and Greenways, is largely focused on supporting and moving forward linear trail and greenway projects. This leaves acknowledgement of most NSNM trails under PRD to Unit Ops Management. The reality? Most of these unit managers do not view “dirt as infrastructure”. NSNM trails are dirt, and they are infrastructure. The only time most unit managers look at spending funding allocations on NSNM trails, is when hard supporting infrastructure such as bridges, boardwalks, vault toilets or parking lots need attention due to disrepair. With very few exceptions, Unit Managers do not view dirt trail tread as requiring funding or management. Indeed, most of the time when dirt trail tread is given attention, it is initiated by outside stakeholder groups, not Unit Managers. While many Unit Managers will acknowledge the NSNM trails in their Management Area are a prime attraction for users coming to the park, they do not typically acknowledge dirt as infrastructure to be supported. They also often appear confused as to where these trails fall in the MDNR realm of responsibility. Some Unit Managers believe that designated geographic Trails Specialists are looking after these trails, while Trails Specialists are viewing the “dirt in the park” as mainly the responsibility of the Park Manager and are solely focused on the hard trail infrastructure in their jurisdiction – improved linear trails and pathways.

## 2. Understanding Gaps

Understanding gaps stem from acknowledgment gaps. When NSNM trail “dirt” is not viewed as infrastructure, as noted above, little time is spent by Department staff on trying to understand these trails. Modern sustainable trail building “best practices” have seen great evolution over the past decade. One only has to look to BLM and U.S. Forest Service Management guidelines to see that NSNM trail building now surrounds creating sustainable trails which focus on managing the traverse of topography via specific grades and outslopes, as well as modern water management techniques such as grade reversals and grade dips. Many other state land managers have also adopted these guidelines. Sadly, many NSNM trails in MDNR PRD, FRD and Wildlife Areas are of old school “fall line” construction and are degrading fast. While the new Comprehensive Trails Plan adopted this year acknowledges a focus on repairing degrading trails to make them “sustainable” using “best practices”, it does not specifically address what these best practices are. It is apparent that many MDNR staff members charged with making decisions regarding NSNM trails do not understand best practices in the creation and maintenance of these trails. This is perhaps most evident in some of the commentary from PRD Stewardship, a unit which likes to comment on many matters regarding recreational NSNM trails beyond their simple impact on flora and fauna. While numerous examples exist and can be cited, perhaps the best most recent example can be seen in the attached memorandum from Stewardship regarding the MNRTF Grant funded Potawatomi Trail Revitalization project at Pinckney State Recreation Area. In the memorandum, Stewardship eschews the need for sustainable rerouting of trails, even though many of the proposed reroutes would take trail out of lower, highly sensitive “wet” areas more identifiable as threatened Eastern Massasauga Rattlesnake habitat. The document expresses a preference for no trail rerouting and then goes on to express that dated techniques for trail repair should be used such as using geoweb, waterbars and rubber conveyor belt on waterbars. The document also expresses that bringing soil from the “toe of the hill” back to the top would be a good reclamation technique. The sand at the “toe” of the hill is sediment displaced by a nonsustainable trail design that the MNRTF grant seeks to correct. Brought back up to the top of a hill will not prevent it from returning to the bottom due to poor initial construction. All these stated reclamation techniques can now be found in texts from land managers such as the BLM and U.S. Forest Service as techniques which should NOT be utilized. When the Area Manager at Pinckney expressed to Stewardship that this grant was about creating a more sustainable Potawatomi Trail and enhancing user experience and trail aesthetics, he was told this grant and project was NOT about enhancing user experience, simply about repairing the trail. Of course, this perspective flies in the face of the Trails Plan which seeks to not only create more sustainable trails, but also to create “quality trail experiences” for users. When Area Managers are called upon to clear any trail projects with a Stewardship unit which clearly lacks understanding – of best practices in trail construction, of Trail Plan goals, of modern trail recreation and user goals for trail experience – it is no wonder Area Managers are confused regarding what “parameters” are in the management of NSNM trails and their users.

## 3. Funding Gaps

Building on a theme, gaps in funding for NSNM trails come about when these trails are not properly acknowledged, nor understood. During Governor Whitmer’s announcement in the Summer of 2022 regarding \$250 million in ARPA funds going to State “Parks and Trails”, the Department tapped up Grand Rapids-based endurance mountain bike racer Jill Martindale to stand by the Governor and speak to the

