

**Table 2: Summary of Regional Recreational Resources**

Recreational Resource	County	City / Township	FEATURES											
			Picnic Area	Hiking	Biking	Equestrian	Swimming	Snow Mobiling	Skiing	Camping	Drinking Water	Rest rooms	Showers	
<b>National Recreational Resources</b>														
Huron-Manistee State Forest	Multiple	Alcona County	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	
<b>State Recreational Resources</b>														
Besser Natural Area	Presque Isle	Presque Isle Township	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	
Forty Mile Point Lighthouse Park	Presque Isle	Rogers Township	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	
Harrisville State Park	Alcona	Harrisville Township	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	
Mackinaw State Forest	Multiple	Multiple	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	
McCollum Lake State Forest Campground	Oscoda	Clinton Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO	
Negwegon State Park	Alcona	Sanborn / Alcona Township	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	
New Presque Isle Lighthouse Park	Presque Isle	Presque Isle Township	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	
Old Presque Isle Lighthouse Park	Presque Isle	Presque Isle Township	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	
Ossineke State Forest Campground	Alpena	Sanborn Township	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	
Sturgeon Point Scenic Site	Alcona	Alcona Township	NO	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	
P.H. Hoefft State Park	Presque Isle	Rogers Township	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	
Presque Isle Harbor	Presque Isle	Presque Isle Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO	
Thompson's Harbor State Park	Presque Isle	Krakow Township	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	
Thunder Bay River State Forest Campground	Alpena	Wilson Township	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	
<b>County Recreational Resources</b>														
Alcona County Recreation Area	Alcona	Harrisville Township	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO
Beaver Lake County Park	Alpena	Ossineke Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	
Long Lake County Park	Alpena	Alpena Township	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	
Sunken Lake Campground/Park	Presque Isle*	Posen Township	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO	
<b>Local Recreational Resources</b>														
Alpena Township Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO
Avery Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	
Barton City Community Park	Alcona	Millen Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	
Bayview Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	NO	
Black River Recreation Area	Alcona	Alcona Township	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	
Black River/Lake Huron Site	Alcona	Alcona Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	
Blair Street Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	
Brownlee Lake Park	Alcona	Hawes Township	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	
Chisholm Street Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	
Duck Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	

\* Operated by Alpena County.

**Table 2: Summary of Recreational Resources (Continue)**

Recreational Resource	County	City / Township	FEATURES										
			Picnic Area	Hiking	Biking	Equestrian	Swimming	Snow Mobiling	Skiing	Camping	Drinking Water	Rest rooms	Showers
Emerick Park	Montmorency	Hillman Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES	NO
Fletcher-Gilcrest Park	Presque Isle	Krakov Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
Grand Lake Roadside Park	Presque Isle	Krakov Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
Harrisville Harbor	Alcona	Harrisville Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	YES	NO
Harrisville Recreation Area	Alcona	Harrisville Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
Herman Vogler Conservation Area	Presque Isle	Rogers City	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES
Hillman Roadside Park	Montmorency	Rust Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
Hoist Lake Area	Alcona	Mitchell Township	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES
Hubbard Lake Access Site	Alcona	Caledonia Township	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Hubbard Lake North End Park	Alcona	Caledonia Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
Island Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Jewell Lake Campground	Alcona	Millen Township	YES	YES	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	YES	YES	NO
Lakeside Park	Presque Isle	Rogers City	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES
LaMarre Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Long Rapids Park	Alpena	Long Rapids Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
Manning Hill Park	Alpena	Green Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
Maple Ridge Township Park	Alpena	Maple Ridge Township	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
McRae Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
Mich-e-ke-wis Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
Mill Pond Park	Alcona	Harrisville Township	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Mitchell Township Park	Alcona	Mitchell Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
North Riverfront Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
Northshore Park	Presque Isle	Rogers City	NO	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
Pineview Park	Montmorency	Hillman Township	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
Public Works Park	Presque Isle	Rogers City	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES
Quarry View Roadside Park	Presque Isle	Bruningville Township	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Railroad Park	Alcona	Gustin Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Range Light Park	Presque Isle	Presque Isle Township	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Recreational Park	Alcona	Gustin Township	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
Reid Lake Foot Travel Area	Alcona	Millen Township	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES	YES
Riverside Park	Montmorency	Hillman Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Riverside Skate Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Riverview Park	Presque Isle	Rogers City	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES

**Table 2: Summary of Recreational Resources (Concluded)**

Recreational Resource	County	City / Township	FEATURES										
			Picnic Area	Hiking	Biking	Equestrian	Swimming	Snow Mobiling	Skiing	Camping	Drinking Water	Rest rooms	Showers
Roadside Park	Presque Isle	Belknap Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Roadside Park	Presque Isle	Krakow Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Roadside Park	Presque Isle	Rogers Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Rockport Property	Alpena	Alpena / Presque Isle Townships	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Rotary Island Mill Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Sanborn Park	Alpena	Sanborn Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Scenic Turnout	Presque Isle	Presque Isle Township	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Seagull Point Park	Presque Isle	Rogers City	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES
Shin-ga-ba Shores	Alpena	Sanborn Township	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
South Riverfront Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO	NO
South Shore Park	Presque Isle	Rogers City	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES
Sports Park	Presque Isle	Rogers City	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Spruce Park	Alcona	Caledonia Township	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Starlite Beach	Alpena	City of Alpena	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	NO
Sytek Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Thomson Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	YES	YES	YES	NO	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	NO
Thunder Bay Recreation Ctr/Northern Lights Arena	Alpena	City of Alpena	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Tournament Park	Montmorency	Hillman Township	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Trout River Park	Presque Isle	Rogers City	NO	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	YES	YES	YES
Veteren's Memorial Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Washington Avenue Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	YES	YES	YES	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Waterfront Park	Alpena	City of Alpena	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO
Westminster Park	Presque Isle	Rogers City	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO	NO



## **A9. Park Use and Economic Impact**

The limestone quarry, marina, Township park, and Besser Natural Area, sinkholes, beaches and other attractions draw people to Rockport. Visitor records for recreation use are not available. Once such data has been collected, then the park's economic contribution – in terms of jobs, income and value - to the community can be presented in this section.



EXHIBIT A

Description of Land

Alpena Township, T32N, R8E

Parcel #1:

The entire N 1/2; entire SE 1/4; the S 1/2 of the SW 1/4; and the NW 1/4 of the SW 1/4, Section 1, T32N, R8E, containing approximately 584.54 acres.

Parcel #2:

Entire E 1/2 of Section 2, T32N, R8E, containing approximately 307.65 acres.

Parcel #3:

The NE 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of Section 11, T32N, R8E, containing approximately 40 acres.

Parcel #4:

The NW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 and the East 1/2 of the NE 1/4; the S 1/2 of the SE 1/4; the SE 1/4 of the SW 1/4; and the N 1/2 of the NW 1/4, Section 12, T32N, R8E, containing approximately 318.32 acres.

Parcel #5:

The W 1/2 of the NE 1/4 of Section 13, T32N, R8E, containing approximately 80 acres.

Alpena Township, T32N, R9E

Parcel #6:

Entire fractional Section 6, T32N, R9E, containing approximately 466.35 acres.

Also:

A parcel of filled Lake Huron bottomland situated opposite, adjacent and contiguous to Government Lot 3 in Fractional Section 6, T32N, R9E, described as:

Commencing at the NW corner of said Section 6; thence E on North line of said Section 6, 1175 feet; thence S65°14'00"E 418 feet; thence S51°32'00"E 618 feet; thence S35°51'00"E 415 feet; thence S48°03'00"E 321 feet; thence S14°00'00"W 320 feet; thence S65°00'00"E 325 feet to the point of beginning; thence along the shore on the following courses and distances:

N28°52'00"E 399.80 feet; N38°09'00"E 304.20 feet; N59°55'00"E 322.90 feet; N05°35'00"E 78.80 feet; S42°50'00"E 337.50 feet; S15°03'00"W 350.20 feet; S30°32'00"E 440.60 feet; S16°45'00"E 277.10 feet; S27°22'00"E 633 feet; thence S56°30'00"W 90 feet; thence along the 1840, 581.5-foot high waterline on the following courses and distances:

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N33°30'00"W 600 feet; N45°30'00"W 310 feet; thence N66°30'00"W 394 feet; S81°00'00"W 188 feet; N66°00'00"W 115 feet; N26°00'00"W 112 feet to the point of beginning; together with such similar bottomland, if any, lying between and opposite the above-described land and said Government Lot 3; containing 16.27 acres, more or less.

Parcel #7:

The entire N 1/2; the N 1/2 of the S 1/2, except that part reserved by John Monaghan and wife in Liber 28 of Deeds, on Page 226; and the SW 1/4 of the SE 1/4, Section 7, T32N, R9E, containing approximately 508 acres.

Parcel #8:

The SW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 7, T32N, R9E, containing approximately 4.5 acres.

Parcel #9:

The entire fractional N 1/2 of Section 8, T32N, R9E, containing approximately 16 acres.

EXHIBIT B

I.

Excepting and reserving to Grantor, its successors and assigns, all oil, gas and associated hydrocarbon substances in and under all of the parcels of land described on Exhibit A and the exclusive right to store, re-store and protect oil, gas and associated hydrocarbon substances in the subsurface strata underlying said parcels of land. Grantor, its successors and assigns, may request of Grantee the right to enter upon said lands for the purpose of (i) exploring for, mining, taking, storing, processing, making merchantable, transporting and removing said oil, gas and associated hydrocarbon substances, and (ii) storing, re-storing and protecting oil, gas and other hydrocarbon substances in the subsurface strata and taking and retaking same from storage. Grantee will not unreasonably or arbitrarily withhold such permission.

II.

