

# MINUTES

## NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

### *Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee*

Thursday, February 13, 2020

9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Lansing Community College, Gannon Building, Lansing, Michigan

#### **PRESENT FOR THE MSPAC**

Julie Clark, Acting Chairperson  
Chris Graham  
Mary Pitcher  
Chuck Hoover  
Mike McDonald  
Mike Foote  
Ron Olson – DNR-PRD Representative

No quorum established

#### **ABSENT**

Commissioner Louise Klarr, Chair  
Commissioner David Nyberg  
Ann Conklin  
Jefferson Gray  
Jim Bradley  
Bob Hoffmeyer

#### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Jason Fleming, PRD  
Debbie Jensen, PRD  
Barbara Graves, PRD

## MICHIGAN STATE PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MSPAC)

### OPENING COMMENTS

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 a.m. by **Committee member Julie Clark**, sitting in for **Chairperson Louise Klarr**. Committee member introductions were made around the panel.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A quorum was not established. No vote was taken on the November 7, 2019 meeting minutes and there were no comments.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

### ACTION

#### **Resolution No. 02-2020-01 to support the Lime Island State Recreation Area General Management Plan and Resolution No. 02-2020-02 to support the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park General Management Plan**

**Deb Jensen, DNR Parks Management Plan Administrator**, gave overviews of the General Management Plans for the Lime Island State Recreation Area and Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park.

**Committee member McDonald** appreciated Doug Rich, Western U.P. District Supervisor, taking the time to be on the phone to answer questions.

**Committee member Clark** asked of the members present if there was a general consensus for approval of both plans. There was no objection.

### GENERAL UPDATES

#### **Chief Updates**

**Chief Ron Olson**, Parks and Recreation, gave a progress report on Belle Isle Park. Among improvements last year were repairs to the Anna Scripps Whitcomb Conservatory and the relocation of the park headquarters to the location of the former Detroit Police Department building. The Recreation Passport will increase \$1 beginning March 1, statutory driven based upon inflation (Consumer Price Index). The Grand Prix has kindly donated \$6,000 worth of Recreation Passports that will be deployed through the City Council districts. High water remains a challenge at the park. An inflatable coffer dam has been installed on the east end to deflect water coming in from Lake Okonoka and a pumping system on the internal canal was installed. The legislation on the opt-out is still pending and they are still in discussions with the Secretary of State. Next week is the Natural Resources Trust Fund meeting where they will be

seeking an out of cycle trust fund grant to complete the acquisition of the 280 remaining acres of the Sargent Sands land in Ludington State Park.

A High Water Summit was held on February 10 that included around 100 people from a number of state departments, including EGLE, ACOE, MSP Emergency Management, NWS, U.S. Coast Guard, among other local units of government, to collaborate on the issue of high water and erosion. Assessments are being done in state parks and 35 areas have been identified so far. \$6M has already been spent doing emergency repairs and armoring shorelines and roads.

**Committee member Pitcher** asked for a future update on the parks that have been affected by the high water, and what the plan is to address the issue. **Chief Olson** said they can set up a Skype meeting or present more information at a future MSPAC meeting.

**Chief Olson** shared results of the 2019 Michigan DNR Camper Survey. Nearly 90 percent of those surveyed were satisfied with their experience at Michigan state parks, a consistent pattern from previous years.

**Committee member Clark** would like a State Trails Plan update from Paul Yauk at the next meeting, or when appropriate.

**Committee member Clark** called the meeting adjourned at 10:54 a.m.

The next MSPAC meeting date is April 16, 2020.