

MINUTES
CITIZENS COMMITTEE FOR MICHIGAN STATE PARKS (CCMSP)
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
Thursday, September 22, 2005
Hartwick Pines State Park
4216 Ranger Road
Grayling, Michigan

CCMSP MEMBERS PRESENT

Tom Bailey
Jim Bradley
Betsy Clark
Tom Ferguson
Christopher Graham
Jim Hendricks
Robert Hoffmeyer
Murdock Jemerson, Chair
Mike McDonald
Charles Nelson
Mary Pitcher
Todd Scott
Janet Howard Washington
Sam Washington

CCMSP MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Hurley Coleman
Kathy Lewand
Bill Rose

CCMSP EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT

Keith Charters
Phil Kwiatkowski for Sandra Clark

CCMSP EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

Curtis Hertel
Donna Stine
Duncan Wyeth

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (DNR) STAFF

Mr. Ron Olson, Chief, Parks and Recreation Division (PRD)
Ms. Sandy Simpson
Ms. Vicki Anthes
Mr. George Cameron
Mr. Craig Kasmer
Mr. Jon Gregorich
Mr. Harold Herta
Ms. Anna Sylvester
Mr. Lowen Schuett

HISTORY, ARTS, AND LIBRARIES

Mr. Rob Burg, History, Arts, Libraries

Chair Murdock Jemerson called meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. **Ron Olson** thanked Anna Sylvester (Roscommon District Supervisor) and the staff at Hartwick Pines State Park for hosting the CCMSP meeting.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES FROM CCMSP MEETING – July 15, 2005

MOTION: Committee member **Christopher Graham** moved to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2005 CCMSP meeting. The motion was seconded by **Chuck Nelson** and the minutes were unanimously approved as written.

BYLAWS REVIEW

Chair Jemerson asked for discussion of the Bylaws, Article III, Section 2 Substitutes, to address language regarding proxy voting privileges by substitute members. The article currently reads:

“A Committee member may send a substitute who shall have the voting power of the member. A Committee member shall, not be counted as absent at a meeting where a substitute is present.”

Committee discussed allowing official members to authorize their substitute(s) to cast vote(s) on their behalf and recommended revising the Bylaws, Article III, Section 2 Substitutes, to read (change in bold):

“A Committee member may send a substitute, who shall, **with the written authorization of the official member**, have the voting power of the member. A Committee member shall, not be counted as absent at a meeting where a substitute is present.”

MOTION: Committee member **Tom Bailey** moved to adopt revised language clarifying voting proxy for substitute members in Article III, Section 2 Substitutes. The motion was seconded by **Christopher Graham** and the revised bylaws are adopted.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Chair Jemerson asked for general public commentary. There were none. Sample general public commentary guidelines will be provided by **Ron Olson** at the next CCMSP meeting.

PRELIMINARY SURVEY RESULTS - PALM CARD

Harold Herta presented an overview of the PRD “palm card” distributed to campers and other visitors during 2005 Labor Day weekend at all the parks and recreation areas. The intent of the palm card is to gain input from the visiting public on parks and recreation funding as well as make it known that the Michigan parks and recreation system receives no general fund tax support. A varied mix of responses was received. As of September 20, 2005, the number of customer palm card responses included:

- 86 E-mail message
- 2 Right Now Web (previous Ask DNR)
- Comment Cards
 - 21,800+ provided to 75 locations
 - 627 returned
 - (3.3 percent return rate)

The final data results from this palm card will be utilized by the Long-Term Finance Subcommittee to plan a course of action for future funding structures. Discussion continued regarding the fee increase for 2006 and the importance of keeping the parks and recreation experience affordable for all visitors. The committee discussed several potential concepts to generate funding for the parks and recreation system. **Chair Jemerson** stated he was contacted by Mr. Jim Smith who shared his idea for funding campgrounds using permanent license plates fees. **Chair Jemerson** asked PRD staff to create an analysis of cost to serve/fee structures (data/concepts) from other states and report to back to the next CCMSP meeting. **Chair Jemerson** recommended discussing the concepts discussed at the next Long-Term Finance Subcommittee.