Also excepting and reserving to Grantor, its successors and assigns, the following EXCLUSIVE easements in, over, across and under a certain 270-foot wide strip of land located within Parcel #1 described in Exhibit A, and in, over and across a certain 270-foot wide strip of land located within Parcel #4 described in Exhibit A, and in, over and across a certain 270-foot wide strip of land located within Parcel #5 described in Exhibit A, said strips of land being described hereinbelow, to: 1) enter upon said strips of land; 2) construct, operate, repair, inspect, replace, improve, enlarge and remove existing and future electric facilities on said strips of land, including but not limited to electric substations, overhead and/or underground lines consisting of towers, pole structures, poles, or any combination of same, with wires, cables, conduits, crossarms, braces, guys, anchors and transformers and other fixtures and appurtenances and electric control circuits and devices for the purpose of transmitting and distributing electricity; 3) construct, operate, repair, inspect, replace, improve, enlarge and remove existing and future communications facilities on said strips of land, including but not limited to overhead and/or underground lines consisting of towers, pole structures, poles, or any combination of same with wires, cables, fiber optic cables and other fixtures and appurtenances for the purpose of conducting a communication or related business; and 4) cut, trim, remove, destroy or otherwise control any trees and brush on said strips of land which may, in the opinion of Grantor, interfere or threaten to interfere with or be hazardous to the above-described existing and future facilities.

It is intended hereby to reserve the above-described easements EXCLUSIVE of any person or entity except Grantee itself, and in the event that Grantee wishes to grant an interest in any of said strips of land, other than a conveyance of the entire fee interest, Grantee must secure Grantor's PRIOR written consent to any such grant, and Grantor may give such consent in its sole discretion and may attach any conditions to such consent. Nothing herein shall prevent Grantee from using said strips of land in the same manner as other public lands under its jurisdiction, except that such use shall not interfere with exercise of the rights reserved to Grantor.

Grantee agrees that no buildings or other structures will be erected on said strips of land and that no materials, supplies, substances or equipment shall be placed or stored upon said strips of land. Grantee

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shall secure Grantor's PRIOR written consent for any roads, irrigation systems or any other use of said strips of land that may affect Grantor's reserved rights hereunder, and Grantor may give such consent in its sole discretion and may attach any conditions to such consent.

Nonuse or a limited use by Grantor of the easements hereby reserved shall not prevent Grantor from later making use of the easements to the full extent herein stated. No delay or omission by Grantor to enforce its rights hereunder shall be held to cancel same or be considered a waiver thereof.

The aforesaid strips of land are described as follows:

A 270-foot wide strip of land running in a Northerly and Southerly direction across each of said Parcels #1, #4 and #5, the Westerly line of said 270-foot wide strip of land across each of said Parcels #1, #4 and #5 being located 105 feet Westerly of the centerline of the electric transmission line now existing across each of said parcels, and the Easterly line of said 270-foot wide strip of land across each of said Parcels #1, #4 and #5 being located 165 feet Easterly of the centerline of said electric transmission line now existing across each of said parcels. Said centerline of said electric transmission line now existing across each of said Parcels #1, #4 and #5 is described as all those parts of the following centerline description as are located across said parcels:

To find the point of beginning of said centerline description, commence at the South 1/4 corner of Section 13, T32N, R8E; thence West along the South line of said section, a distance of 203.81 feet to the point of beginning of this existing electric transmission line centerline description; thence N 22°25'05" E, a distance of 932.55 feet; thence N 00°17'56" E, a distance of 7210.43 feet to a point on the East and West 1/4 line of Section 12, T32N, R8E, said point being N 88°33'33" W, 2547.98 feet from the East 1/4 corner of said Section 12; thence continue N 00°17'56" E to the North line of Section 1, T32N, R8E, and the place of ending of this description.

**APPENDIX B**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

**PROGRAM RESULTS**

**FOR THE ROCKPORT PROPERTY**



## Public Participation

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources Parks and Recreation Division (DNR-PRD) emphasized that comments on the general management plans would be accepted at any time during the process. The formal public participation program included an extensive public participation component in the general management plan process. The participation initiatives are summarized below, and the results for all three sites (Negwegon, the Rockport Property and Thompson's Harbor) presented in this Appendix.

- † October 29, 2007 Stakeholder Workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to obtain comments on the draft General Management Plans for Negwegon State Park, the Rockport Property, and Thompson's Harbor State Park. With assistance from the Planning Team, approximately 212 people and organizations were identified as stakeholders. Invitations to the Stakeholder Workshop were sent by email (2), mail (207) and phone (3). Forty people attended the workshop. The sign-in sheet is included in this Appendix.

Stakeholders were invited to comment at the meeting. Stakeholders could also comment by completing a survey. The survey was mailed to each stakeholder, and was also available at the workshop and available on-line. Surveys could be completed before or after the workshop.

- † December 11, 2007 Public Input workshop. The DNR-PRD conducted two Public Input Workshops on December 11, 2007. The purpose of the workshop was to obtain comments on the draft General Management Plans for Negwegon State Park, the Rockport Property, and Thompson's Harbor State Park. The workshops were published in the local newspapers. Fifty-three attendants signed-in at the 3:00 pm session. Nineteen attendants signed in at the 5:00 pm session.

There were three opportunities to provide comments:

- 1) Comment at the workshop.
- 2) A hard-copy survey available at the workshop and on-line.
- 3) An on-line survey.

## Results from the October 29, 2007 Stakeholder Workshop

### **Negwegon**

- † If camping is allowed in Negwegon, concern that campers would simply disembark at the parking lot, and move camping gear to beach.
- † Backcountry Zone should follow both sides of pathways.
- † Duck hunters would like parking lot closer to South Point (easier access for transporting decoys and equipment). The DNR responded that there are some Native American sites on ridges that must be considered.

### **Rockport**

- † Survey question 7 response (Are there any known user conflicts or issues?): Funding for improvements to Rockport Road must also be provided to ensure the safety of the motoring public visiting the development. Middle Island was once a lifeboat station.
- † Enhance the access road. Rockport Road is not adequate to carry increased traffic to the park.
- † The quarry provided worker housing on-site.

### **Thompson's Harbor**

- † Survey Question 1 response (Do you agree with the statements of purpose? Anything to add?): Yes
- † Survey Question 2 response (Do you agree with the statements of significance?): Shipwreck. Would like to see good access where one could hand launch a boat – kayak or zodiac – need shore access for carrying dive gear.

Other comments for Thompson's Harbor:

- † The first two miles (to the outlet) of Old State Road / off US-23 need to be marked as a SCENIC AREA for wildflowers. That is already accessible to all visitors.
- † Grand Lake Outlet "fence" that obstructs kayakers was installed by the DNR with a trail grant. The fence is not popular with thoughtful park users.
- † Old State Road should be marked at both ends as a park entrance.

### **Sign-in Sheet**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
John Bare	
Don Bey	
David Birchler	Birchler Arroyo Associates
Dan & Ann Brasier	
Keith Cheli	DNR PRD
Paul N. Curtis	MDNR-PRD
Ken Gauthier	

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Amy Golke	Birchler Arroyo Associates
Mary Ann Heidemann	MSU Extension
Colleen Higgins	MDNR-PRD/Harrisville State Park
Laura Ingles	NEMC 06
Jim Johnson	MDNR – Fisheries
Michael Joyce	
Tom Keerl	City of Harrisville
Frank Krist	
Jane & Steve Kroll	
Art Laatz	Alcona Historical Rte Committee
C. Patrick Labadie	Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary
Al Lipski	
Sue Maxwell	
John McConnell	
Jeanne Meskus	Huron Shore Chamber
Dan Mullen	MDNR-PRD/Harrisville State Park
Rick Myrick	Alcona Conservation District
Doug Niergarth	Michigan Brown Trout
Patty Ramus	The Alpena News
Tom Paquor	Clio F.O. DNR
Peter Pettalia	
Jeff Shea	City of Alpena
M. Slown	City of Rogers City
Joe Sobczak	TBUPC
Yvonne Swager	Michigan Outdoor News
Rachael Franks Taylor	TNC
Kenneth Timm	
Marie A. Twite	Twp of Alpena
Scott Vergiels	UofM Mus. Of Paleontology
John Whatcott	
Ron Young	Alcona County Road Commission

## Results from the December 11, 2007 Public Input Workshop

### **A. Comments at the workshop**

- † Concerns regarding the quarry.
  - ✍ The plan references fossils only. Fossils may be found on the beach (near the sand boils or by the bluffs).
  - ✍ People should be able to find and collect fossils.
  - ✍ There should be a way to assemble collections so fossils can be viewed by the public.
  - ✍ In all parks, exposed lake shore is good place to find fossils.
  - ✍ The quarry great from educational standpoint.
    - ? It is the only place where rock formation is fully exposed.
    - ? An info kiosk at Rockport should identify it as one of the best places in the world view this type of rock formation.
- † Audubon society view trapping as a conflict with cross-country skiing, bird counting, and similar activities.
- † There needs to be entrance signs at Thompson's Harbor (two roadside signs and two entry signs).
- † Consider the costs and benefits of: Identifying Native American artifacts: will they be ruined?; and allowing equestrian use (seeds in waste).
- † Why do we want to allow equestrian use?
- † Having hunted in Rockport and Thompson's Harbor, there are already many trails, it seems as if the plans stick snowmobile on powerline routes only.
- † Don't restrict current users.
- † Would like to see things left as they are. I don't want to damage anything though.
- † What's the motivation for the plans - Financial? Preservation?
- † Most locals use the parks and the plans restrict locals a lot.
- † We have camping, etc. If we start developing these jewels, what's going to happen?
- † What are the allowed uses now? Is there overuse? Are we just planning stewardship? (Facilitator response: yes)
- † ATV's ruin dunes not equestrians.
- † If there are trails, make them where they are compatible for equestrian use. There is no proof that horses cause damage.
- † In the late 1980's, Thompson's Harbor was financially self-sufficient from a management standpoint. Nothing has happened. Concerned that park is used less after this process than when it was in private ownership.
- † If land must sustain itself financially, hard to believe it will.
- † Each park is unique, each has unifying traits.
- † Education means to make park available to the public and protect the resources. Will you help us form groups and tell us what we need to do? What are we supposed to do now? Response: start a "Friends" Group. Use "Friends of the Library" as a model. At the next CAC meeting, this will be discussed. Also, there is a DNR List serve.

