

CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR STATE PARKS MEETING

Thursday, April 27, 2005

Bay City State Recreation Area

Visitor's Center

Bay City, Michigan

MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT

Tom Ferguson, Vice Chair

James Bradley

Betsy Clark

Hurley Coleman

Christopher Graham

James Hendricks

Michael McDonald

William Rose

Robert Hoffmeyer

Kathy Lewand

Charles Nelson

Mary Pitcher

Todd Scott

Janet Howard Washington

Sam Washington

MEMBERS ABSENT

Thomas Bailey

Murdock Jemerson, Chair

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT

Keith Charters

Phil Kwiatkowski (for Sandra Clark)

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS ABSENT

Curtis Hertel

Donna Stine

Duncan Wyeth

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (DNR) STAFF PRESENT

Ron Olson

George Cameron

Tony Herek

Harold Herta

Lowen Schuett

Sandy Simpson

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (DNR) STAFF NOT PRESENT

Vicki Anthes

Vice-Chair Tom Ferguson called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. and roll call taken of members present. **Ron Olson** shared **Todd Scott** requested Proud Lake/Nike site topic be added to the agenda for discussion. The Stewardship Subcommittee will discuss Resolution 02-2006-03 (tabled from February 16, 2006 meeting) during its report. **Chuck Nelson** presented at the Parks and Recreation Division's (PRD) Professional Development Training held on March 21 – 23, 2006 and will brief the CCMSP later during the meeting.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY 16, 2006

Vice Chair Ferguson asked for motion to approve/adopt the February 16, 2006 CCMSP meeting minutes. **Sandy Simpson** clarified **Sandra Clark** member status as an Ex-officio member. Made changes to proposed draft as recommended by the committee members.

Committee member **Mary Pitcher** motioned to adopt the minutes as amended. Motion seconded by member **Kathy Lewand**. Minutes unanimously adopted as amended.

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS

Ron Olson briefed the committee members on draft Public Commentary Resolution No. 04-2006-01.

Committee member **Mike McDonald** motioned to adopt Resolution No. 04-2006-01. Motion seconded by committee member **Chuck Nelson**. Resolution No. 04-2006-01 unanimously.

Ron Olson briefed the committee members on the State Park Foundation Resolution No. 04-2006-02 draft. **Olson** shared information regarding the PRD staff's efforts of first contributors to the foundation. Committee members discussed moving forward with Governor appointment board members that is interested and committed to its mission. The Director Humphries and DNR Executive Office are supportive of renewing the foundation. **Olson** discussed using a PRD vacancy in Lansing to hire a foundation administrator/executive director. Discussed the tax information and foundation would be 5013C.

Vice Chair Ferguson moved for motion to support State Park Foundation Resolution No. 04-2006-02.

Committee member **Betsy Clark** motioned to adopt State Park Foundation Resolution No. 04-2006-02. Motion supported by member **Mary Pitcher**. State Park Foundation Resolution No. 04-2006-02 unanimously adopted.

Discussion ensued to add executive director and administrative support to Resolution No. 04-2006-02.

Member **Kathy Lewand** made a motion to adopt the resolution as amended. Motion supported by member **Betsy Clark**.

The motion to adopt Resolution No. 04-2006-02 as amended and unanimously carried.

Discussion continued relative to profit vs. non-profit foundations. **Olson** shared the Governor's office will oversee the appointment process.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

None.

ROCKPORT PROPERTY PRESENTATION

Anna Sylvester, Roscommon District Supervisor

DNR Parks and Recreation Division (PRD)/Chair, DNR Northern Lower Peninsula (NLP) Eco-Team

Committee was briefed on the Rockport-DNR Management Plan and the collaborative effort among other DNR Divisions and stakeholders. Committee provided history on the parcel, geology, and archaeology of the area. The presentation shared the natural features, recreation options. The Northern-Lower Peninsula Eco team recommendations on Rockport as follows:

- Parks and Recreation Division as the land manager (FMFM is current land manager)
- Develop management plan
- DNR Division involvement in plan
- Stakeholder input into management plan

Discussion followed with funding concerns and community involvement. **Anna** shared FMFM does not have funding directed toward Rockport and the PRD would apply for FMFM grants, and other opportunities, for geological/recreational development. The desire is to perform an effective management plan with a business plan unique to eco-tourism to generate revenue. **Tom Ferguson** mentioned contacting the coastal management council regarding the Rockport project.

