

MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Minutes of October 14, 2020

Virtual Webinar Meeting

9:00 AM

Dan Lord, Grants Management Section Manager, provided an overview to all participants on how the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Board's webinar meeting would be conducted and how to navigate the screens.

Director Eichinger announced that recent actions of the Supreme Court called into question the ability for a lot of entities to make use of virtual meetings. The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) sought advice from counsel in the Attorney General's office. They advised that as long as the MNRTF Board does not deliberate or make decisions on matters pertaining to their statutory authority, the meeting can proceed in a virtual format. The MNRTF Board can take action on the Agenda, the Minutes and other action items listed on the Agenda. The DNR will continue to monitor the situation on virtual meetings leading up to the December meeting where the MNRTF Board will make recommendations on projects to be funded.

Chair Rustem called the meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Board of Trustees (Board) to order at 9:05 a.m., Wednesday, October 14, 2020.

The following Board members were present:

Bill Rustem, Chair  
Erin McDonough, Vice Chair  
Sam Cummings  
Steve Hamp  
Daniel Eichinger, DNR Director

Also participating were various staff members of the DNR and other interested parties.

I. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF AUGUST 19, 2020

Chair Rustem called for the adoption of minutes for the August 19, 2020 MNRTF Board meeting.

**MOVED BY HAMP, SUPPORTED BY EICHINGER, TO ADOPT  
THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 19, 2020 MNRTF BOARD MEETING.  
MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.**

## II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA FOR MEETING OF OCTOBER 14, 2020

Chair Rustem called for the adoption of the agenda for the October 14, 2020 MNRTF Board meeting.

**MOVED BY CUMMINGS, SUPPORTED BY HAMP, TO ADOPT  
THE AGENDA FOR THE OCTOBER 14, 2020 MNRTF BOARD MEETING.  
MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.**

## III. INTRODUCTIONS

The Board members introduced themselves.

Dan Lord, Grants Management Section Manager, DNR Finance and Operations Division, introduced himself and Grants Management staff: Jon Mayes, Recreation Unit and MNRTF Grants Program Manager; Mike Chuff, MNRTF Financial Specialist; Merrie Carlock, Lindsay Ross and Andrea Stay, Grant Coordinators; Tamara Jorkasky, former Grant Coordinator assisting the Grants Section; and Yolanda Taylor, interim Administrative Assistant to staff and the Board. He also introduced Erik Eklund, Chief Budget Officer, Finance and Operations Division, who is available to address the MNRTF Financial Update or other budget questions.

## IV. PUBLIC APPEARANCES

### **Chris Bunch, Executive Director, Six Rivers Land Conservancy**

Chris Bunch thanked the Board and the staff for their commitment to public service, the resources of this state and outdoor recreation. He also introduced his staff, Brian Marzolf, Land Protection Manager, and Kristen Myers, Associate Director and Development Director, who were also participating in the virtual meeting.

Chris further reported that the Six Rivers Land Conservancy has been very involved in the Proposal 1 campaign. Over 30 conservation and environmental groups make up the coalition of organizations that are promoting Proposal 1. Six Rivers has been using all their communication platforms to spread the message in support of Proposal 1.

Due to the pandemic, Six Rivers has also had to transition a lot of their events and activities. They converted their annual Fall Country Drive Tour to a self-guided car tour of preserves and parks along Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River, with most of the stops along the way being properties funded by the MNRTF. They are also doing an Outsiders Film Festival on October 28, 2020 at the Emagine Novi drive-in theater, where they will share films and videos about outdoor recreation, conservation, and the importance of the MNRTF. With only 200,000 acres of public land in southeast Michigan, Six Rivers is working hard to add to that number, especially with the increase in outdoor recreation resulting from the pandemic.

Chris further commented that Six Rivers also recognizes the value and importance of other projects throughout the state. He offered his support for TF20-0158, the Pere Marquette Access project in Baldwin, which will be a great addition to the adjacent property, providing more access and space. Chris further gave his support for the Herndon Lake Nature Preserve in Hamburg Township, and the Macomb Township Acquisition, which are being presented at this meeting.