- † Are you looking at what does or doesn't work right now? Note that activities you can't do other places, you can do here.
- † The DNR is not planning on selling these sites right? (Response: not to our knowledge. More likely that land will be added to the sites.)
- † Tawas Pointe has birding. People want to visit Newegon in particular for birding, especially during migration.
- † Regarding park management, have difficulties / benefits with management been identified? Is there a way to do partial regionalization? Will there be staff at each park?
- † Rockport Road is hazardous road to travel. Work with local agency long-range planning to do something about this.
- † Concerned with privacy for homeowner on the Lake. Protect our privacy.
- † When DNR moves into Phase 2 & 3, do you still consult the public?
- † Now we have to pay \$24/ year to get into and out of the Rockport Property. For years, we did not have to pay.
- † Fees. Paying \$3 per day at Negwegon is undesirable, a sign should be posted to encourage \$24 / annual fee. (Response: there is such as sign).
- † Don't give discounts to seniors (comment from a senior citizen).
- † Develop in ways that are educational. These sites are a tremendous benefit for younger people, so build appreciation for the resource that they can pass along to their children.
- † Concerned for forest management. Do not allow what happened at Thompson's Harbor to happen at Rockport.
- † Comment to younger people: what you have is really unique; a heritage to hold on to.
- † Is there still a trust fund?
- † Regional perspective: There is a proposal to expand the National Marine Sanctuary, so there could be unified management on front side of sites. Good sense would deem unified management on land side.
- † There are no conflict with kid usage at the sites. They like to hang out at Negwegon.
- † What is the significance of cultural resource overlay?
- † With present climate, (i.e. DNR closing parks), why have Developed Recreation zones? Why not leave these areas as Primitive?
- † In Thompson's Harbor, access road is blocked off, you can't get through. There is a similar situation at Rockport where the gates limit access.
- † How will we know when next planning phase start?
- † For Negwegon, will you allow camping in Negwegon? Will the access road be open during the winter?
- † More camping should be allowed. What is allowed in terms of primitive camping?
- † Snowmobiling is allowed only in a single line. A loop around the parks would be nice? We would like to view the beach or something more scenic to facilitate a pleasure ride.
- † Rockport: Now that state owns, access is cut off.

- † Why develop every piece of land? I don't want it all accessible. I don't want to see people when go to sinkholes. We pick up more trash from others. Open these areas and they will be destroyed because people cannot handle responsibility. Geocaching is awesome here, you don't see another soul.
- † When do users and conflicts get addressed? Phase 2? If so, then Phase 2 should also have opportunities for public comment.
- † There are many uses in Thompson's Harbor right now, and they all get along. Fear that if managed, user groups may lose out on their use.
- † What phase are the "economics" considered? These sites are not paying their own way right now. Be up front with public. How much this will cost? It won't be free.
- † This is a long-term planning process, but what do we do in short-term? ATV's are tearing up Negwegon. (DNR response: Call us when you see it – that's why you see berms, etc. Need public's support (peer policing) on regulating ORV's.)
- † Recreation opportunities that are low intensity, how are they determined?
- † Biking should be low intensity not lumped with horses.
- † Trails by the wetlands could be used, mountain bikes will not hurt them.
- † A dive platform is needed at Rockport, and a place for trash.
- † Why not label zones at Rockport Primitive, and later on change what you want to do.
- † Never have seen a Conservation Officer in Thompson's Harbor.
- † These properties are unique in the State.
- † Time to break new ice: charge a user pass to pay for staff.
- † Metal detecting: can it be done in any of the management zones? Would like to see this activity addresses in the plans.
- † Forest management plans for harvest timber? In Negwegon? (Response: We don't harvest timber except species control or after a storm.)
- † Would quarry remain open (i.e. allowed to remove rocks)?
- † Why is no one at Rockport patrolling, and what level of campsite management would enact a patrol officer?
- † Regarding the cabin at Thompson's Harbor. Since it is there, why not make the property open to six cabins?
- † Don't take from public, give to public!
- † The people that are not here tonight feel disenfranchised and bitter over trail closings, which yields vandalism. They feel ownership is taken away. Outsiders don't respect property – 'Rules' ruin right-to-use for locals.

### December 11 Public Workshop Sign-In Sheet

Name	Organization/ Affiliation
Kenneth Timm	Alcona County
Jim Szczukowski	
Bill McDonnell	
Richard White	
Linda Klemens	
Don Beem	
Dave LaVigne	
Erin Riopielle	Head Waters Land Conservation
Deb Pardike	
May Heideman	
James Zakshesky	Presque Isle Planning Commission
Fred Sterns	
Elizabeth Antkowiak	Citizen
Joe Cercone	Citizen
Cory Gilders Lieve	Audubon
Peggy Ridgway	Audubon
Edward H. Cole	Audubon
William Hyde	County Planning
Beach Hall	Mayor
Colleen Higgins	DNR
Mark Hansen	DNR
Dan Mullen	DNR
Jim Larson	AuSable Audubon
Sue M. Keller	
Jeff Spruit	MDEQ Geologic Outreach Commission
Kerry Mase	
Carol Clute	
Robert C. Brandt	
Elizabeth Littler	
Chris Christopherson	
Wade Oliver	
Shawn Neuland	
Brian Kionzle	
Tony Curia	
Shawn Fettes	
John Pilon	Michigan DNR
Carue Shafto	City of Alpena
Jeanne Meskus	
Pauline Farmer	
Jerry Meek	Thunder Bay River Watershed Council
Richard Cluter	Besser Museum
David Sedlow	

Name	Organization/ Affiliation
Randy Fairbanks	Thunder Bay Trails Association
Elise DeMerell	
Jim McCallum	
Bobbi Bashore	DNR/LAW
Kim Wallis Burke	
Haley DeJarlin	Alcona Schools
Justin Brown	
Nathan Bushey	Alcona High School
David Dubuque	North East Huron Detector Club
Jennifer Nemeth	DNR/FMFM
Suzie Leow	
Tom Carlson	
Don Rosenberg	
Marcus Kemp	
Steve Mitchell	
Mike Leon	
Rick Egstrom	

# Survey Distributed at Meeting (and available on-line), and Survey Results (Responses: 8)

**ROCKPORT**  
Public Input Workshop Worksheet  
(Please use additional pages as necessary for your comments to the questions below)

The questions below pertain to the DRAFT General Management Plan for the Rockport Property. If you would like to submit your comments after tonight's workshop, please mail, fax or email to: Amy Golke, Birchler Arroyo Associates, 28021 Southfield Road, Lathrup Village, MI 48076 / (248) 423-1793 (fax) / [agolke@birchlarroyo.com](mailto:agolke@birchlarroyo.com) by **December 17**.

Surveys, the draft plan, and the presentation are available at: [www.birchlarroyo.com/Clients/MDNR-NRTH.htm](http://www.birchlarroyo.com/Clients/MDNR-NRTH.htm)

Thank you for taking the time to fill out the survey.  
Your comments are a very valuable component of the General Management Plan process.

Name / Affiliation	Address	Email / Phone
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**1. The Statements of Purpose currently include:**

- Maintain the approximately 3,641 acres of Rockport that were deeded to the Department of Natural Resources from Consumers Energy, as part of the Ludington Pumped Storage Hydroelectric Facility settlement
- Preserve and protect the property's unique natural resources for current and future generations.
- Preserve and protect the property's historic and cultural resources.
- Provide educational and interpretive opportunities for the public that reflect the mission of the DNR and the unique qualities of Rockport.
- Provide opportunities for recreational uses and experiences that are unique to, and compatible with, the property's resource base.
- Ensure that the planning of Rockport is part of a cohesive strategy for the region.

**Do you agree with the above statements? Would you add anything to the above statements?** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Current statements of significance are summarized as:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cultural and historic resources: Native American influence in Rockport; limestone quarry and forest operations; fossils found in the quarry; the oak ridge (indicates a prehistoric use).</li> <li>• Deep water pier: unique to the northeast shoreline; major attraction for visitors; provides water access (fishing, diving and swimming). Ideal location for boaters, divers and swimmers and may be beneficial in terms of tourism (Great Lakes cruise lines, tourism boats).</li> <li>• The Chippewa tribe accesses the boat launch through a Tribal Commercial Fishery Consent Decree.</li> <li>• The NOAA Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary's jurisdiction includes a portion of the Rockport Coast. The Sanctuary uses the deep water port at Rockport as a base for diving excursions.</li> <li>• Sink holes, karst features, dramatic land forms that are educational and interesting to divers. (Sink holes can also pose a danger as the land surface surrounding the hole may collapse unpredictably).</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unique natural features: old growth white pines; cobble beach; and fens.</li> <li>• Value to commercial fisheries. Fisheries are also significant from a historical perspective, as some Alpena area settlers were attracted to the area for its commercial fishing resources.</li> <li>• Proximity and relationship to the Besser Bell Natural Area, which features stands of mature, virgin red and white pine with spruce, balsam, cedar and birch, Lake Huron shoreline, sandy beach. Portions of a shipwreck can be found in a wetland, just inland from the shoreline.</li> <li>• Prevalence of wildflowers, and species of special concern, threatened species and endangered species, such as Houghton's goldenrod, Dwarf lake iris and Pitcher's thistle.</li> <li>• The Rockport property includes land on Middle Island. (The lighthouse on Middle Island is privately owned.)</li> <li>• Its part in regional networks: Lighthouse Tour; "Sunrise Side Coastal Highway"; Huron Greenways; Bluewater Trail (proposed); and Great Lakes Circle Tour.</li> </ul> |
|--|--|

**Do you agree with the above statements? What else makes Rockport significant to you?** \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

*Continued on next page*

Rockport ♦ Public Input Worksheet ♦ December 11, 2007

3. What natural resources are important? \_\_\_\_\_

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4. What cultural resources are important? \_\_\_\_\_

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5. What are the education and interpretation opportunities? \_\_\_\_\_

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6. What are the recreation opportunities? \_\_\_\_\_

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7. What should be the visitor experience? \_\_\_\_\_

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8. Are there any known user conflicts or issues?

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9. What should be the identity of Rockport?

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Other Comments \_\_\_\_\_

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## Survey Responses: 8

### 1. Do you agree with the statements of purpose? Would you add anything to the above statements?

- ☞ Absolutely! This site is a treasure in many ways: geologically; biologically; ecologically; and aesthetically, just to name a few.
- ☞ I agree.
- ☞ Yes.
- ☞ Yes, no.
- ☞ Yes, with an emphasis on #2 (Preserve and protect the property's unique natural resources for current and future generations).
- ☞ Agree.
- ☞ Agree.

