

# MINUTES

## Belle Isle Park Advisory Committee Meeting

Thursday, September 17, 2020

Location: Teleconference

**Meeting called to order at 9:02 a.m.**

A Quorum was established at 9:05 a.m.

### **EXCUSED ABSENCES**

Brad Dick

Lonnie Peek

### **Approval of excused absences:**

Moved by: **Bud Denker**

Seconded by: **Sommer Woods**

### **PRESENT FOR BIPAC**

Chair, Michele Hodges

Michael Curis

Bud Denker

Sommer Woods

Bryan Barnhill

### **DNR STAFF PRESENT**

Ron Olson, Chief

Karis Floyd

Darren Swan

Jacob Brown

Michael Terrell

Amanda Treadwell

Scott Pratt

Darlisa Rickman

Ray Fahlsing

Heidi Frei

Barbara Graves

Mia Moore

Todd Szyska

David Schaumburger

David Malloch

Damon Owens

Danny Walzak

## **OTHERS PRESENT**

Ali Sayed, Hype Athletics  
Lance Couturier, MSP  
Bill Shreck, MDOT  
Ayo Thomas, Belle Isle Conservancy

## **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

### **Approval of Minutes for August 20, 2020:**

Moved by: **Michael Curis**  
Seconded by: **Bud Denker**

**Michele Hodges** called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone.

## **GENERAL UPDATES**

### **Ron Olson, Chief, DNR-PRD**

We are working on restart plans for facilities, including the Conservancy, Aquarium. The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund fact sheet was forwarded to members. It will be reviewed by the committee to see if support is in order. The events and concession review plan was submitted to the members for their review and input. Once input is gathered, it can be discussed at a future meeting.

**Chief Olson** recognized **Conservation Officers Robert Watson, Dan Walzak, David Schaumburger, Detroit EMS Medic Jason Cornell, and DNR Ranger Matt Krupansky**, for their life savings efforts on Belle Isle on August 4, 2020, where they pulled an individual out of the water who had driven his car into the Detroit River intentionally. Without their heroic, quick action, the individual would have drowned.

**Chair Hodges** recognized **Detroit Fire Sergeant, Savid Johnson**, who, while off duty recreating with his daughter on the island, died trying to save two teenagers from drowning in the Detroit River. She asked for a moment of silence in honor of him.

**Scott Pratt** acknowledged **Captain David Malloch** and **Lieutenant Todd Szyska**, who are on the call. **Lt. Szyska** thanked the BIPAC and **Chief Olson** for recognizing the officers and showing support, especially during these tough times. He said it is great to have partnerships with Detroit Fire, MSP and staff. Cpt. Malloch followed what Lt. Szyska said by saying it was great, top-notch work done by the officers and everyone involved, and he is very proud of everyone. Chair Hodges thanked Cpt. Malloch and Lt. Szyska for their leadership.

### **Karis Floyd, Park Manager, Belle Isle and Milliken**

The restrooms will be winterized soon. Shelter 7 and the Bus Stop will remain open all winter. The Scott Fountain has been winterized as of last Sunday and they are in the process of putting together a manual for running the fountain. The coffer dam is working, and water is down about 16 inches. **Ranger Colton Lange** has moved on to another position as of September 11. Karis thanked Colton for his work. They will be filling his position. Today they will start interviews for a full-time ranger position that is currently vacant. Karis introduced **Darren Swan**, the new

working out of class supervisor, who came from Island Lake Recreation Area. **Chair Hodges** and the committee welcomed **Darren**. Karis thanked former Belle Isle Park supervisor **Jacob Brown**, who was on the ground when the park first opened, for all his work during his tenure as the supervisor. Karis introduced **Ali Sayad** from Hype Athletics. Mr. Sayad said there is a great opportunity to establish partnerships. They have been able to improve the area, cleaning up the weeds, etc. Some of the baseball players have been unable to get on the island due to overcapacity, but other than that, it has been an amazing experience so far and the staff have been great to work with and are very helpful and responsive. He is looking forward to next year and launching some new programs on the island and making it a regional destination. They will launch spring volleyball and soccer fields next year. They will also approach corporate entities to help such as the Detroit Tigers and Detroit Pistons. **Chair Hodges** thanked him for everything they have done and welcomed them to the team.