**Andy Near, Village of Shelby Council Member/Parks and Recreation Committee Chair; and  
Mishelle Comstock, Shelby State Bank President/CEO**

Andy Near gave a brief presentation on TF20-0011, Renovation of Getty Park, Village of Shelby, Oceana County. The Village of Shelby's number one goal is to totally renovate Getty Park by removing, replacing or renovating all of the amenities in the park, including play equipment, basketball courts, restroom/storage facilities, tennis courts, court lighting and paved parking, all meeting or exceeding ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) standards.

The Village of Shelby is requesting:

MNRTF Grant Request:	\$300,000 (46%)
Matching Funds:	\$346,300 (54%)
Total Project Cost:	\$646,300

Mishelle Comstock commented that the village has not received grant funding since 1992. With Getty Park in the heart of this small village, renovations will provide inclusive, historic, and communal space for a young, unique, and diverse community, as well as health, economic and social benefits. It will also provide economic growth to the village with a foot path that leads to the business district.

Director Eichinger thanked both for their presentation, especially for focusing on how green spaces and play spaces are important to their community.

Both thanked the Board for the opportunity to present and for their consideration.

**Candice S. Miller, Macomb County Public Works Commissioner**

Former Congresswoman Candice Miller commented in favor of two Macomb County projects, TF20-0150, Macomb Township Nature Park Acquisition and TF20-0186, Chesterfield Township Salt River Nature Center Acquisition.

She commented that the Macomb Township Nature Park project is important to protecting water quality in the Clinton River. The floodplains are important to preventing runoff and nutrient loading into the river while maintaining critical habitat in an area of Macomb County that has quickly developed over the past decades. This project will also provide needed green space and recreational land and help increase property values in the immediate area.

Regarding the Salt River project, she expressed the same issues exist as the Macomb Township Nature Park project. This project will also improve water quality in the Salt River and Lake St. Clair. The property is across the river, adjacent to DNR land and a restoration project, which will help maintain Salt River priorities.

Macomb County Public Works is totally engaged and committed to working with their conservation and environmental partners, including Six Rivers, and their focus is improving quality of life, water quality and economic prosperity.

Candice also commented that she proudly served as a member of the Great Lakes Commission. The commission has identified issues that are important to the blue economy and the Great Lakes Basin, which include stopping phosphorous and other runoff from dumping into the rivers and lakes while protecting critical habitat.

She thanked the Board for their consideration of these two projects. Chair Rustem commended her for her commitment to water quality in southeast Michigan.

Chair Rustem asked that questions be withheld until after the next presentation which covers the same projects.

**Mark Hackel, Macomb County Executive**

Mark Hackel provided comments in support of TF20-0150, Macomb Township Nature Park Acquisition and TF20-0186, Chesterfield Township Salt River Nature Center Acquisition.

Mark commented that they have had an incredible working relationship with Six Rivers and Macomb County Public Works, especially resulting from Candice Miller's interaction, involvement, and specific mindset on water quality. Everything they do in Macomb County focuses on preserving water quality. Macomb Township and Chesterfield Township both have a growing population and both townships require natural areas and outdoor opportunities. Preserving these lands will provide picnic areas, trail use, and natural areas while preserving water quality.

He further commented that all funding that has been provided by this Board to Macomb County has seen a return on their investments. He thanked the Board for the opportunity to comment in support of these two projects and for the Board's consideration.

Chair Rustem asked for the funding requests for both projects in Macomb County:

**TF20-0150, Macomb Township Nature Park Acquisition, Macomb Township**

Acquisition Grant Application	
MNRTF Grant Request:	\$1,260,000 (70%)
Matching Funds:	\$ 540,000 (30%)
Total Project Cost:	\$1,800,000

**TF20-0186, Salt River Nature Center Acquisition; Chesterfield Township**

Acquisition Grant Application	
MNRTF Grant Request:	\$199,500 (70%)
Matching Funds:	\$ 85,500 (30%)
Total Project Cost:	\$285,000

No questions were posed by the Board but Chair Rustem thanked both Candice Miller and Mark Hackel for their comments.

**Mike Dolan, Hamburg Township Clerk; and Harvey Chip Amoe III, Director of Sustainability, Henry Ford Health Systems**

Mike Dolan was having technical issues, so Harvey Amoe provided comments in support of TF20-0093, Herndon Lake Nature Reserve Acquisition, Hamburg Township, Livingston County.