### 2. Do you agree with the statements of significance? What else makes the site significant to you?

- ☞ Yes. It is the only place in the Lower Peninsula where the total thickness of this rock formation (Rockport Quarry Limestone) is exposed for study, observation and educational purposes.
- ☞ The terrain (rocks, bedrock) is unlike any other I've seen in the Lower Peninsula. It would be incredible for developing a unique, technically challenging mountain bike trail system.
- ☞ Yes. Fossil collecting destination.
- ☞ Yes.
- ☞ Yes. In particular, the deep water port which gives access to deeper water for divers and fishermen. Additionally, I enjoy bird hunting here.
- ☞ Agree.
- ☞ Yes. Believe lighthouse is still US Coast Guard's high ground. Giver good visual onto Lake Huron. Interesting to observe the commercial fishing operation.

### 3. What natural resources are important?

- ☞ Old growth white pines, threatened wildflowers, sink holes.
- ☞ Shoreline, fossils, ledges.
- ☞ The wildflowers (yellow lady slipper, for one), birds, karst features (sink holes), cultural features, historic significance (the quarrying operations that occurred in the past).
- ☞ The Besser Bell Natural Area, shoreline habitat, wildflowers, fens and sink holes.
- ☞ Fossil collecting.
- ☞ Karsts, forests, sinkholes, cobble beach, old growth white pines, endangered species.

### 4. What cultural resources are important?

- ☞ The pier and boat ramp, the old settlement of Rockport, the old abandoned quarrying

equipment.

- ☞ Pier, shipwrecks, Native American influence.
- ☞ Old village, site of 'Big Mac' bridge caisson construction, old railroad grades.
- ☞ Native American influences.
- ☞ Fossils, artifacts, old community, shipwrecks.

## 5. What are the education and interpretation opportunities?

- ☞ The karst features, the fossils, the different layers of rock within the Rockport Quarry Limestone Formation (geo-education).
- ☞ The unique sink hole geology.
- ☞ Native American education, rock formations, fossils.
- ☞ Limestone geology.
- ☞ Rockport settlement, quarrying methods, types of fishing.
- ☞ Introduction to geology and all of science through wonder of fossil collecting.

## 6. What are the recreation opportunities?

- ☞ Hunting, fishing, walking, snowmobiling.
- ☞ Light camping or day use, diving, hiking, horse-back riding.
- ☞ Possible campground with Great Lake access.
- ☞ Hunting, fishing, swimming, diving, rock climbing, fossil collecting.
- ☞ Fossil collecting, hiking, birding, fishing, swimming and maybe mountain biking on designated trails.
- ☞ A stacked-loop, multi-use non-motorized trail system (see attached example from Building Better Trails published by the International Mountain Bicycling Association.) Proper trail design would help minimize trail conflicts. In addition, the apparent lack of soft soils means equestrians may be able to share these trails with minimal negative trail impact. Having more technical trails also leads to slower mountain biker speeds which can also alleviate conflict with other trail groups. (FIGURE attached, page 10)
- ☞ Hiking, cross-country skiing, kayaking, nature observation, photography, swimming and boat access.
- ☞ The outer loops would ideally be located within the rockier areas and quarry area in order to provide a very challenging trail experience.
- ☞ I believe such a trail would draw significant mountain bikers from across the Lower Peninsula and potentially the Midwest since this terrain is so unique. It is much closer for cyclists to drive to Alpena than the Upper Peninsula or East Coast in order to experience the rugged, rocky and challenging trails.

## 7. What should be the visitor experience?

- ☞ Multiple opportunity. Fossil collect and birding and hiking for example. Historical edification, wildflower observation, and hiking for another.
- ☞ An appreciation of nature.
- ☞ Educational.
- ☞ Multiple. Considerable opportunity for hiking trails. Loop hike to Besser Bell on the shoreline and return on the old railroad grad is a good hike.
- ☞ Low-impact, non-motorized in northern area and more developed – camping, etc. at pier and quarry.

## 8. Are there any known user conflicts or issues?

- ☞ There may be a possible conflict between fossil collecting / geo-education and target shooting. Target shooting is certainly possibly compatible if properly planned.
- ☞ Major resource damage from illegal ORV activity.
- ☞ Yes. Desire by some user group for motorized access to sink holes and interior of park. Possible nesting area for bald eagles-motorized noise could impact nesting.

## 9. What should be the identity of the site?

- ☞ Wildlife, nature and geo-educational park.
- ☞ Should be an education spot showing the history of the area. (HISTORICAL)
- ☞ Multi-experience park. Of the three areas, this site probably has the most mullet-use potential.
- ☞ As stated above, the trail identity for Rockport would be its unique and challenging terrain within the Lower Peninsula and the Midwest.
- ☞ A mixture of recreational-oriented areas <remainder not legible>
- ☞ A fossil collecting destination among all the other recreational uses.

## 10. Other Comments

- ☞ No camping, no launch fee.
- ☞ Good opportunity for marked trails for hiking. Some safety issues with the quarry cliffs – will need fencing and signage. This property should be transferred to the State Park system at the appropriate time.
- ☞ This property presents a unique opportunity to develop a campground / residence for people wishing to dive on a wreck or wrecks or for fishermen.

## On-line Survey Results

(Responses: 3)

### Rockport Property

1. How far do you live from Rockport?			
		Response Percent	Response Count
Within 10 minute drive		0.0%	0
Within 30 minute drive		66.7%	2
Within 60 minute drive		0.0%	0
Greater than 60 minute drive		33.3%	1
<i>answered question</i>			3
<i>skipped question</i>			0

2. How often do you visit Rockport each season?					
	Once per week	Once per month	Once per season	Never	Response Count
Spring	0.0% (0)	33.3% (1)	66.7% (2)	0.0% (0)	3
Summer	33.3% (1)	0.0% (0)	66.7% (2)	0.0% (0)	3
Fall	33.3% (1)	0.0% (0)	66.7% (2)	0.0% (0)	3
Winter	0.0% (0)	33.3% (1)	0.0% (0)	66.7% (2)	3
<i>answered question</i>					3
<i>skipped question</i>					0

### 3. What activities do you currently enjoy at the site?

- 1 fossils, sinkholes, quiet hu=ikes
- 2 Hiking
- 3 Boat Launch, Fishing, Hunting, Scuba Diving, Hiking

### 4. Please list the new activities that you would like to see at Rockport, and indicate the number of new visits per year if the activity is added. For example, the addition of rustic campsites might change a person's number of visits per year from four to twelve.

- 1 marked hiking trails, no need to create more. Please don't open it up to pick-up trucks and divers.
- 2 Horse back riding spring, summer and fall and cross country skiing in the winter. I would probably increase my visits to once per month in each season.
- 3 Easier access to the sinkholes for scuba divers, and people with disabilities. Also Scuba access from the township day park to the Deep Water Pier, instead of the boat launch area. Cross Country Ski trails.

### 5. What natural resources at Rockport are most important to you?

- 1 Sink holes, quarry, shorelines
- 2 I think that the fossils and the history of the region is important.
- 3 The Fossils / Quarry, sinkholes, hiking trails,

**6. Are there any historically-significant resources or culturally-significant resources in Rockport of which you are aware?**

- 1 no
- 2 Just the stage couch route, mining and fishing.
- 3 The old houses near the lake, just South of the parking lot.

**7. What would you like to see in terms of education or interpretation opportunities?**

- 1 Information on karst geology
- 2 History and fossils.
- 3 The sinkholes, the fossils, and what Rockport actually was used for in its time

**8. When visiting Rockport, what should the experience be like?**

- 1 Quiet, natural, camping opportunities
- 2 Quiet, peaceful, natural--- not developed. No snowmobiles in the winter.

**9. What should the identity for this site be (i.e. a primitive, natural area; campground; educational area)?**

- 1 Cmapground, education, natural areas
- 2 Natural area with tent camping, hiking trails, skiing trails and equestrian trail. Continued port for fishermen, picnic area for families.
- 3 I feel there is enough land to accomplish the following: primitive, natural area, a campground, and education

**10. Are there any known user conflicts or issues?**

- 1 ATV's and snowmobiles on beaches, divers driving motor vehicles to sink holes
- 2 There should be no conflicts between users if we respect each other and all follow the rules; showing courtesy to everybody.
- 3 The target practicing / weapon sighting shouldn't be allowed, there are ranges for that

**11. Please review the CORE VALUES section of the General Management Plan. Do you agree or disagree with the statements of purpose and significance? Is there anything you would add?**

- 1 Agree
- 2 I agree.
- 3 I agree

**12. Please review the General Management Plan's MANAGEMENT ZONE PLAN. Do you agree or disagree with the Management Zones for Rockport? What changes would you make?**

- 1 Shorelines should be ecological sensitive zones  
I agree with the zones but why was equestrian use not listed as one of the possible recreational uses? As I
- 2 recall there is an old road (old stage couch route) that runs from Rockport up to Besser Bell. This could be a horse back riding trail.

**13. The next step in the process is to consider linkages among Negwegon State Park, Thompson's Harbor State Park and the Rockport property in the context of the geographic region (Alcona, Alpena, and Presque Isle Counties). This Regional Assessment will also tie into the Michigan Sea Grant Northeast Michigan Integrated Assessment project. Please provide your comments with regard to regional consideration of these three sites.**

- 1 Makes sense to have Tompsons harbor and rockport tied together. Negwegon should be tied with Harrisville Townships need to be involved. Volunteers from the local areas and user groups should be recruited to help with trail maintenance, education tours, etc.
- 2 To have the three parks would be a great asset for boaters / kayakers /canoers being able to travel up the Lake Huron shore and camp for the night at a park. Maybe in the future being able to travel to Mackinaw by canoe / kayak.
- 3

**14. Are there any comments you would like to share?**

- 1 I hope it is possible to include horse back riding at Rockport. (Thank you for all your work on these plans. They are impressive.)