The plan is supported by PRD, Forest, Mineral and Fire Management Division, and the DNR-Statewide Council. The Eco-Team is seeking support from the CCMSP for presentation to the DNR Director and the Natural Resources Commission (NRC).

Members concurred that Rockport be managed under PRD.

Motion made by member **Jim Hendricks** to support the Rockport project under the management of PRD. Motion supported by **Chris Graham**.

The motion support the Rockford project unanimously carried.

Discussion continued regarding Rockport uniting with Hoefft State Park; Thompson's Harbor State Park, Negwegon State Park as a package of scenic parks on the Lake Huron shoreline, potential grant opportunities, and a developing an resolution for appropriate business plan for these areas.

Staff shared a site visit is scheduled at Rockport on Friday, May 26 at 9 a.m. with the DNR Resource Management Deputy and Division Chief's from Parks and Recreation, Forest, Fire and Mineral Management, and Office of Land and Facilities.

SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Long-Term Finance - Chair Sam Washington reported on fee model recommendations for long-term financing such as vehicle licensing and property taxes. Fee models to help enhance Michigan's economy. Staff discussed potential savings from eliminating the motor vehicle permits (MVP) for residents and non-residents. The subcommittee believes the long-term funding must be spread out fairly. Members discussed strategizing for 2008 for ballot initiatives and the success of the state of Montana's MVP model. Discussion continued.

Innovations and Marketing – Kathy Lewand report for Chair Tom Bailey shared the following written report.

Old Business:

1) Licensing State Parks: The subcommittee agreed to forward a recommendation to the full Citizens Committee to not pursue licensing individual parks and state parks as a whole at this time but continue to support department-wide branding efforts and because of expense and complexity of each individual image/word art. However, the committee does recommend that the State Parks Foundation or Friends group, whichever becomes active, should consider pursuit of licensing if it seems desirable and appropriate.

2) Gift Guide: The subcommittee agreed to forward a recommendation to the full Citizens Committee to urge PRD and the Executive Divisions to expeditiously resolve issues related to publishing a gift guide and reviewing donor/sponsorship policies. There is a need to hire a trained professional and provide the administrative support required to solicit and receive donations, gifts and sponsorships. This would greatly help resolve funding deficits. The recommendation will urge the Department to review the Henry Ford Museum Foundation as a model for policy development.

Member **Bill Rose** offered the following Gift Guide resolution as follows:

“The Citizens Committee for Michigan State Parks encourages the DNR Executive office and the Parks and Recreation Division to move expeditiously to approve the Gift Guide.”

Member **Bill Rose** motioned to support resolution. Member **Chris Graham** supported the motion. Motion unanimously carried.

3) Non-profit Organization: The subcommittee agreed to forward a recommendation to the full Citizens Committee to appoint Kathy Lewand as liaison with Ron Olson to work with Becky Humphries to approach the Governor's Office to seek guidance on the creation of a strong 501(c)(3) non-profit organization either using existing legislation for the State Park Foundation or a new, independent group.

New Business:

1) Combining Subcommittees: The subcommittee agreed to forward a recommendation to the full Citizens Committee that combines the Education/Interpretation and Marketing/Innovation Subcommittees to one subcommittee called Marketing and Interpretation that will be co-chaired by Tom Bailey and Kathy Lewand. They also highly urge DNR to assign Interpretive staff from the Office of Communications to assist in their efforts.

Member Kathy Lewand moved to combine the Education/Interpretation and Marketing/Innovation Subcommittees to one Subcommittee called Marketing and Interpretation to be co-chaired by **Tom Bailey** and **Kathy Lewand**, using the same volunteers from both subcommittees. Motion supported by **Mike McDonald**.

Motion unanimously carried.