Harvey Amoe commented that he is thrilled to be moving forward with this project. The property was donated to the Henry Ford Health System a long time ago, and in the past few years they have been looking at how best to deal with the property. He has been pushing to use this property as a green space and further their sustainability goals by allowing Hamburg Township to use it for green space and recreation space. Especially during the pandemic, they have seen a dramatic increase in the need and desire to have green space and recreational space, which is good for both physical and mental health. The preservation of the green space will also improve air quality and the health of the community they serve.

Mike Dolan was able to join the meeting. He first thanked Harvey Amoe for their partnership and support with the Herndon Lake project and gave his support for this project. The property is unique in that it includes a golf course. Mike reported that the Hamburg Township Board recently passed a resolution stating that any profits from the golf course will be allocated to both the maintenance and development of this land and access.

Chair Rustem asked who ultimately has authority to retain and operate the golf course over the long term. Mike responded that it would ultimately be the body that is elected by the Township Board. The golf course has been owned and managed by Henry Ford Health Systems, who contract annually to a private management company. Hamburg Township would continue the same operation if it were profitable; otherwise, the land would revert to additional natural area.

Mike and Harvey both thanked the Board for their consideration.

**Michael Kelly, The Conservation Fund Great Lakes Office Director**

Michael Kelly addressed the Board in support of TF20-0038, Steih Park Improvements, Monitor Township, Bay County.

The Conservation Fund has been part of the design team to provide technical support for this project. They also provided fundraising support by being an investor and issuing a grant through their Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative, as well as leading the efforts for the overall campaign to raise funds for this project. The park is located on the Kawkawlin River, which is a tributary to Saginaw Bay. It is an excellent fishery but is critically deficient in public access. They have seen an increased desire by fisherman, kayakers and canoers who wish to access the river. This project is unique in that it will provide expanded access and multiple improvements that currently do not exist at the park, including a formalized canoe/kayak access site (which may also be feasible for smaller boats, such as a jon boat for duck hunting), fishing access, improved parking, erosion control, picnic areas, trees and improved directional interpretive signage. This project will also support the economy of the adjacent Village of Kawkawlin.

The township is asking for:

Development Grant Application	
MNRTF Grant Request:	\$300,000 (66%)
Matching Funds:	\$155,000 (34%)
Total Project Cost:	\$455,000

Director Eichinger expressed his appreciation for The Conservation Fund and the Saginaw Bay Watershed Initiative. A lot of great investments and projects have occurred because of their support.

## V. 2021 PUBLIC LAND STRATEGY

Scott Whitcomb, DNR Senior Advisor for Wildlife and Public Lands, gave a presentation to the Board to bring them up to speed on the 2021 Public Land Strategy and the direction the department is taking with the rollout of this revised plan. The plan will focus on the 4.6 million acres that is managed by the department, with the majority of those lands falling within the state forest system (3.85 million acres) located in the Upper Peninsula and the Northern Lower Peninsula.

Starting in the 1920s through the 1940s, the majority of these lands (over half at 53% or 2.4 million acres) reverted to the state through tax-reversion, while the remaining lands were acquired through gifts of land (2% or 90,000 acres), purchases (26% or 1.2 million acres) from various sources including the MNRTF, land exchanges (19% or 870,000 acres), or other means such as special legislation or special means (1% or 45,500 acres). The majority of tax-reverted lands became part of the state forest system.

Many questions have been raised about the department's ownership and management of these lands over the years. In 2012, Public Act 240 was enacted which placed a cap on the amount of land the department could own until a land strategy could be put in place. The department went to work with various landowners, stakeholders, and partners to work on a Public Land Strategy that would provide the framework for DNR-managed public land ownership. In 2013, the Public Land Strategy was submitted for legislative review and approval. It sat on the shelf for about five years and, in 2018, Public Act 240 was enacted, adopting the Public Land Strategy by the Legislature and the Governor.

The current Public Land Strategy expires in 2021, and Public Act 240 of 2018 requires the department to submit an updated public land strategy to the Legislature by July 1, 2021. The department has completed a project boundary review that will reduce 1 million acres of private inholdings within department project boundaries. The revision to the project boundaries and the reduction in private inholdings will be presented to the Director in November, with action being taken by the Natural Resources Commission in December.