**Amanda Treadwell**, PRD Planner, Southeast Michigan

Many of the construction projects are now underway that were paused because of the executive orders. As of last Friday, all DTMB projects have been approved to restart. Currently there are 9 construction projects, 11 engineering projects, and 10 partner agency coordinations that are underway. (See attached Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update.)

A lot of the impediments to the forest are from infrastructure builds and roads which cut off the flatwoods from the Detroit River. Many of these modifications have impacted the ecosystem. The restoration plan will provide for reestablishing many of the hydration systems through swales and culverts, opening up the flatwoods. More information will come in the future.

**Michael Curis** commended **Amanda** for running all of these projects and that he appreciates her work. Amanda thanked Karis, the rangers and other folks for working as a team with her to accomplish them.

**Chair Hodges** acknowledged the questions that came forth on the forest. She noted that both **Ray Fahlsing** and **Heidi Frei** were also on this call. She questioned if the contractors are being managed properly. **Amanda** said there is coordination with DTE. DTE is redoing the entire utility system on the island and there is a certain alignment that must take place. When looking at replacing an entire utility system, unfortunately there will be impacts, such as to the trees. When that was done, DNR did work with DTE on the impact. DTE brought in Davey Tree and provided mitigation for trees that were removed. PRD and DTE are very open to discussing solutions to tree mitigations.

**Chair Hodges** acknowledged **Jacob Brown**, who moved to the west side of the state to be closer to family. She thanked him for all of his hard work on the island since the very beginning and let him know that he is part of Belle Isle history. She thanked him for being a great professional and an overall “cool person” to be around. She mentioned her memories of him standing proud in his position and his traditional antics at the Garden Party every year. **Jacob** said he is enjoying being on the west side but does miss everyone.

**Lt. Todd Szyska, DNR Law Enforcement**

It continues to be busy on the island. The COVID memorial was very moving and was performed in a very orderly manner. He thanks **Scott Pratt** for overseeing the details as it went smoothly. His staff spent the remainder of that evening informing citizens who thought they could watch the fireworks there, that the park was closed. Hopefully when the pandemic is over things can go back to normal. As it continues to be busy, they will continue ramping up enforcement on the weekends. There are still issues with ORVs and pit bikes on the island. He appreciates Parks posting signs. **Lance Couturier, MSP**, said operations will move to the south post but they will still be patrolling on an on-call basis.

### **Belle Isle Conservancy Update, Michele Hodges**

The Garden Party event was wonderful; **Jeremy Kemp** was fantastic and made them proud. They had to pivot the program to a virtual setting, and still managed to raise \$20K. She asked Ray Fahlsing to extend their appreciation to the team. Keep Belle Isle Beautiful will have an event this Saturday. They are coordinating Senior Days at the Aquarium in alignment with state regulations. It will not be open to the public. The Giving Society inaugural year will commence this year; an important funding source they will continue to build on and grow. She is excited to report that the Polish the Jewel event will be on October 15 and will be virtual. Attendees will receive a picnic basket. She extends appreciate to **Sommer Woods** who will be hosting the event. They received a grant from EPA for \$300K to support stewardship events on the island. She encourages everyone to see Jefferson Inc.'s master plan which is available on their website. The Dossin is open. Trash Talks will be rescheduled and she will have more information as it is available. The memorial ride was a powerful and important moment for the community, and it attests to the importance of Belle Isle. She was honored to be a part of it. She thanked **Rochelle Riley** for organizing it. The Facebook video of the memorial has received over 3M views. Belle Isle has been there for the community when it has needed it the most.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Robin Heller, Detroit Yacht Club Foundation** – She echoes congratulations to **Jacob Brown**, who was an outstanding member of the Belle Isle team. On October 15, the Detroit Yacht Club Foundation will be holding a fundraiser for restoration of the clubhouse. This will be open to the public. Any questions, please see the website. She questioned the intent of the kayak/fishing launch. **Amanda Treadwell** said the launch is intended for non-motorized vessels.