2) Marketing Needs: There was discussion about what needs are for marketing and interpretation. The discussion centered on marketing needs and the research/projects completed by the staff Marketing Innovation Team. The need for continued demographic research of current PRD users, their needs and the long-term marketing goals was discussed at length, along with the challenges of creating long-term strategic marketing plans. The consensus was that strategic plans are difficult for state agencies since so much of the future is undetermined due to funding and other decisions still not made about stable funding sources. The subcommittee believes that the development of a stable, reliable funding system for the parks is a prerequisite to any meaningful long-term or strategic plan. The subcommittee agreed to forward a recommendation to the full Citizens Committee that encouraged PRD to seek a creative, non-traditional partnership with a private vendor that would provide demographic research to be used as a basis for long-term marketing efforts.

3) Idlewild Efforts: The subcommittee agreed to forward a recommendation to full Citizens Committee that “enthusiastically” supports the efforts to conserve and interpret the history and community of Idlewild.

The CCMSP discussed the Idlewild the subcommittee’s recommendation to support the Idlewild efforts.

Member **Bill Rose** moved to support Idlewild efforts . Motion supported by Member **Kathy Lewand**.

Motion unanimously carried

NRC TECHNOLOGY, INFORMATION, MARKETING, AND EDUCATION (TIME) POLICY COMMITTEE

Colleen Steinman, PRD

Colleen Steinman shared 2006 marketing strategies and projections for the 2006 season at parks and recreation areas. Promotional ideas, radio spots, partnerships, use of camper cabins, and the purchase of MVP from businesses to give to employees and customer incentives were shared. Project-GO is scheduled fro June 10 – 11, and in conjunction with Free Fishing Weekend with events available for review on the DNR web home page. 2006 summer visitors will be more diverse in the PRD work force. Green initiatives effort will be visible too.

Programs and Operations – Chair Betsy Clark shared the following written report:

“After a couple of false starts, the Programs and Operations Subcommittee feels that they have the direction needed to accomplish what was intended when this subcommittee was initiated. Betsy Clark met with George Cameron and Tony Herek and then had a Subcommittee meeting with Bailey and Pitcher last week.

Committee members Bailey, Pitcher and Clark, along with staff members Cameron and Ellenwood, will select some rather general/broad programs and operations, i.e., camping, trails, day use, maintenance, etc. as headings. Under those headings, we will recommend actions to be taken. For instance, under Camping, we might suggest differential pricing as to size of rig or use of electrical; under Day Use, we might suggest adding more ball diamonds, basketball courts or volleyball nets; under Maintenance, we might suggest less mowing, contracting out cleaning, etc.

We all agreed that this is the course of action needed as we determine possible changes/additions/deletions to programs and operations to be recommended to the whole Committee, and then the Parks Chief and DNR Director. If any of the other Committee members would like to make suggestions, we will gladly accept any recommendations as we are sure to be "tweaking" the report as we go along.”

Member **Sam Washington** mentioned the road services provided by the parks that are considered by local/county as thoroughfares, are not paved, repaired, or maintained by the Michigan Department of Transportation.

Stewardship – Chair Mike McDonald gave a brief verbal report and will provide a written report at the next CCMSP meeting. Shared Ray Fahlsing, PRD and Barb Ayers, Wildlife biologist, report that clarified partnerships between DNR divisions. Recent prescribed burns done successfully. The Subcommittee received a detailed report from Paul Curtis on status management planning process and impressed by the progress being made.

Member **Mary Pitcher** moved to remove Resolution 02-2006-03 tabled from the February 16, 2006 CCMSP meeting from the agenda and withdraw the motion to adopt Resolution 02-2006-03.

Motion supported by member **Chuck Nelson**.

Motion unanimously carried.

Chris Graham shared concern of in-holdings in the state parks system and the need to have funding mechanism to move quickly on such items.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

Rodney Stokes, DNR Legislative Liaison

Provided updates a handout on a series of forestry bills and other legislation before both the Senate and the House of Representatives as follows:

- **House Bill (HB) 5453 (Casperson, R-Escanaba) and similar SB 918 (Jelinek, R-Three Oaks) are commonly referred to as the “Factor Limits Bills”**
- **HB 5454 (Elsenheimer, R-Bellaire) and SB 915 (Gilbert, R-Algonac)**

- **HB 5455 (Huizenga, R-Zeeland) and SB 916 (Patterson, R-Canton).**
- **Senate Bill (SB) 917 (Johnson, R-Troy)**
- **HB 5628 (Casperson, R-Escanaba)**
- **SB 971 (Brown, R-Sturgis)**

This legislation originally required the Department to get 3/4 of the Citizens Committee for Michigan State Parks (CCMSP) to make a recommendation to the Legislature before the Department could sell any State Park (SP) land. Then the Legislature must approve the sale.