The department will also conduct a state land review of 24,000 acres to determine the appropriate classification of lands and if they meet the department's mission. The department will decide if certain lands should be retained, offered to local units of government or other conservation

organizations, offered for land exchange, or simply disposed of. This process will take a few years to complete, but a review of ten counties at a time will begin in September, with external review for the first group of counties expected in early 2021.

In response to Board member Hamp's question, Whitcomb confirmed that the private inholdings in the reduced area are located within the boundaries of projected future ownership and no longer match the long-term vision of the department.

Whitcomb further explained that the department's Land Strategy Sprint Team is assessing all components of the 2013 strategy for effectiveness; evaluating specific goals, strategies and measurable objectives to determine which lands to keep, modify, or remove and why; and is forming the foundation and components for developing the updated strategy for 2021. The team's focus is on highlighting the value of a robust public land base; providing regional and statewide measurable goals, strategies and objectives; providing insight on DNR land ownership; identifying key actions for the next six years; and updating department goals to include protecting natural and cultural resources, providing access to outdoor public recreation opportunities, and promoting responsible natural resource management. They are also addressing new opportunities for the 2021 strategy that would include climate resilience, adaptation and mitigation; diversity, equity and inclusion to ensure all users are included; higher level outcomes such as healthy natural resources, healthy people and a strong economy; engaging new partners and participants; and establishing a strong strategy moving into the future.

The process or timeline for the 2021 Public Land Strategy is as follows:

#### September/October

- Draft outline and land strategy components were posted to Michigan.gov/PublicLands;
- Held virtual public meetings;
- Conducted regional facilitated stakeholder sessions; and
- Made presentations at identified council and board meetings.

#### November/December

- Feedback and input incorporated into the draft 2021 land strategy; to be completed by the end of the year.

#### January/February

- Post draft 2021 Public Land Strategy to Michigan.gov/PublicLands;
- Final public and stakeholder input and review sessions;
- Last input incorporated into final draft land strategy.

#### March/April

- Conduct final internal reviews and finalize land strategy updates.

#### May

- Updated land strategy provided to relevant legislative committees.

## July 1

- Updated land strategy and reports formally submitted to the Legislature for consideration/adoption through the legislative process.

The team has engaged the public through email notifications and press releases, establishing a dedicated website (Michigan.gov/PublicLands) and email account for comments/input (DNR-LandStrategy@michigan.gov); social media and website posts; engagement with over 400 stakeholder groups; virtual public meetings; and presentations to various boards and committees. Feedback will be accepted throughout the entire process.

As part of the public input process, the team also encouraged public participation by creating an interactive map on-line, asking people to 'drop a tree' on the public lands they value most, and take a brief three question survey to share why public lands matter to them. The survey results indicated that some limitations to enjoying public lands to the fullest extent possible included distance, lack of transportation, conflicting recreational use, accessibility for people with disabilities, overcrowding, and other factors, with the greatest response (over 41%) stating no limitations.

Whitcomb ended his presentation and entertained questions from the Board.

In response to Board member Hamp's question, Whitcomb confirmed that the final draft plan will be presented to the Board prior to it being submitted to the Legislature.

Board member Cummings asked if the department could also include the economic value that conservation and outdoor recreation plays for residents and tourism. He feels it is important to constituencies to see the importance that hunting, fishing, biking, boating, snowmobiling and all other outdoor recreation plays in Michigan's economy. Whitcomb responded that he would be open to including that information if he could lean on some conservation partners to provide those studies or data.

Chair Rustem responded that Michigan United Conservation Clubs recently completed a study on the value of hunting and fishing through Michigan State University's School of Business; both would be a good source.

Chair Rustem and Hamp both thanked Whitcomb and the department's sprint team for doing an excellent job and providing the opportunity for public comment. Chair Rustem commended the department on thinking ahead when it comes to solar energy and clean initiative, and offered the Board's assistance, especially when the plan goes to the Legislature.

Whitcomb thanked the Board for the opportunity to present this information.

## V. PRESENTATIONS FROM 2020 DNR GRANT APPLICANTS

Scott Whitcomb set the stage for the 2020 DNR grant applications that will be presented for department trust fund acquisition or development projects. Whitcomb explained the process on how nominations for department projects are received, reviewed, and recommended for submittal.