**Bud Denker** welcomed **Darren Swan** and thanked **Jake Brown** for his service. He also thanked the officers, ranger and Detroit medic for their heroic efforts on August 4. His thoughts and prayers go out to **Sargent Johnson**, one of Detroit Fire Department's best. He thanked **Amanda, Karis, Scott** and the team for being heroes as well and appreciates their efforts.

Meeting concluded: 10:56 a.m.

**NEXT REGULAR MEETING:  
October 15, 2020**

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Michele Hodges Ronald A. Olson, Chief

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

DRAFT



# Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update

September 17, 2020 Detroit, MI



# Project Status Overview

- **As of 9/11/2020 all Belle Isle Park Projects with State General Funding have been approved for restart**
- **Total Infrastructure Summary**
  - 9 - Construction**
  - 11 - Engineering**
  - 10 - Partner Agency coordination**  
**(MDOT, OGD, FDR, DWSD, DTE, ATT & Verizon)**



## Lake Okonoka Habitat Restoration

- FDR coordinating with Contractor to schedule final road work on The Strand
- Road work schedule and scope to be determined in the future



*Stop log structure is in and final shoreline grading is underway*

**Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, September 2020**



# Sawmill Roof Replacement

- Roof repair underway
- Project completion scheduled for Mid – November,
- DNR –PRD and DNR-Forestry will coordinate with the Arboriculture Society of Michigan Foundation to prepare a Showcase Story on the history & future goals for Sawmill