The Department worked with the Senate to get a substitute for SB 971 introduced. The substitute version (S-5) of the bill would:

- Allow the Department to sell up to 100 acres or less than 15 percent of a (SP) without legislative approval;
- Require the Department to hold a public hearing in the vicinity of the SP, if it is more than either 100 acres or 15 percent;
- Allow the CCMSP to review and make a recommendation to the Department which would require the Department to seek legislative approval;
- Require legislative approval for the sale of dedicated wilderness and natural areas.

This change would allow the Department to make real estate transactions necessary to manage our SP's such as easements, small exchanges, and manage trespasses.

- **SB 972 (Birkholz, R-Saugatuck)**
Senate Bill 972 prevents the Department from declaring any state park land as surplus regardless if we get CCMSP to approve it, or not. The Department also worked with this bill sponsor to get a substitute bill (S-1) introduced that allows us to declare state park land as surplus using the guidelines outlined in SB 971 (S-5). Both substitutes for SB 971 and SB 972 passed out of the Senate and await assignment in the House.
- **HB 5814 (Booher, R-Evart)**
House Bill voted out of the House Local Government and Urban Affairs Committee and requires the Department to notify, in writing, local units of government 60 days before we purchase land in their jurisdiction. If the locals object, we cannot purchase the land. In addition, the fund used to purchase the land would have to pay the Payment In Lieu of Taxes (PILT); and the PILT would be considered a tax, thus rendering state land subject to the tax foreclosure process. DNR not supporting HB 5814 and was voted out of committee and awaits a vote on the floor of the House. Discussion ensued with concern of receiving PILT payments. If PILT payment is not made, property reverts back to the local community, not the state of Michigan.

Member **Bill Rose** motion to oppose House bill 5814. **Motion** supported by **Todd Scott**.

Member **Bill Rose** motioned to adopt a resolution opposing House Bill 5814. Member **Todd Scott** supported the motion to adopt the resolution as follows:

“Be it resolved, the Citizens Committee for Michigan States opposes House Bill 5814, as written, and support the Legislature fully appropriate PILT payments in a timely a timely manner.”

Motion unanimously carried.

Member **Sam Washington** shared no new information on the Comben case to provide

- **HB 5960 (S-1) (Stakoe)**

Substitute is that local units of government cannot go beyond current DNR existing land rules.

The substitute allows the locals government ordinances to adopt DNR rules.

Member **Chuck Nelson** briefed the CCMSP members on the report to the House Appropriations Committee on April 19, 2006 to help clarify to this legislative body rationale for raising fees.

- **HB 5192 (Hummel, R-DeWitt)**
- **SB 1105 (McManus, R-Lake Leelanau) Apprentice Hunting Bill**
- **SB 1183 (Gilbert, R-Algonac)**

Rodney shared information is available at www.michigan.gov/dnr Click on “Inside DNR”, then “Laws & Legislation”, then “Current Legislation.”

LAND ISSUES FOR REVIEW

Patricia Harlow, Land Consolidation Coordinator

Ron Olson shared land issues for review topic will be a standing CCMSP agenda item.

The land consolidation strategy is sale of properties being reviewed and surplus to our needs. The CCMSP briefed on the Aggregate Industries exchange proposal in the Waterloo Recreation Area (Jackson County). The CCMSP reviewed the site map of the area and Patricia explained the aspects of the proposal and PRD seeking to restore this in-holding vs. allowing development of the site. Discussion continued.

Ron Olson briefed on the 580 acres of land near Proud Lake Recreation Area, not the recreation area, discussed at the February 16, 2006 meeting. This area is unmanaged and not being fully used as a nature preserve. The CCMSP will receive updates as appropriate.

NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

Wednesday, June 28

9 a.m.

Waterloo Recreation Area

Discovery Visitor Center

Chelsea

Meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.