In the years that he has been involved with departmental review of these applications, he commented that these are some of the strongest applications he has ever seen. Although several strong applications were not submitted, and are no less important, the projects being presented were considered the strongest applications/projects for the department this year. These projects rose to the top for being focused and strategic, they leverage other funding sources and partners, they represent the needs and priorities of the department, and give the biggest bang for the buck.

Chair Rustem announced that the Board will receive presentations on various MNRTF grant applications/projects that are being submitted by the department. He asked that presenters adhere to their time. Questions by the Board were addressed during each presentation.

The October 2020 DNR MNRTF application presentations included:

1. Kerry Wieber, Resource Specialist, DNR Forest Resources Division
  - a. TF20-0184, Lake Michigan Dune and Swale Complex; Shingleton Forest Management Unit; Delta County  
  
Acquisition Grant Application (952 acres); Requesting \$2,600,000  
  
Acquisition of this land will consolidate state ownership and offer access to a significant block of landlocked state land with substantial Lake Michigan frontage.
  - b. TF20-0205, Black River Ranch, Pigeon River Country State Forest; Cheboygan and Montmorency Counties  
  
Acquisition Grant Application (8,850 acres); Requesting \$2,335,000  
  
This property is adjacent to the Pigeon River Country State Forest. It would help consolidate state ownership and would be managed as part of the Pigeon River Country State Forest with limitless recreational and wildlife management opportunities.
2. Mark Tonello, Regional Biologist, DNR Fisheries Division
  - a. TF20-0158, Pere Marquette River Access; Lake County  
  
Acquisition Grant Application (13.2 acres); Requesting \$149,200.00  
  
Acquisition of this land would provide 700-feet of Pere Marquette River frontage in the Village of Baldwin, Lake County. It would provide fishing opportunities, continued public access and opportunities for hunting, trapping and wildlife viewing.
3. Stephen Shine, Wetland Mitigation Banking Program Manager, DNR Wildlife Division; and Jason Hill, Director of Conservation Programs, Ducks Unlimited
  - a. TF20-0135, Nutrient Removal Through Wetland Restoration Pilot Project; Lenawee County  
  
Acquisition Grant Application (80 acres); Requesting \$1,400,000.00

This wetland restoration project would intercept agricultural runoff to reduce nutrient loading into Lake Erie which would have a positive impact on the Lake Erie Basin. They are partnering with Ducks Unlimited on this project. Access and waterfowl habitat is the ultimate goal once the wetland is created and restored.

4. Kerry Fitzpatrick, Wildlife Habitat Specialist, DNR Wildlife Division

a. TF20-0167, Sturgeon River Sloughs Bridge Replacement; Houghton County

Development Grant Application; Requesting \$300,000.00

The bridge has been closed due to the damage it incurred from flooding events in 2018 and 2019. This development project would provide access for hunters, trappers, anglers, and habitat management efforts, as well as restore access to the Baraga-Chassell Snowmobile Trail #15.

5. Matt Lincoln, Land Specialist, DNR Parks and Recreation Division

Matt explained that the Parks and Recreation Division currently has eleven applications submitted for funding, but he is only going to highlight five of those projects. The division's priorities this round focus on upgrading current infrastructure and trail development.

a. TF20-0174, Lake Linden Trail Reconstruction; Houghton County

Development Grant Application; Requesting \$300,000.00

This project will reconstruct a multi-use trail that was destroyed due to storm damage and flooding events.

b. TF20-0130, Torch River Bridge Boating Access Site Redevelopment; Antrim County

Development Grant Application; Requesting \$300,000.00

This project will redevelop and expand the existing boating access site parking lot and ramp, improve circulation, and increase capacity at a congested, heavily used site.

c. TF20-0133, Mitchell State Park Toilet/Shower Building Replacement; Wexford County

Development Grant Application; Requesting \$300,000.00

This project would replace the existing toilet/shower building at the swimming beach to improve accessibility and quality of the day use recreation area. They are also looking to improve accessibility at the entire day use beach area (pedestrian and vehicular circulation) so the new toilet/shower building may be relocated.

d. TF20-0091, Mike Levine Lakelands Trail Development Phase 3; Jackson County

Development Grant Application; Requesting \$300,000.00

This project will develop the final 3.5 miles of the Iron Belle Trail/Route 1 of the Great Lake-to-Lake Trail, connecting the trail to the City of Jackson trail system and the Falling Waters Trail.