**APPENDIX C**

**PLANNING TEAM MEETING**

**AGENDAS AND MINUTES**

**FOR THE ROCKPORT PROPERTY**

Meeting agendas and minutes for all Planning Team meetings are provided in this Appendix. Meetings were held on the following dates:

June 6, 2007

July 24, 2007

September 25, 2007

January 29, 2008

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# A G E N D A

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION  
Negwegon – Rockport - Thompson's Harbor (NRTH)  
General Management Plans and Regional Assessment Project

DATE: June 6, 2007

TIME: 1:00 - 5:00 pm

PLACE: Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary  
500 W Fletcher St, Alpena, MI

1. Introductions
2. Project Overview
3. Exercise
  - ✍ Your interests
  - ✍ First impressions of each park's significance
  - ✍ First impressions of each park's purpose

4. Summary: What was heard

Summary Report to be emailed - please provide your email address on the sign-in sheet.

5. Planning Team Meeting Schedule
6. Local Citizens Advisory Committee

# M E E T I N G   M I N U T E S

## MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION

### Negwegon – Rockport - Thompson’s Harbor (NRTH) General Management Plans and Regional Assessment Project

DATE: June 6, 2007

TIME: 1:00 - 5:00 pm

PLACE: Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary  
500 W Fletcher St, Alpena, MI

#### **1. and 2. Introductions and Project Overview.**

Paul Curtis, MDNR-PRD Management Plan Administrator, began the meeting by providing an overview of the General Management Plan process.

#### **3. Exercise**

Birchler Arroyo Associates led an issues / solutions exercise. A brief description of each park was given, after which participants were asked to identify issues and solutions, as well as the significance and purpose of Negwegon, Rockport and Thompson’s Harbor.

#### 3.A Negwegon

##### 3.A.1 Negwegon: Issues and Solutions

- † Is there a Piping Plover Critical Endangered Habitat designation? (Answer: no).
- † Metal detecting is not allowed in sensitive areas.
- † County Road access is a major issue because it is essentially seasonal. Sandhill Road does not have 66’ ROW, traveled way easement only, sand base makes it unstable.
- † Catholic Church ROW may be a potential access point.
- † There are important archeological sites in Negwegon.
- † Original access was from Lakeshore, by 4WD only. This access was closed when Sandhill Road was opened. People feel shut out by current condition of access.
- † Criticism of equestrians watering horses at lake is unfair.
- † Desirable use should determine the access provided (primary plus secondary EMS)
- † Is there *runaway slave* history associated with the property?

- † Regarding previous attempts to plan: ORV use has been destructive. The land is somewhat healed, however, limited rustic camping and DNR management personnel would help police unauthorized ORV traffic / damage.
- † Parks should be accessible for seniors
- † Wayfinding signs are needed to locate parks, direct users within parks, etc.
- † Opportunities for interpretation and accessibility.
- † Black River and Scarecrow island have shipwrecks accessible to kayakers and snorklers.
- † Cultural and ecological tourism on all three properties is important to Roger's City and the region's economy.
- † Lighthouse tour includes area. US-23 Heritage Trail, Bluewater Trail and Huron Greenways.
- † Interconnections are important. Access should not be shut out by Department standard for one-way in and one-way out (especially for non-motorized trails). Remember that access parameters control uses.
- † Dozens of local parks are part of the system (obtain NEMCOG complied local inventory).
- † Hikers, bikers, swimmers are primary users now. Hunting is in decline (by design?). There are potential and actual conflicts now. People camp informally in an Alcona Township park as a base for kayaking from Negwegon.
- † There is animosity towards duck hunters.
- † Access is critical and will be difficult to improve because of easements required (neighbors run users off state land as a result of the access having been 'reduced'). Purpose needs to address appropriate use, as broad as possible, with reduction of conflict.
- † This is the #1 retirement area – are we addressing barrier-free access?
- † Hunters need more opportunities.
- † Has 'no motorized use' be re-evaluated in regard to rascals, elec. Golf carts with turf tires?
- † Universal access is part of MDNR standards now.
- † Any exploration of allowing private enterprises in the park (i.e. concessions?)

### 3.A.2 Negwegon: Interest, Purpose and Significance

- † Access for hunting, primitive camping within designated areas and under PRD management
- † Access needs to be improved for primitive camping; maybe some rustic camping; people will police the use (peer pressure); hunting; northern unit has locked gates; duck hunting at southpoint is a concern.
- † Maximum use possible in the most responsible manner possible. (Duck hunters to South Point, scuba divers to sink holes, help local economy. Can Rockport include user-friendly target range of unique design? Can management rules be tailored to these properties?
- † Access to Lake Huron for beach walkers, kayakers.
- † A 'multi-use park' should be feasible.

- † Multiple access, some easy and some requiring a vigorous hike. Likes term “sustainable use.” Important to look at all three parks simultaneously.
- † Interpretive centers for rare / interesting species can address education and ecotourism.
- † Teach people how to have fun outdoors, how to be a responsible recreationist. May be essential to have a ‘center’ from which to disperse people to each site. Hunting is safe, compatible.
- † Northeast Michigan should not have to be ‘pristine and poor.’ Paul Bunyon legend began in Oscoda (*first newspaper articles published about Paul were published here*). Also have lighthouse tours, stagecoach trail. An interpretive center is needed.
- † No one representing law enforcement – are there serious conflicts between users now?
- † Fossil hunting is a big activity.
- † Native American tribes should be contacted.
- † Is there a plan to connect the two parcels (Wade property?)

### 3.B Rockport: Issues and Solutions; Significance and Purpose

- † Flowing springs just off of the shore could be important to divers (white algae).
- † Similar to Negwegon, access is an issue.
- † Consumers Power never discouraged access, which failed to address abuses, such as ORV damage. When the State purchased, there was a ‘lock-down.’ To stop ORVs, bocks were installed, which prevented fishing access. Snowmobiles should be able to use designated roadways, however, quads become problem that barriers did not resolve. Not enough large signs to ID allowable uses. Access is available from Grand Lake Road to sink holes, but no action to develop to-date. Need to encourage public use, not discourage. Hoeft State Park could be the camping base for NRTH if there was good access.
- † Parking at the powerline crossing (road access form both directions) could be Rockport base for hiking access)
- † Commercial fishing access at Rockport is an important use to preserve.
- † Presque Isle Township community has offered to assist with maintenance and management. Would the MDNR consider a partnership? Could we encourage / license a private enterprise to take kayakers and divers to the lake (motorized means).
- † Rockport deep water pier is one of the few facilities of its kind. Tour boats could run between the Marine Sanctuary and the deep water port. Save the deep water access. Touring boats on Great Lakes could stop at an interpretive center (Native American fishing, dune and swale complexes, fens, artifacts, shipwrecks, etc.
- † Need certified guides and outfitters.
- † Tie into ‘entrepreneurial communities’ concept: “Duck hunting with a certified duck hunter;” step aerobics class on the Lake Huron shoreline; sell park

- products (Chamber); sale of Dwarf Lake Iris. Private enterprises would give DNR control (good incentive: businesses would lose license if break rules).
- † Many creative concession opportunities: lighthouse boat tours, kayak access, etc.
- † Partnership with local governments to staff facilities and/or concessions.
- † Rules for taking on commercial passengers at certain types of sties may need review / modification (more opportunity could reduce fuel use, for example). Dive charters, fishing charters, lighthouse tours, kayak tours.
- † Old mine tailings area and the like could be more development without ecoregional harm.
- † Quarry is a very attractive site for divers.
- † Mountain biking from Besser to boat launch, currently able to do.
- † History of Rockport quarry should be documented (wayfinding) and preserved for public education and enjoyment. May also be former US Navy Training area).
- † Safety could be a concern for Rockport features (sink holes, deep water pier, cliff faces at the limestone quarry, metal parts and equipment).

### 3.C Thompson's Harbor: Issues and Solutions; Significance and Purpose

- † Need to look at local significance, state significance and even Federal significance.
- † 18% of Alpena County is publicly-owned land. Some of the resources requiring protection area available on other sites.
- † There is a preponderance of Species of Special Concern, and Threatened and Endangered species in Thompson's Harbor: 1) Thompson's Harbor 2) Negwegon 3) Rockport.
- † Diversity of wildflowers along at Thompson's Harbor warrants tour opportunities. Access to many is good as result of them growing in breaks in canopy.
- † Great kayaking is available seasonally from Grand Lake outlet to Lake Huron (and there is Thompson's Harbor State Park access on Black Bass Bay of Grand Lake).
- † Barrier-free access available from drive on Old State Road. (Point: there is currently great access to see wildflowers).
- † Currently interpretive panels are being installed in Thompson's Harbor State Park.
- † Shipwreck sites are visible to kayakers – NOAA has permit to drop a buoy as marker for one out at the point.
- † Park's history as 'immigrant point.'
- † Presque Isle Township bike path to lighthouse could easily be connected to Old State Road (a bikeable road).
- † Frog data is available from Mary Ann Heidemann.
- † Shoreline is walkable and has a well-established pedestrian path.
- † Enjoyment of the resources cannot be fully realized until we can get people to the center, park and hike or bike from there.

- † Park boundaries are not identified. People do not know where park land is located.
- † Hines Emerald Dragonfly habitat means development would trigger a special assessment.
- † Helpful to document and post what is permitted and what is not permitted at each site (there is a great deal of rumor and misperception).
- † Is it appropriate to plan to regulate nearby private development, so as not to adversely impact the resource? Can we promote economic development without harming the resource?
- † Assessment should show relationship of NRTH to:
  - Nearby State and federal land
  - Nearby County and local parks
  - Trail facilities in the area
  - Harrisville and Hoeft State Parks (campgrounds)
  - Former rail bed from Rockport to Alpena
  - Negwegon shoreline is 6.5 to 8 miles.
- † Consider uses of adjacent properties so they are not a detriment to the State Parks.
- † Look at bike trails which connect the area (100-miler).
- † Look at the Alpena to Rockport railbed (Possible connection: *Rails with Trails*).

## **2. Citizens Advisory Committee**

Paul Curtis led a discussion regarding the formation of a Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC). A CAC would contribute to the GMP planning process and continue to meet for other projects after the GMPs are completed.