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS/RECOMMENDATIONS

Short-Term Finance – Chairperson Chuck Nelson stated the subcommittee met on July 7, 2005. **Chuck Nelson** stated he spoke before the August Natural Resources Commission and the proposed fee increases, as recommended by the subcommittee, received approval. **Harold Herta** gave a brief overview of the intermittent camping program and explained the intermittent/storage proposal submitted that was approved by the NRC as well. The subcommittee asked the members forward any issues they would like the subcommittee to review/follow-up.

Long-Term Finance – Chairperson Sam Washington stated the subcommittee is gathering information to determine the size of the system, how large it should be, and how it relates to the magnitude of Michigan’s population for relevant long-term funding mechanisms. The subcommittee is looking to repair the current problems and putting together ideas for long-term funding solutions that will move with inflation in perpetuity. The concept of a statewide millage of property tax for the parks and recreation system was discussed with the potential of placing on the 2006 ballot for a vote by the citizens. The Long-Term Finance Subcommittee working with the PRD staff to prepare a summary of varied millage percentages (example: 0.125, 0.25, 0.50) for discussion at the next CCMSP meeting. **Chuck Nelson** recommended the Short-Term and Long-Term Finance Subcommittees hold a joint meeting in mid-October.

Innovations and Marketing – Chairperson Tom Bailey stated the subcommittee is scheduling its next meeting for October 19, 2005 and will provide a report as appropriate.

Programming and Operations – Chairperson Betsy Clark gave a brief overview of the list of operations/programs presently performed in the PRD. The subcommittee will review the major aspects of these operations/programs (revenue, expenses, unique natural resources, and public participation) and rate each operation/program as appropriate. The subcommittee will meet during the lunch break to discuss the rating system and any additions/deletions/changes to the basic form. The subcommittee senses listed items may require involvement of other subcommittees as well.

Discussion continued regarding questions about the Central Reservation System (CRS) and the committee learned that in 1988 there was a legislative mandate for a central reservation system. The PRD staff shared that they had had received request for proposal from Spherix and Reserve America. The current contract with Spherix ends at the end of the calendar year, but due to the short time frame may extend the contract for Spherix to allow for adequate software preparation. **Chair Jemerson** asked PRD staff to keep the CCMSP members updated for further discussion on the CRS issue.

Stewardship – Chair Mike McDonald shared a brief overview of the Stewardship Committee meeting held on August 26, 2005 at the Highland Recreation Area. The subcommittee shared their viewpoint that the PRD should have more control of the controlled/prescribed burning and make it a department-wide team approach. **Mike McDonald** discussed the historic structures and the high maintenance costs. The subcommittee reviewed a series of individual land acquisitions parcels in various stages of negotiation, identifying, etc. and for critical land acquisition actions to remain a high priority, especially in those areas where opportunities could be lost. A historic structure overview will be presented by Ray Fahlsing (PRD) and Amy Arnold (HAL) at the next CCMSP.

Interpretation and Education – Chris Graham for Chair Kathy Lewand. The subcommittee met in September. Doug Finley and Janet Canode from the Office of Communications, Interpretive Services, presented an overview of the interpretive program and shared the funding is derived from multiple sources. Fifty percent of interpretive work funding comes from the PRDs budget and shared concern about the inflation factor. **Betsy Clark** shared the Programming and Operations Subcommittee is reviewing the interpretive program to ensure PRD is receiving their value. **Keith Charters** commented that the NRC Technology, Information, Marketing, and Education (TIME) subcommittee is meeting on October 6 and will ask for discussion on this topic as well. **Ron Olson**

will provide a summary report to the CCMSP and **Sandy Simpson** will forward future NRC agendas.