- e. TF20-0095, Wells State Park Stone Building Renovation; Menominee County

Development Grant Application; Requesting \$300,000.00

This project will restore and repurpose the historic Civilian Conservation Corps stone building, using it as a multi-purpose building for nature programs, overnight lodging, and special events. This project was also endorsed by the DNR Accessibility Advisory Council so it will be renovated as a universally accessible building.

The Board thanked all presenters. Chair Rustem called for a brief adjournment at 11:12 a.m. in preparation for the remainder of the agenda; the Board reconvened at 11:20 a.m.

## VI. NEW BUSINESS

### PA 166 of 2018, Consensus Meeting: November 20, 2020

Dan Lord explained that Public Act 166 is a piece of legislation that was passed a couple of years ago. It brings together certain members of the Legislature, as well as representation from the Governor's office and the Board. The goal of the consensus meeting is to target fiscal recommendations for consideration during the Board's December meeting. The purpose of this discussion is to identify a member that will represent the Board at the November 20, 2020 consensus meeting.

Chair Rustem has participated in these consensus meetings in the past and has offered to represent the Board once again. After discussion, the Board agreed that Chair Rustem will attend the November 20, 2020 consensus meeting to represent the MNRTF Board.

Director Eichinger will attend, and the Department of Treasury will also be present.

Chair Rustem, in response to member Cummings question, acknowledged he will not make a commitment on behalf of the Board. This is a non-binding consensus meeting that will mostly rely on the Department of Treasury's recommendation and the risk analysis.

### Board Expectations for Potentially Implementing Proposal 1

Assuming Proposal 1 passes on November 3, Chair Rustem asked what effect this will have on the Board and the department moving forward, and how the Board wants to address these changes. When the Board has more discretion, how are they going to compare and decide what is more important between an acquisition or development project.

Dan Lord explained that the department will be looking for feedback over the coming year on how the scoring criteria should be presented if Proposal 1 were to pass, and how the Board would like to receive information or apply scoring criteria moving into 2021.

If Proposal 1 is approved by the voters, it would take effect 45 days after the election, which would extend beyond the December 2020 Board meeting. Chair Rustem also mentioned this issue may come up during the consensus meeting, but he proposes to move forward status quo with the 2020 applications, and then address the changes during 2021.

Board member Erin McDonough asked why the Board would change the overall strategy of protecting the total corpus before they start getting fresh money.

Director Eichinger explained that the formulas under Proposal 1 will change. The Board will have the potential to allocate more funding toward the development side. The new formulas would allocate a minimum of 25% towards acquisition, a minimum of 25% towards development, with a 50% swing. He further explained that, with a comingled pot of money, how will the Board reconcile the projects that would be eligible for that 50% swing in funding, acquisition versus development. The Board will need to address how they are going to make sense of those funding proposals moving into 2021.

Chair Rustem commented that he would like to go to the consensus meeting stating the Board does not intend to make any changes to the process for 2020 with respect to the applications that have already been submitted based on the current criteria, but acknowledge the Board needs to address these changes moving forward into 2021 if Proposal 1 passes. The Board agreed with this approach.

Chair Rustem asked what the Board will expect from staff in addressing these changes moving forward.

Director Eichinger envisions continuing to rely on the core scoring criteria that they currently use to score applications. The trick will be figuring out how to reconcile the different scoring criteria within the same pot of money, which could flex with the amount of money that is available each year.

Board member Cummings agrees that discipline and prioritization will need to be applied between those two scenarios.

Board member McDonough acknowledged staff just recently revamped their scoring criteria, so she suggests they start there and not spend time reinventing the wheel.

After further discussion, it was agreed that Dan Lord will work with his staff to get proposals or recommendations geared up for discussion with the Board, beginning with their first meeting in 2021 and for each meeting thereafter throughout the year.

#### MNRTF Staff Activities

Dan Lord first thanked his colleagues and Jason Hill from Ducks Unlimited for their presentations. The department is still under a hiring freeze, so he continues to appreciate the support from Yolanda Taylor and Tamara Jorkasky as mentioned earlier.