June 6, 2007  
NORTH Planning Team Meeting Participants

NAME	AFFILIATION
Beverly Bodem	Sen. Stamas
Mark Slown	City of Rogers City
David Nadolsky	Rogers City
Jerry Smith	Rogers City
Kenneth Gauthier	Sanborn Township
Jeff Thornton	County of Alpena
Matt Smar	DEQ Coastal Mgmt Pgm
Mary Ann Heidemann	MSU Extension
Roger Carlin	Alcona Twp. Supervisor
Tom Ferguson	Michigan Sunrise Sire
Dan Mullen	MDNR
Glenn Palmgren	DNR-PRD
Keith Cheli	MDNR-PRD
Jeff Gray	NOAA
Eric Cline	City of Alpena
Amy Golke	Birchler Arroyo Associates
David Birchler	Birchler Arroyo Associates
Keith Kintigh	MDNR
Tom Paquin	MDNR
Gary Ellenwood	MDNR
Laurie Marzolo	MDNR FMFM
John Pilon	MDNR
F. Joe LaMarre	Underwater Pres. Comm.
Brandon Schroeder	MSU Extension / MI Sea Grant
C. Patrick Labadie	TB National Marine Sanctuary
Jon Spieles	DNR
Elaine Carlson	DNR-Wildlife
Sue Latuszek	Alpena News
Paul Curtis	DNR_PRD
Peter Pettalia	Presque Isle Township

# A G E N D A

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION  
Negwegon – Rockport - Thompson’s Harbor (NRTH)  
General Management Plans and Regional Assessment Project

DATE: July 24, 2007

TIME: 9:30 - 5:00 pm

PLACE: Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary  
500 W Fletcher St, Alpena, MI

1. Brief Review of Background Analysis (9:30-10:15)
2. Management Zones (10:15 – 4:00)
  - A. Review Management Zone Descriptions, Legal Mandates and Directions
  - B. Group Exercise
    - ✍ Negwegon Management Zones (10:30-11:30)
    - ✍ Rockport Management Zones (11:30-12:30)
    - ✍ Thompson’s Harbor Management Zones (1:30-2:30/3:00)
    - ✍ Group Reports to Planning Team (2:30/3:00-4:00)

Results from group exercise to be compiled into GMP statements of purpose and significance and will be distributed after meeting.
3. Citizens Advisory Committee (4:10-5:00)

# M E E T I N G M I N U T E S

## MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION

Negwegon – Rockport - Thompson's Harbor (NRTH)

General Management Plans and Regional Assessment Project

DATE: July 24 2007

TIME: 9:30 - 5:00 pm

PLACE: Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary  
500 W Fletcher St, Alpena, MI

### **1. Meeting began at 9:35 am with introductions.**

### **2. Agenda Item 1: Brief review of General Management Plans**

The first agenda item was to review each draft General Management Plan, and receive comments from Planning Team members. Comments received at the meeting are listed below. Members could contact Amy Golke by email, phone or fax with their comments at a later date.

#### Comments on Negwegon

† Section 1.3 Management Plan Process to include a more detailed history.

† Purpose Statements:

- Hiking and kayaking are major uses of Negwegon at present.
- Negwegon is near a State Forest campground, which is very accessible by boat.
- Waterfowl hunting is another purpose of Negwegon. Hardwood Point, in particular, is ideal for goose hunting and migrating.

† Significance Statements:

- Number rather than bullet the statements of significance.
- Add to bullet #1: *The northern portion of Negwegon offers a completely different habitat, featuring lowland hardwoods and a variety of upland forest types.*
- Add to bullet #2: Add Hines emerald dragonfly, if appropriate.
- Add to bullet #3: Add: Negwegon is one of the forested coastal areas that offers a habitat that supports a great diversity of flora and fauna.
- Add to bullet #5: Unique cultural and historic resources are a tremendous educational opportunity for understanding the park's value.
- Add to Bluewater Trail: NEMCOG may be developing a Bluewater Trail (depends on securing grant).

- Other significance statements for Negwegon:
  - Tribal heritage significance. While all parks contain tribal significance, many remnants are cited at Negwegon (burial grounds, stone wall, stone pits).
  - Hunting is a resource value.
  - Add bullet to the effect that south point, and toward the Wade property, are prime focus for duck and goose hunting.
  - Sandy beaches – heavily used during the summer, weekends.
  - Several historic shipwrecks are in this area.

#### † Legal Mandates

- Add note to boundary map that data reflects 40-acre land purchases (may not follow line directly).
- Regarding easements, Detroit & Mackinac is now Lake State Railroad
- MDNR ROW, there is a contract in-place and the DNR pays an annual fee to Lake State RR to use the crossing.
- Under prohibited uses, Chris Morris to provide the proper MCL. Delete item (2) which refers to horses and add the current policy regarding horses.
- Regarding the Piping plover, note that the current status is that it is not currently listed as a Federal Habitat and that the nesting area designation would kick-in only on a seasonal basis if Piping plover nests were found.

#### Comments on Rockport

† Sections 1.1 and 2.1 Add FMFM Mission Statement and FMFM references where relevant (i.e. change core values per FMFM's charge).

† Section 1.3 Management Plan Process will include a more detailed history.

† Section 2.2 heading refers to 'park's purpose.' This is not a park. Change references throughout the GMP.

#### † Purpose Statements:

- Contact Laurie Marzolo and Anna Sylvester for other purpose and significance statements.

#### † Significance Statements:

- Number rather than bullet
- Add to bullet #1: Specify what the history is: quarry used for construction of Mackinaw bridge.
- Add to bullet #2: more than an ideal location for divers – expand this definition. Also, Rockport provides access to shipwrecks. Also, include the important relationship between Rockport and the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary.
- Change bullet #4: There are easily 16-20+ sink holes in Rockport.
- Add bullets:
  - Alvar glade community located at Rockport.

- There are unique fens (groundwater fed and alkaline base). These create a special habitat in which only certain plant species can grow.
- Tribal commercial fishery (2000 Consent Decree) 1836 Chippewa Tribe.
- Historic homesteads and tribal landscapes are present in Rockport.
- Rockport is associated with the best, biggest single facility for fishing. Rockport is the primary-use access site for fishing.
- Significant for hunting, rifle citing and target practice.
- Significance of beach at Besser and significance of shipwreck at the beach.
- Middle Island and access to lighthouse must be mentioned.
- Include fishery discussion from Negwegon as it also applies to Rockport. These areas are important from an educational perspective because undisturbed habitats support ~ forty different species in this area.
- Add statement regarding NEMCOG's development of the Bluewater Trail system based upon grant (see Negwegon comments).
- There was discussion regarding the use of the utility line for snowmobiling. This discussion is more appropriate in the Management Zone Plan.

#### † Legal Mandates

- Add note regarding 40-acre boundaries of land purchase data
- MNRTF Funding source for improvements at the 2-acre Township park within Rockport boundaries.
- Under easements, change reference to Alpena County Road Commission and Lake State Railway

#### Comments on Thompson's Harbor

† Section 1.3 Management Plan Process will include a more detailed history.

† Park Purpose: no changes noted.

† Park Significance:

- Change bullets to numbers.
- Modify bullet #2: 'Stands of Alvar glade trees' to the effect that Alvar glade community is one of only stands known on *park* property.
- Modify bullet #3 to reflect that Thompson's Harbor has one of the highest concentrations of unique habitats and species.
- Add bullets:
  - Thompson's Harbor is significant from a historic standpoint: artifacts of European settlement.
  - There is no significant deep water access at Thompson's Harbor.
  - There is a rustic cabin which will be open to the public – the only overnight lodging experience is in Thompson's Harbor at present.
  - Hunting, hiking, cross-country skiing are all allowed at Thompson's Harbor.

- There is a Great Lakes Marsh wetland complex at Thompson's Harbor (also significant for Negwegon).
- The harbor blends with a fen, which is an ideal near-shore small mouth bass fishery.

† Legal Mandates:

- See Negwegon discussion of Piping plover nesting area.

### 3. Management Zone Plans

Planning team members divided into four groups and allocated management zones to the two parks and the Rockport property. Groups then presented their results to the Planning Team. Birchler Arroyo will digitize plans, and present to the group at the next meeting, which will be scheduled for September 2007.

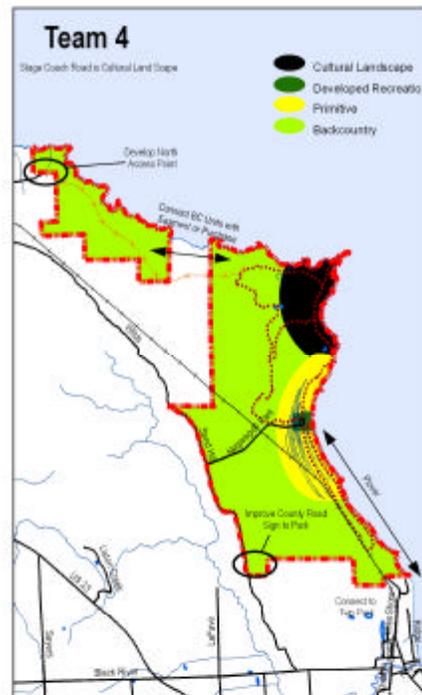
Comments made at the end of the group exercise:

- We must make sure that the management zone plan is doable. A walk through the parks and Rockport property after the management plans have been drafted should be performed (field verification).
- The Team must be sensitive to the fact that this group does not represent the citizenry. Responses: the Planning Team is drafting the plans for the public to review. There will be a stakeholder workshop and a public participation workshop in order to ensure that the plans include citizen input.
- Regarding Negwegon and Thompson's Harbor, many of the groups designated areas as Back Country. Is this an appropriate designation, as it would allow camping? (DNR representatives indicated that the Zone, and camping, would be appropriate).
- Negwegon seems to have the best sandy beaches for swimming. The group should look ahead, Back Country may not be the best fit for the future. Must consider the potential for an access road off of Lake Shore and how that would affect the Management Zone Plan.