PRESENTATION AND OVERVIEWS

DNR Land Review Program and Status

Kerry Wieber

An overview of Phase I (adopted and dedicated in May 2004) and the status of Phase II was presented by **Kerry Wieber**. **Kerry** stated there is 4.5 million acres of land administered by the DNR and the nearly 6 million acres of mineral rights and discussed management issues relative to isolated land holdings. **Kerry** explained how the parcels are classified, and evaluated, that are outside of the dedicated project boundaries. **Todd Scott** commented on public concern about land located in southeast Michigan and where the funding is placed if land is sold. **Kerry** stated no economic value influenced the determination to keep, sell, or trade the lands and the proceeds from land sales go into the Land Exchange Facilitation Fund, which is used for the DNR to purchase other land. The final Phase II land recommendations are provided by the DNR's land exchange review committee to the NRC Policy Committee on Land Management. The DNR Director will make the final decision on classification of each parcel. **Keith Charters** pointed out that Phase I took almost two years to complete, but the next phases will take longer. **Chuck Nelson** mentioned stated the land consolidation summary was not calculated properly. **Kerry** will revisit the numbers and provide a revised copy. For future reference, the land boundary review information is located on the DNR internet webpage at http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,7-153-30301_31154_33787--_.00.html.

Commercial Use of State Land Policy Development Proposal

Harold Herta, Resource Management Section, PRD

Harold Herta shared the history, background, and charge of the Commercial Operations Use workgroup and explained the new proposal to standardize the commercial uses of state land on a department-wide basis. The procedures for this proposal will be presented at the October 6, 2005, NRC meeting for information only and offered for approval at the November 3 NRC meeting. If approved, this new procedure would be implemented department-wide beginning January 1, 2006. The procedures are on the DNR internet at: http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,1607,%207-153-30301_31154_35728---.00.html

Committee discussed assigning this process to a subcommittee for further review. **Chair Jemerson** asked for an informal vote to move to a subcommittee. By a vote of eight to three, the proposal will be forward to the Short-Term Finance Subcommittee and provide any comments to **Sandy Simpson** prior to the November NRC meeting.

Tri-Centennial State Park and Harbor
Vicki Anthes, Planning Section, PRD

The Tri-Centennial Park and Harbor was dedicated during Phase I in May 2004 and is Michigan's 97th state park. The Tri-Centennial project represents planning, design, and development of its 31 acres and is the first in the highly urbanized setting of Detroit, located upstream (east) of the downtown district. **Vicki** stated that Phase II development will have a gap, as PRD seeks grants and other funding.

Vicki explained that the park and harbor is divided into four components: the Lowland Area, the Upland Area, the Harbor, and the Visitor Center. The Lowland depicts a coastal wetland along the Detroit River. The Upland reflects the diverse mix of hardwoods native to Michigan. A pine grove is included to provide year around interest. The Harbor consists of the recreational boating, maritime interpretive elements including the lighthouse replica and the historic Dry Dock that represents Michigan's rich shipping history. The Visitor Center will be located at the historic Globe Building site, which was originally part of the Detroit dry dock complex where steamship engines were built. **Vicki** described the implementation strategy and phases for transforming the Tri-Centennial State Park and Harbor from vision to reality.

Vicki stated the properties that will become the park are currently in former or industrial uses; therefore, each site will be cleared and environmentally prepared by the City of Detroit prior to assignment to the Tri-Centennial State Park and Harbor. The City will retain ownership and the state will lease the park and harbor under a long-term agreement, with staffing from the DNR. Discussed potential concepts for the Globe Building to make it a year-round feature and creating a similar environment to that of the Oden Fish hatchery.

The strategy for funding the next phases of the park and harbor is based on a leveraged approach that will match available state monies to other public and private funding sources. Phase 1 plus the leveraged approach for parts of Phases 2, and 3 have identified approximately 40 percent of the required funding for the overall project. Approximately 60 percent of the project budget currently remains unfunded and will be pursued through available sources by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Ron Olson invited the CCMPS members to attend the MRPA Conference in Detroit in February 2006 and offered provide a tour of the Tri-Centennial State Park and Harbor.

Ron briefly discussed the gift giving guide that PRD is working on and will keep the CCMSP updated to the status of this concept.

NEXT MEETING DATE

MOTION: Chair Jemerson motioned to hold the next meeting on Wednesday, December 7, 2005 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (location to be determined). Motion supported by committee members. Motion unanimously carried.

TOUR OF HARTWICK PINES STATE PARK

The CCMSP members were invited to take a tour of the park.

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.