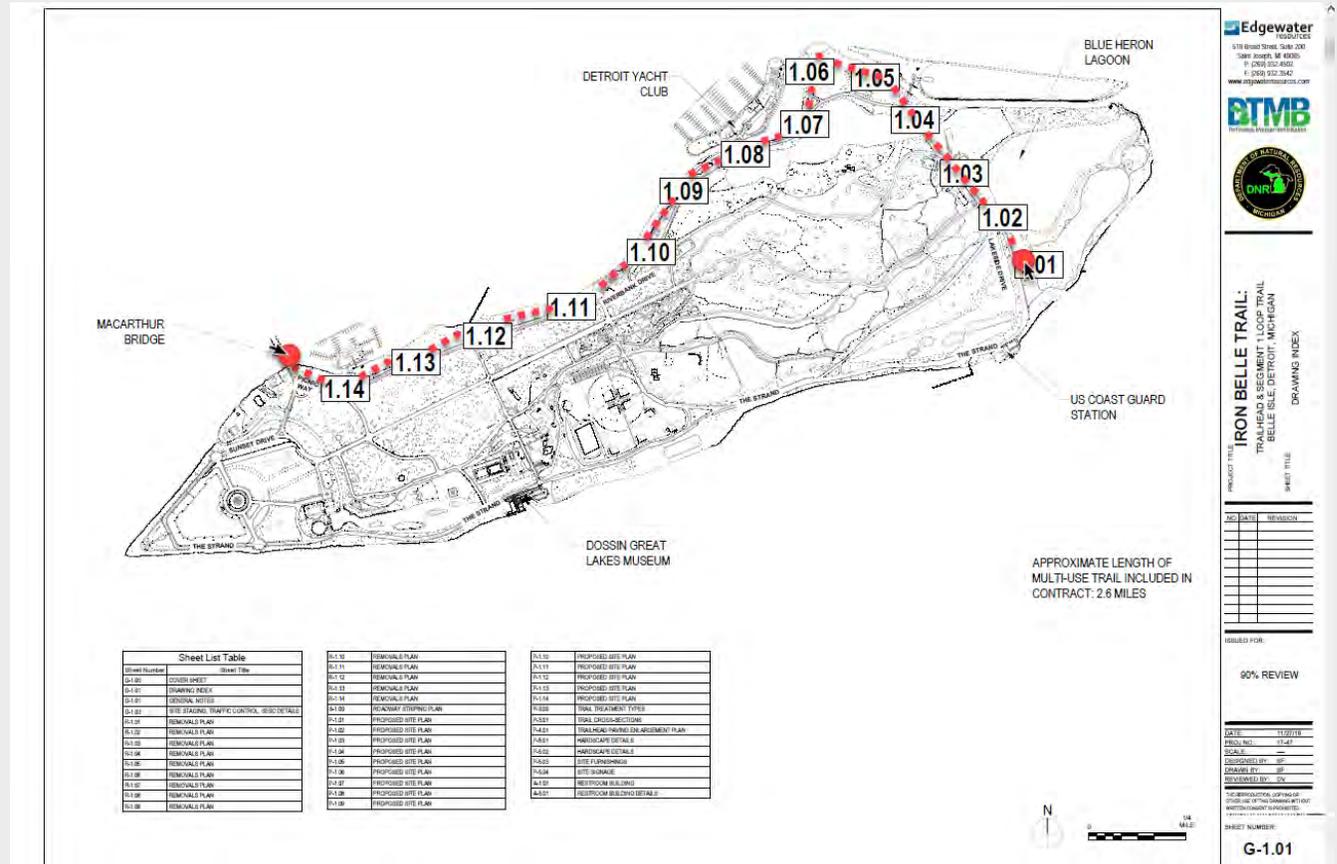


Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, September 2020



# Iron Belle Trailhead & Trail Development

- Start at MacArthur Bridge and work east to trailhead.
- Work this year will include all trail work to beach and potentially beyond Yacht Club (not including Yacht Club Drive or any road/curb work in 2020)
- Project team began trail layout this week.



Phase 1 of IBT and Phase 2 of the Trailhead has been funded by Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation

**Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, September 2020**



## Northshore Fishing ADA Kayak Launch

- ADA access for launch in place
- ADA launch will be installed at new location from site at east end of beach



*Launch at Northshore fishing area*

**Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, September 2020**



# Wet-Mesic Flatwoods



*Series of Ditches, swales and water control structures will improve hydrologic flow in flatwoods*

- Contractor Bids due this week.
- November 2020 - Notice to Proceed for Contractor estimated
- December 2020/January 2021 – Mobilize to site. Complete prep. work as possible in winter
- March 2021 – Nov/Dec 2021 – Main restoration activities completed – all plants/trees planted
- May – October 2022 – Vegetation Establishment Period

**Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, September 2020**



# Band Shell



- **90% Assessment & Cost Estimates submitted this week.**
- **Total Estimated Const. Costs \$1.8 million**
- **Priority: Immediate - \$475,000**
- **Priority: 1 - \$950,000**
- **Priority: 2 - \$365,000**

**Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, September 2020**



## Oudolf Garden

- **Raised Beds have been planted**
- **Contractor to finish pathways and rain garden**



*Raised beds for Oudolf Garden*

**Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, September 2020**



## Michigan Natural Trust Fund Grants

- Lake Okonoka Picnic Shelter and Playground to be completed this fall.
- Iron Belle Trail to begin construction week of 9/21/2020
- Shelter 19 & 20 Replacement for fall 2021
- South Fishing Pier Engineering spring 2021