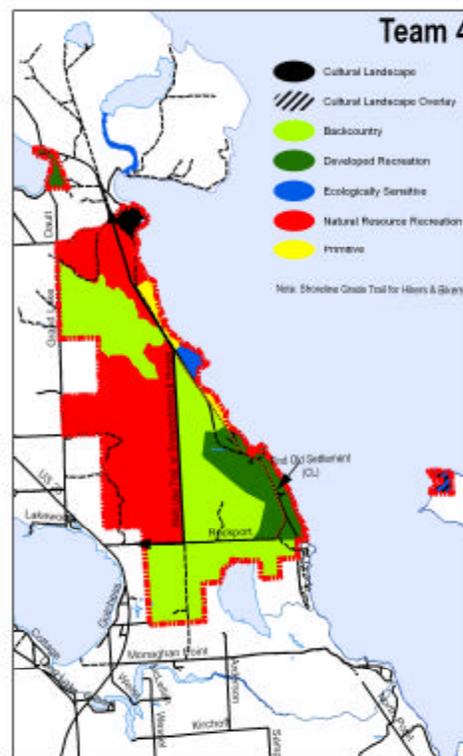
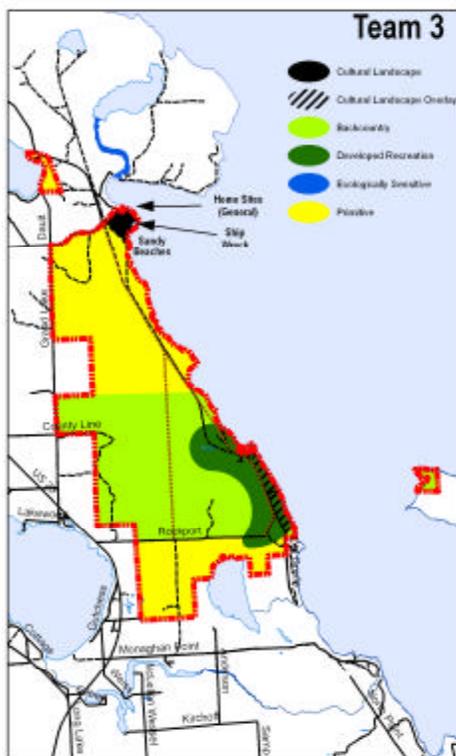
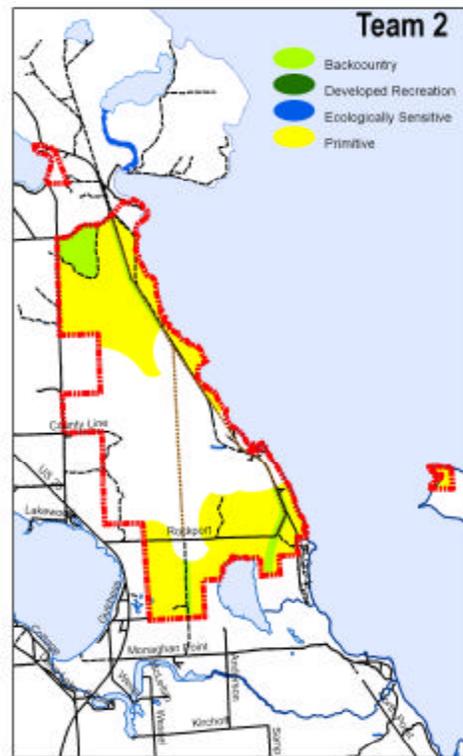
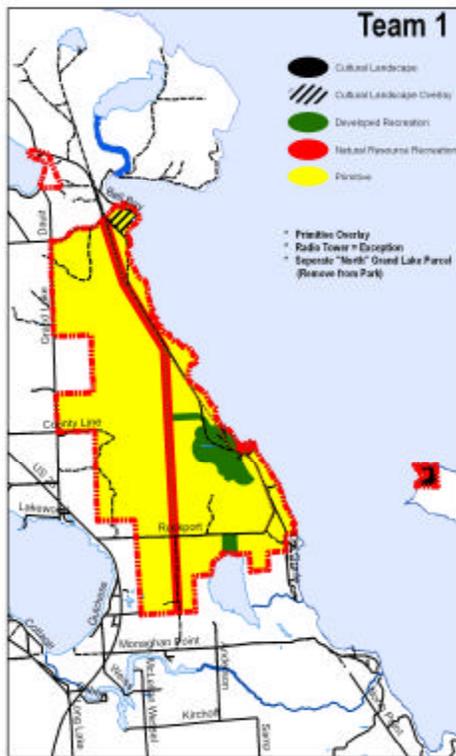
### 4. Citizens Advisory Committee

Discussion continued regarding the Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC).

Negwegon State Park  
Results from July 24, 2007 Planning Team Meeting



**Rockport Property**  
**Results from July 24, 2007 Planning Team Meeting**





***Intentionally blank.***

July 24, 2007

NRTH Planning Team Meeting Participants

<b>NAME</b>	<b>AFFILIATION</b>
Paul Curtis	DNR
Glenn Palmgren	DNR-PRD
Dan Mullen	MDNR
Ken Timm	Alcona County
Roger Carlin	Alcona Twp. Supervisor
Keith Cheli	MDNR-PRD
Anna Sylvester	MDNR-PRD
Laurie Marzolo	MDNR-FMFM
Chris Morris	MDNR-LED
Eric Cline	City of Alpena
Brandon Schroeder	MSUE/Michigan Sea Grant
Jim Johnson	DNR-Alpena Fisheries
Ken Gauthier	Sanborn Township
C. Patrick Labadie	TB National Marine Sanctuary
Mary Ann Heidemann	MSU Extension
Keith Kintigh	MDNR
Beach Hall	Mayor, Rogers City
Steve Lang	PI County Commissioner
Laura Ingles	NEMCOG
John Pilon	MDNR
Amy Golke	Birchler Arroyo Associates

## A G E N D A

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION  
Negwegon – Rockport - Thompson's Harbor (NRTH)  
General Management Plans and Regional Assessment Project

DATE: Tuesday, September 25, 2007

TIME: 10:00 - 5:00 pm

PLACE: Alpena Township Hall  
4385 N US 23

1. 10:00 am to 12:00 pm: Citizen's Advisory Committee meeting
2. 1:30 to 4:30 pm: Review Draft Management Zone Maps (enclosed)
3. 4:30 to 4:40 Stakeholder's List for Workshop. *The next step in the planning process is to have a stakeholder workshop. Please bring names/contact information to the meeting for groups, organizations, etc .for stakeholders that should be invited to the workshop.*
4. 4:40 to 5:00 pm: History of Negwegon Video

# M E E T I N G   M I N U T E S

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION  
Negwegon – Rockport - Thompson's Harbor (NRTH)  
General Management Plans and Regional Assessment Project

DATE: September 25, 2007

TIME: 1:30 to 5:00 pm

PLACE: Alpena Township Hall  
4385 N US 23

## 1. Meeting began at 1:45 am with Introductions

## 2. Citizen's Advisory Committee Update

The CAC met the morning of September 25. Officers were elected: Mary Ann Heidemann, MSUE, is the Chair, Laura Ingles, NEMCOG, is the Vice Chair; Sue Maxwell, League of Women Voter's, is the Secretary, and Dan Mullen is in charge of record keeping. The two-year terms will be staggered. The By-laws of the committee have been set. There was a request to know the Planning Team meetings at the earliest possible time so that the CAC can schedule their meetings on the same day.

## 3. Review of Draft Management Zone Maps

### Negwegon State Park

Changes to draft management zone plan are:

- † The entire shoreline, from coast to treeline, will be Primitive Zone.
- † Natural Resource Recreation Zone will include the existing access roads, parking area, and access points at Lake Shore and Brousseau.
- † Back Country Zone will buffer the existing trails.
- † Check that the in-holding parcel is actually 80 acres, not 40 acres as shown.
- † Add wetlands and woodlands to maps to illustrate boundaries of zones.
- † Question: should there be a special zone over dune swales in the parks and Rockport property?
- † In the text, discuss:
  - The difference between the dedicated boundary land and land in actual DNR ownership.
  - Opportunities for interpretation and education: kiosks with illustration of the dune swale complex. Include aerial photograph.

## The Rockport Property

Changes to draft management zone plan are:

- † The center of the property should be zoned Natural Resource Recreation.
- † Add wetlands and woodlands to maps to illustrate boundaries of zones.
- † Access road should be zoned Natural Resource Recreation.
- † Extend Cultural Resource overlay north of the parking area / bay to protect the rock piles.
- † Ensure that the width of the Natural Resource Recreation zone along the utility corridor is only as wide as the easement (call out width in the management zone text).
- † The Backcountry zone should be zoned Natural Resource Recreation.
- † Change the Developed Recreation zone south of the entrance road to Primitive.
- † Identify a potential central parking area as a Natural Resource Recreation Zone.
- † Identify the sand boils south of Ferron Point as a unique resource.

Questions to be resolved are: 1) whether ORV use be allowed in Rockport and 2) whether the shooting range should be maintained as a component of the quarry.

In the text, discuss:

- † The opportunity for an interpretive center in the Development Recreation Zone.
- † Call-out the bay as a water access point / develop a safe harbor at this location.
- † Discuss the importance of the 'water / front door' access to Rockport through the port.

## Thompson's Harbor State Park

Changes to draft management zone plan are:

- † The eastern boundary should be designated as Developed Recreation zone.
- † Create a scenic point at the bridge. Also, move the scenic point currently in the Lake to the shoreline of Thompson's Harbor (scenic 'view').
- † Add a campground at Observatory Point and near Black Point.
- † Add note for the Natural Resource Recreation – Seasonal "for snow mobile use."
- † Identify the location of the Pitcher plants (at inlet)
- † Include a Primitive Zone on the western portion of the Park (currently Backcountry) to preserve the Alvar Glades and wetlands.
- † Show Old State Road and County Road to Grand Lake Outlet as Natural Resource Recreation.
- † The foot paths shown on the map are not correct.

† In text, describe the potential for a lodge along the eastern shore, including that such a development would require a change in Department policy.

#### 4. Stakeholder List

Planning Team members brainstormed key individuals and organizations that should be invited to the stakeholder workshop.