He further reported that they just completed the supplemental period and have received updated applications. Staff is working on final scoring and group evaluations over the next few weeks. He also reported they have reengaged with their vendor that supports their on-line management system. They intend to launch a new interface with a new platform with the 2021 grant cycle in January. They will give a quick presentation to the Board and will also roll the new platform into their annual workshops that will also kick off in January. Staff is looking at on-line webinars for their workshops; Merrie Carlock is leading that effort. Dan also reported that Fiscal Year 2021 began October 1. He thanked Mike Chuff for coordinating with their financial team and with grantees to meet the year-end closing deadline.

#### Project Withdrawals

Jon Mayes gave a brief overview of the following project withdrawal requests:

- TF14-0189, Paw Paw to Hartford Multi-Use Trail Partnership – DNR Parks and Recreation, VanBuren County; Grant Amount: \$750,000.00

An agreement could not be reached on the value of the land and there was a change in land ownership on the seller's side.

- TF15-0147, Millennium Park Land Addition – Kent County Parks, Kent County; Grant Amount: \$276,000.00

The local unit could not reach an agreement with the seller.

- TF18-0167, Former Pirate's Park Property Acquisition – Flint Charter Township, Genesee County; Grant Amount: \$1,511,000.00

The local unit had reservations and voted against moving forward with the acquisition due to concerns about the cost to redevelop and operate the park.

All three withdrawals total \$2,537,000.00.

Chair Rustem called for a motion to accept the withdrawal of all three applications.

**MOVED BY CUMMINGS, SUPPORTED BY HAMP, TO ADOPT WITHDRAWAL OF TF14-0189, PAW PAW TO HARTFORD MULTI-USE TRAIL PARTNERSHIP; TF15-0147, MILLENNIUM PARK LAND ADDITION; AND TF18-0167, FORMER PIRATE'S PARK PROPERTY ACQUISITION. MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE**

#### Reappointment to the Board

Dan Lord reported that the department received notification from the Governor's office that Bill Rustem will remain on the Board for four more years. The Board congratulated Chair Rustem.

#### 2021 Proposed Meeting Dates

Dan Lord reminded the Board that they typically take action on meeting dates for 2021 at their December meeting, but proposed dates have been identified. Locations for these meetings will be identified at a later date, depending on how things progress with the pandemic. He reminded the Board that Six Rivers Land Conservancy has tentatively scheduled the June 2021 meeting to be hosted in Detroit, and the Northern Lower or Upper Peninsula may be considered for the

August 2021 meeting. However, staff foresee continuing to have virtual meetings until in-person meetings are authorized and can be conducted safely.

Dan Lord brought attention to the proposed meeting date for December 2021. The Director has a Natural Resources Commission meeting the same week so it was decided that the proposed meeting date will be changed to December 1, 2021 instead of December 8 to avoid consecutive days of meetings.

He asked the Board members to check their work and personal calendars so they can take action at the December meeting or offer alternative dates. The proposed meetings dates for 2021 are February 17, April 21, June 16, August 18, October 20, and December 1.

#### VII. STATUS REPORTS

None.

#### VIII. BOARD PACKET REFERENCE MATERIALS

Chair Rustem asked Board members if they would like to discuss any of the Board Packet Reference Materials. No conversation/discussion of the packet materials was offered.

#### IX. OTHER MATTERS AS PROPERLY BROUGHT BEFORE THE BOARD

Chair Rustem thanked department staff, the presenters, participants, and members of the public for their presentations and for adjusting to a virtual meeting.

#### X. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Rustem announced that the next meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board is scheduled for Wednesday, Dec 2, 2020, beginning at 9:00 a.m. This meeting is when the Board makes their recommendations for expenditure. It will be a virtual meeting and information will be posted on the Board's website.

Director Eichinger reminded the Board that their ability to conduct virtual meetings moving forward could change. The Board may have to consider having an in-person meeting in December unless the Legislature comes through with the continuance of virtual meetings. The department will continue to monitor this situation.

#### XI. ADJOURNMENT

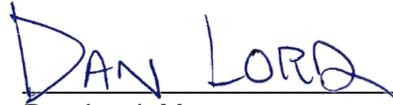
Chair Rustem asked for additional comments or discussion. None were offered.

**MOVED BY HAMP, SUPPORTED BY EICHINGER, TO ADJOURN THE MEETING.  
MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.**

The meeting adjourned at 11:54 a.m.



Bill Rustem, Chairperson  
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund  
Board of Trustees



Dan Lord, Manager  
Grants Management Section  
Finance and Operations Division

December 2nd, 2020  
DATE