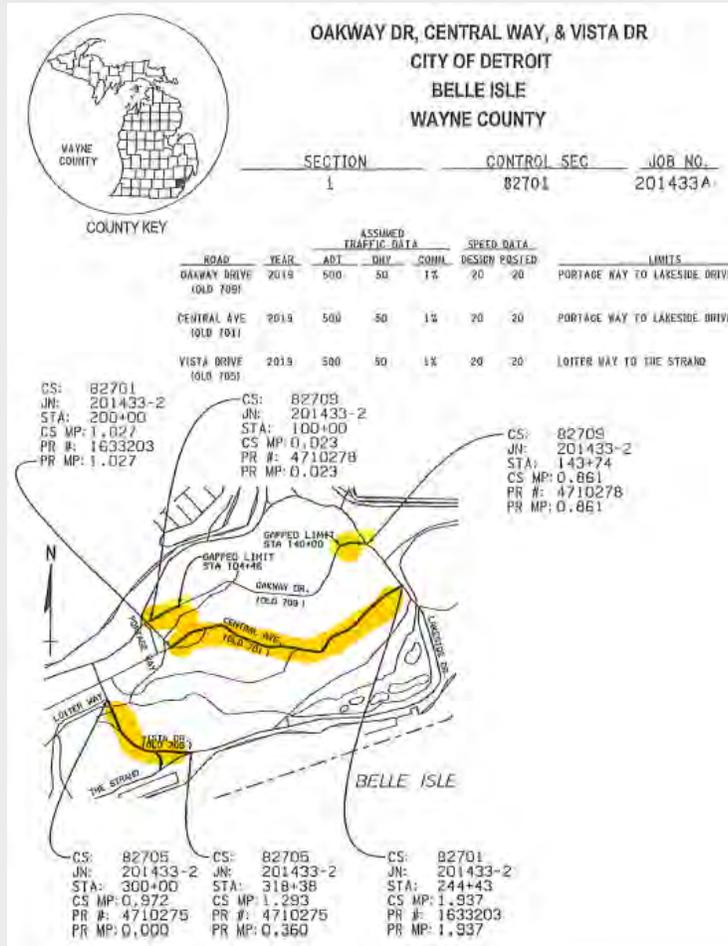
**MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND**

EST. 1976

Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, September 2020



# MDOT WORK

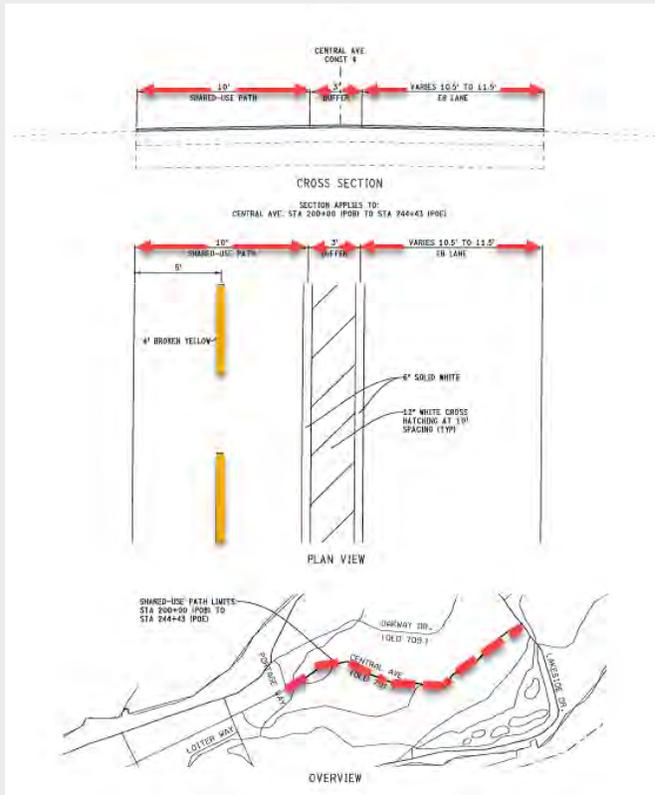


- Vista, Central, Oakway repaving: Through October 16<sup>th</sup>
- Total of 1.5 miles to be repaved
- Bridges on Central, Vista & Oakway to be address in 2022

Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, September 2020



# MDOT WORK Central Ave.



- Central to be paved next week
- Road Striping mid-October
- Shared road marking will be coordinated in wet-mesic flatwoods project

Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, September 2020



# MDOT WORK

- Picnic Way (between stone shelter and Loiter Way) & North block of Inselruhe will be repaved this fall
- Sidewalk, curb & gutter & road paving



Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, September 2020



# DTE WORK

The logo for DTE Energy, consisting of the letters 'DTE' in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.