September 24, 2007  
NORTH Planning Team Meeting Participants

NAME	AFFILIATION
Paul Curtis	DNR
Glenn Palmgren	DNR-PRD
Dan Mullen	MDNR
Ken Timm	Alcona County
Roger Carlin	Alcona Twp. Supervisor
Marie Twite	Twp of Alpena
Joseph Sobczak	TBUPC
Laurie Marzolo	MDNR-FMFM
Chris Morris	MDNR-LED
Deb Pardike	Alpena CUB
Brandon Schroeder	MSUE/Michigan Sea Grant
Jim Johnson	DNR-Alpena Fisheries
Ken Gauthier	Sanborn Township
C. Patrick Labadie	TB National Marine Sanctuary
Mary Ann Heidemann	MSU Extension
Keith Kintigh	MDNR
Rachael Franks Taylor	The Nature Conservancy
Sue Maxwell	League of Women Voters
Jackie Krawczak	Alpena Chamber of Commerce
Jeff Thorton	County of Alpena
Roxanne Merrick	DEQ-LWMD
Peter Pettalia	Presque Isle Twp Supervisor
Jeff Shea	Alpena
Matt Smar	DEQ-Coastal Management
Troy A. Rife	DNR-PRD
Laura Ingles	NEMCOG
John Pilon	DNR
David Birchler	Birchler Arroyo Associates
Amy Golke	Birchler Arroyo Associates

# A G E N D A

## MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION

Negwegon – Rockport - Thompson's Harbor (NRTH)

General Management Plans and Regional Assessment Project

DATE: Tuesday, January 29, 2008

TIME: 10:00 - 12:00 pm

PLACE: Alpena Public Library

### **1. Review survey results and incorporation of comments into Management Plans**

#### † Changes to all plans

- Clarification of Phase I planning process intent
- Addition of bird flyway zone
- Addition of Section 2.5, Land Acquisitions. Group must evaluate and recommend changes to Dedicated Boundary as part of this process

#### † Changes to Rockport

- Addition of equestrian use as a potential activity in the Backcountry, Natural Resource Recreation and Developed Recreation Zones
- Strengthened geologic significance statement

#### † Changes to Thompson's Harbor

- Addition of Ecologically Sensitive Seasonal Overlay for the Piping plover critical habitat
- Addition of Piping plover and Hine's emerald critical habitats in Legal Mandates section
- Question: should the former Developed Recreation Zone be Primitive or Natural Resource Recreation?
- Question: should the plan expand use of existing roadbeds for snowmobiling, bicycling and equestrian use?

### **2. Review Regional Assessment**

### **3. Review steps for the remainder of the process (P. Curtis)**

# M E E T I N G   M I N U T E S

## MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION

Negwegon – Rockport - Thompson's Harbor (NRTH)

General Management Plans and Regional Assessment Project

DATE:      Tuesday, January 29, 2008

TIME:      10:00 - 12:00 pm

PLACE:     Alpena Public Library

### **1. Review survey results and incorporation of comments into Management Plans**

A summary of the results from the December 11 Public Participation workshop was given. Comments from the group included:

- † Negwegon was the first to have interest in a Friends group. Also, the most on-line survey responses were received for Negwegon. Perhaps this is due to its southern location (the other two sites are further north).
- † The Negwegon Friends group has already met (per D. Mullen). A.Golke is to send the list of interested people who signed up at the December 11 Public Participation Workshop for the Negwegon Friends group to S.Maxwell, Secretary for the Citizen's Advisory Committee (the list was already sent to D.Mullen).
- † Note that for Thompson's Harbor, comments received indicated that the user groups do not conflict. People want to make sure that they will be able to use the park as they do currently.

### **2. Review changes to the General Management Plans**

#### Negwegon

- † The purpose of the Phase I planning process was clarified in Sections 1.0 and 3.0.
- † A statement of significance was added regarding Negwegon's importance as a migrating bird flyway zone, as well as providing a habitat for resident birds.
- † Section 2.5, Land Acquisitions, was added. A revision to the dedicated boundary was recommended by the group. There was consensus from the Planning Team to extend the western boundary to the road, not the railroad. The map will be revised to reflect this recommendation.
- † There was a motion to include a recommendation regarding Sand Hill Road improvements. There is a jarring contrast between Sand Hill Road and the access road to Negwegon. The need to upgrade access and signage should be called out in the plan. The recommendation should state that careful

engineering is needed to soften the visual impact of the access road with trees and/or other design treatment.

- † There is a need to identify how Negwegon fits in with the region (Thompson's Harbor and Rockport). A preface will be added to the beginning of each general management plan. Also, 'Marketing' will be added to "Other Considerations" Section; this would address marketing and signage needed at the park (and all three sites). A comment was made that the sites do not have to be managed regionally, but can certainly be marketed regionally.
- † On page 18, clarify accessibility – that the two 'potential future points of access' would include parking areas. Can the southern access point be unblocked for bikers?

### Rockport

- † The purpose of the Phase I planning process was clarified in Sections 1.0 and 3.0.
- † A statement of significance was added regarding Negwegon's importance as a migrating bird flyway zone, as well as providing a habitat for resident birds (per comments received from the public).
- † Section 2.5, Land Acquisitions, was added. A revision to the dedicated boundary was recommended by the group. There was consensus from the Planning Team to extend the boundary to Grand Lake Road for most of the northern portion, as well as to include all of Middle Island.
- † Equestrian use as a potential activity in the Backcountry, Natural Resource Recreation and Developed Recreation Zones was added per comments received from the public. There was consensus from the Planning Team that this statement was acceptable, provided the language 'where appropriate,' would be included.
- † The geologic significance statement has been strengthened to reflect comments received from the public.
- † A comment was made regarding parking at Rockport, and whether a parking area could be created on the Private property at Besser. The ownership of the road and access should be investigated, and there should be consideration as to whether a parking area could be created in a Natural Area.
- † A question was raised regarding target shooting at Rockport, and whether this would be an allowable activity.
- † The plan should emphasize that Rockport is the central 'hub' for the three sites, and that is the underlying purpose for the Developed Recreation management zone. There was consensus that a preface be added to each plan to explain this.
- † The genesis of the plan for Rockport was to evaluate whether the property should be managed by PRD rather than FMFM. The decision should be reflected in these plans. There was consensus by the Planning Team to

recommend that the PRD manage Rockport, over a phased timetable as reflected in the following motion of the Citizen's Advisory Committee:

"[At the January 29, 2008 meeting], It was motioned to communicate the Committee's general consensus that the Rockport property should be transferred from FMFM to PRD with a phased transfer contingent on Land Use orders being created to retain the FMFM activities on the property." K. Gauthier motioned to approve and P. Pettalia seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

- † The regional assessment should include a recommendation for Rockport, and consider Rockport as the center of activity because of its central location and because it has been the site of more disturbance.
- † The Citizen's Advisory Committee would work with the DNR on the details of the property transfer. This statement should be added to the GMP.
- † A comment was made that perhaps the property should be split, and managed by FMFM and PRD. L.Marzolo did not support splitting the property. The important concept is to work out the changes in rules that will be necessary before the transfer occurs.

#### Thompson's Harbor

- † The purpose of the Phase I planning process was clarified in Sections 1.0 and 3.0.
- † A statement of significance was added regarding Negwegon's importance as a migrating bird flyway zone, as well as providing a habitat for resident birds (per comments received from the public).
- † Section 2.5, Land Acquisitions, was added. A revision to the dedicated boundary was recommended by the group. There was consensus from the Planning Team to extend the boundary to the west, which would encompass approximately 6,000 acres.
- † The Ecologically Sensitive Seasonal Overlay for the Piping plover critical habitat was added. In addition, the Piping plover and Hine's emerald critical habitat descriptions were added to the Legal Mandates section.
- † The question was brought to the group: should the former Developed Recreation Zone be Primitive, Backcountry or Natural Resource Recreation? There was consensus from the Planning Team that the area be designated Backcountry, contingent on having a Developed Recreation zone at Rockport.
- † Another question was brought to the group: should the plan expand use of existing roadbeds for snowmobiling, bicycling and equestrian use? There was consensus from the Planning Team, that these uses could be allowed 'where appropriate.'

### 3. Review Regional Assessment

- † Comments were provided regarding the tables, and resources available at each park.
- † Queensland, AU could be used as a model for assisting with supporting small businesses that support tourism (e.g. kayak businesses). The PRD can allow private enterprises on park land on a case-by-case basis. There is opportunity to do this, the challenge is to orchestrate the ability for people to do this.
- † Include the Piping plover in Natural Resource values table.
- † A number of partnerships were identified, including the Blue Water Trail study.
- † Include the lumbering and fire history at Thompson's Harbor (contact for more information: Mayor Hall).
- † Need to express the tourism value of the sites.
- † Distance from management unit to site is also a challenge.

### 4. Review steps for the remainder of the process (P. Curtis)

- † A.Golke will distribute the final draft plans via the website, and allow 5 days for Planning Team members to comment. The plans will then go through the DNR-approval process.

January 29, 2009  
NORTH Planning Team Meeting Participants

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Manny Valdez	DNR-PRD
Jeff Shea	City of Alpena
Laurie Marzolo	DNR-FMFM
Sue Maxwell	LWV
Brandon Schroeder	MSUE / Sea Grant
Deb Pardike	Alpena COB
Erin Riopelle	Headwaters Land Conservancy
Kenneth Timm	Alcona County
Kenneth Gauthier	Sanborn Township
Anna Sylvester	DRN-PRD
Keith Cheli	DRN-PRD
Christopher Graham	Citizens Committee, Michigan Parks
Beach Hall	Rogers City
Colleen Higgins	DNR-PRD
Louise Cotter	DNR-PRD
Tom Paquin	DNR-Cheboygan Field Office
Lee Shirey	Target Alpena EDC
Jackie Krawczak	Alpena Chamber of Commerce

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Laura Ingles	NEMCOG
Mary Ann Heidemann	MSU Extension
C Patrick Labadie	NOAA Marine Sanctuary
John Pilon	MDNR Planner
Roger Carlin	Alcona Township
William J. Laram	RE Alpena
Peter Pettalia	Presque Isle
Paul Curtis	DNR-PRD
Amy Golke	Birchler Arroyo Associates