importance of trails and how users had flocked to these trails during COVID. Jill rides primarily on natural surfaces, both dirt trails and dirt roads, on her rides. The irony? When the numbers ended up washing out, only \$3 million or 1.2 percent of these funds were actually going to NSNM trails. Almost a half a year later, we still don't have a breakdown of where that paltry 1.2 percent is going. Shortly after that funding was announced, I had a discussion with then Acting Trails Section Head Kristen Bennett who expressed that she had "little to no work item proposals" from PRD Unit and Area Managers directed toward NSNM trail projects. I, personally, subsequently scrambled a number of local trail stakeholder groups to work with their Local Area Managers in developing WIPs for certain NSNM trail systems. It remains unclear if the initial absence of WIPs was because MDNR supervising management did not ask Area Managers for WIPs pertaining to NSNM trails, or, if Area Managers simply did not understand that "dirt is infrastructure" in need of maintenance as identified in the State Trails Plan. Regardless, failure to utilize a "once in a lifetime" influx of federal funds for NSNM trails was a significant oversight by the Department. Salt was later poured in the wound when the Department worked to develop the SPARK grant program – a program rife with available funding with none of it accessible for most of the NSNM trails on state land and to the small non-profit groups who steward these trails. For these groups, unfortunately it is an all too familiar refrain resonating with talk of inaccessible funding sources and unfulfilled promises. While these small groups toil to create sustainable "dirt" for hordes of mountain bikers, hikers and trail runners, the Department continues to focus primarily on funding large politically driven improved linear trails and greenways in the realm of nonmotorized trails, which better resemble MDOT highways for peds and cyclists than what one thinks of as a traditional "trail in the woods." This, despite numbers which suggest users are flocking to NSNM trails in record numbers.

### **Summary/Request for Action**

The Department is requested to look at its structure and approach to NSNM trails in order to "narrow the gaps" identified above. How this is to be accomplished is up to the Department - be it an internal committee, a reshuffle of designations/jurisdictions/responsibilities, or some other method. While these concerns were addressed first at the Nonmotorized Advisory Workgroup Meeting, several members of the Michigan Trails Advisory Council (MTAC) will also be presenting a related resolution regarding Department attention to NSNM trails. These members and their affiliated stakeholders also stand ready to help assist in moving any changes to the Department's NSNM trail agenda forward.

## Potawatomi Trail Improvements

### Stewardship Unit Notes and initial feed-back to project team

October 25, 2022

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**Project Purpose:** Restore heavily eroded sections of the Potawatomi Trail using professional trail restoration and construction techniques.

**Purpose of these notes:** Affirm stewardship general support of the project concept and lists specific preferences and limitations below. Specific restoration locations and any proposed re-routes will need to be submitted early in the design phase prior to implementation for further ecological and archaeological review.

- Our preference is to correct erosion problems in place with no re-routes (i.e., rehabilitate the existing trail).
- If a re-route is necessary and approved, the old, re-routed segment should be repaired prior to- or during construction of the new, stable re-routed segment.
- Necessary re-routed segments should be constructed to be stable by implementing the most sustainable, professional design practices.
- Necessary re-routed segments should create the minimum amount of new trail necessary to correct problems pertaining to erosion or unreasonably dangerous conditions.
- The location of the highest quality dry-mesic southern forest stands (i.e., old growth “oak-hickory forest”) have been shared with the team. Any re-routes in these areas may require on-site inspection by Stewardship Unit staff.
- Stewardship must review re-routes for archaeological concerns.
- Necessary re-routed segments should consider using water-bars, broad-based dips, and other accepted erosion management techniques. Geocells (Geoweb) have been used successfully on the trail. Rubber conveyor belting can be installed vertically as a water-bar and culverts should be used when needed. All these techniques require a commitment to long-term maintenance which should be addressed before the project is implemented.
- Weed risk and control: Off-site material should not be used unless demonstrated to be necessary in the project plan. Use of off-site material must be approved during project design phase. Any material (including local) must be weed free and fresh bank run gravel should be used instead of gravel from a stockpile. Filled areas need to be monitored for weeds which need to be controlled early in their establishment.
- Material should be moved from the toe of a slope back up the slope to make repairs.
- Boardwalks should be used to protect wet areas which can be identified where the trail tread spreads wider and wider as users seek drier ground to avoid mud and water.
- Only temporary seed mixes should be used such as annual rye or oats. Stewardship will need to approve any seeding with perennial grasses and forbs.



NAW Meeting

November 17, 2022

The League of Michigan Bicyclists (LMB) advocated successfully in 2017 to clarify the definition of E-bikes in Michigan law. Recent developments in battery technology have dramatically increased the range, power, and usefulness of this vehicle category, and led to a surge in interest and popularity. E-bikes have the potential to open up bicycling for transportation and pleasure to a much broader audience and enable uses – like carrying 100-pound bags of gravel or multiple children – that were formerly exclusive to cars and trucks.

As part of our mission to improve life through bicycling, LMB is advocating for a statewide program to incentivize E-bike purchases, especially for those who stand to gain the greatest benefits from low-cost transportation, healthy activity, and cleaner air. LMB is also interested in collaborating in 2023 with the DNR and other stakeholders to conduct a detailed survey of the Michigan mountain biking community, including individuals, organizations, and trail managers, regarding the use of e-bikes on natural surface trails.

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