- PHASE 1 – Construction of System Backbone  
- **COMPLETED**
- PHASE 2 – Construction of Infrastructure Loop  
- **COMPLETED**
- PHASE 3 – Individual Facility Site Excavation  
- **UNDERWAY**
- PHASE 4 – Conversion to DTE Infrastructure  
- **SCHEDULED FOR 2021**

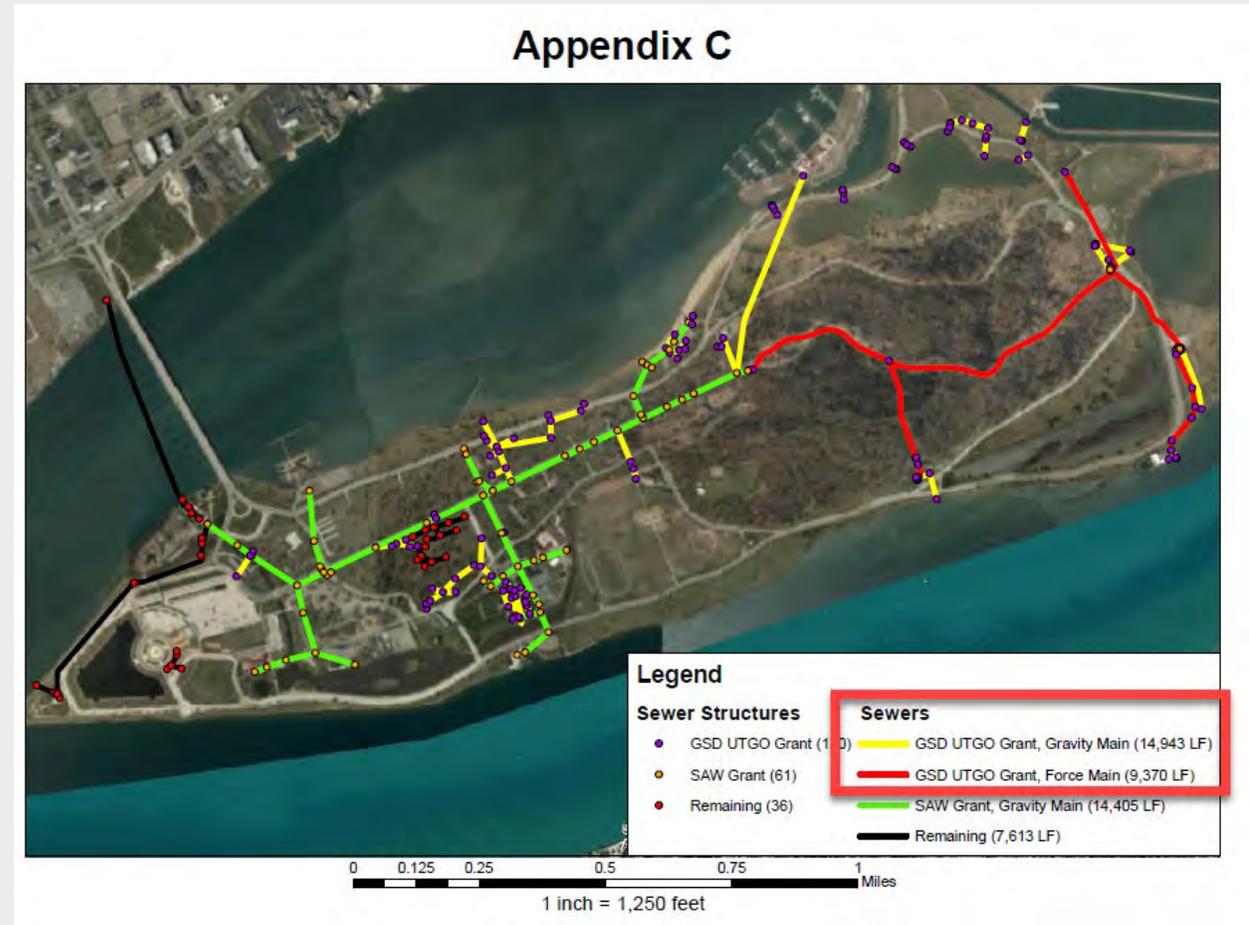
Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, September 2020



# DWSD WORK

## SCHEDULE & DELIVERABLES

- Sewer and Manhole Cleaning and Inspections - 8 weeks
- Flow Monitoring - 10 weeks
- Sewer System Model Summary Report 10 weeks
- Capital Improvement Plan – 2 weeks



Belle Isle Park Infrastructure Update, September 2020