

MINUTES

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee

Tuesday, May 26, 2020

3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Microsoft Teams Meeting / (248) 509-0316 | ID: 954361564

PRESENT FOR THE MSPAC

Commissioner Louise Klarr, Chair
Commissioner, David Nyberg
Ann Conklin
Bob Hoffmeyer
Julie Clark
Chris Graham
Mary Pitcher
Mike McDonald
Mike Foote
Jim Bradley
Chuck Hoover
Ron Olson – DNR-PRD Representative

ABSENT

Jefferson Gray

OTHERS PRESENT

Jason Fleming, PRD
Jackie Blodgett, PRD
Anna Centofanti, PRD

MICHIGAN STATE PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MSPAC)

OPENING COMMENTS

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 p.m. by **Committee Chair Louise Klarr**. Committee member introductions were made around the panel. Attention was called to review 3 resolutions by members and was acknowledged by all.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Klarr motioned for approval of the November 7, 2019 meeting minutes with **Committee member Mary Pitcher** seconding that motion. Motion to accept minutes passed unanimously.

Commissioner Klarr motioned for approval of the February 13, 2020 meeting minutes with **Committee member Chris Graham** seconding that motion. Motion to accept minutes passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No Public Comment.

ACTION

Resolution No. 02-2020-01 to support the Lime Island State Recreation Area General Management Plan

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF: **Commissioner Louise Klarr** asked for a motion of support for approval of Resolution No: 02-2020-01. There was no discussion and the resolution was seconded and passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 02-2020-02 to support the Porcupine Mountains Wilderness State Park General Management Plan

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF: **Commissioner Louise Klarr** asked for a motion of support for approval of Resolution No: 02-2020-02. There was no discussion and the resolution was seconded and passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 05-2020-03 to support Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund Grant Applications

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF: **Commissioner Louise Klarr** asked for a motion of support for approval of Resolution No: 05-2020-03. There was no discussion and the resolution was seconded and passed unanimously.

GENERAL UPDATES

Chief Updates

Chief Ron Olson spoke of the Governor's Executive Orders from COVID-19 and the effects on state, county, and local parks. The Parks and Recreation division is deemed essential. Operations have been experiencing reduced park staff, closed buildings, playgrounds, and events cancelled. Camping has been postponed. Reopen dates continue to push out with Executive Order updates. Restrooms were closed and replaced with portable toilets. Some changes are now happening, and limited staff is returning to parks for maintenance, along with prepping campgrounds for reopening. A hiring and spending freeze were implemented. However, now we have approval to hire summer staff, short term workers (STW), which is approximately 1,500 people to on board in a shore period of time. The goal is to have campgrounds up and running by June 22, Harbors by June 10, and State Forest campgrounds by June 10. We are about 6-8 weeks behind. Memorial weekend had huge attendances across the state parks. Unfortunately, we lost over \$3M in camping revenue.

OTHER

Commissioner Louise Klarr stated she has not received any significant calls due to the COVID-19 circumstance, just the usual calls.

The next tentative MSPAC meeting date is August 13, 2020.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:57 p.m.