

MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Minutes of October 21, 2009
Lansing Community College West Campus, 5708 Cornerstone, Lansing

The meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Board of Trustees commenced at 9:15 AM.

The following Board members were present:

Keith Charters
Bob Garner
Dennis Muchmore
Lana Pollack
Frank Torre

Also in attendance were various staff members of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and other interested parties.

I. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF AUGUST 19, 2009.

Chairperson Pollack called for the adoption of the minutes for the August 19, 2009 Board meeting.

MOVED BY MR. CHARTERS, SUPPORTED BY MR. MUCHMORE, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 19, 2009 MNRTF BOARD MEETING AS PRESENTED. PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA FOR MEETING OF OCTOBER 21, 2009.

Chairperson Pollack called for the adoption of the agenda for the October 21, 2009 Board meeting.

Chairperson Pollack stated, with approval of the Board members, she had two suggested changes to the agenda. Under "Old Business", she wished to take Item 2, "Update on Issues Raised by Board at February 4, 2009 Meeting (09-001, City of Saugatuck)" first as a result of Senator Patricia Birkholz' schedule.

Chairperson Pollack also requested that Ms. Mindy Koch, Resource Management Deputy, DNR, comment on the reorganization of the DNR and Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). These comments will be heard before the City of Saugatuck presentation.

In addition, Chairperson Pollack indicated that at the end of the meeting, there will be an Executive Session of the MNRTF Board, which will be closed to the public. This is allowed under the law for certain purposes, one of which to discuss appraisals. No decisions are made in an Executive Session.

Mr. Garner stated that the Board must make the reasons for going into an Executive Session clear to the audience. The Board has always been very transparent to the public with their discussions.

Chairperson Pollack stated that there are some very costly and valuable proposals before the Board. There have been questions raised specifically as to the appraisal and value of the Saugatuck acquisition. By going into Executive Session, she personally is not casting any question on the appraisal. To alleviate damage to the buyer, seller or other interest, it is necessary to discuss in a closed session.

Mr. Garner commented that it has been primarily up to staff to handle appraisal matters; however, he will participate in the Executive Session.

MOVED BY MR. MUCHMORE, SUPPORTED BY MR. CHARTERS, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR THE OCTOBER 21, 2009 MNRTF BOARD MEETING, AS AMENDED. PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

As this point, Ms. Koch updated the Board on the transition of the merger of the DNR and DEQ. Mr. Bruce Rasher has been appointed by the Governor's office to be the transition manager for the merger. The new Department name will be the Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE).

Both departments were asked to appoint a transition liaison to work with Mr. Rasher. Ms. Koch is the liaison for DNR and Mr. Jim Sigel is the liaison for DEQ.

Mr. Rasher has started to work full-time as the transition manager. At this time he is doing a fact-finding approach to the merger. He will be reaching out to many of the stakeholder groups from both departments. He has set up meetings with DNR field staff to get their perspective on potential issues. He must have a report prepared for the Governor's office by the end of December.

Ms. Koch stated that the MNRTF Board structure will not be changed, with the exception that instead of the Chair of the Natural Resources Commission appointing a commissioner to serve on the MNRTF Board, the Director of DNRE will appoint either a commissioner, someone from the DNRE or his/herself to serve on the Board.

The new DNRE will be effective January 17, 2010.

At this point, Chairperson Pollack asked Ms. Deborah Apostol, Unit Manager, Recreation Grants, Grants Management, DNR, to introduce staff in attendance. Ms. Apostol introduced Ms. Linda Harlow, Ms. Lisa McTiernan and Ms. Linda Hegstrom of Grants Management. She also introduced Mr. Rodney Stokes, Chief of Staff, DNR.

III. OLD BUSINESS.

Senator Patricia Birkholz, Mayor Barry Johnson, and Mr. Tony Vettori, Council Member, City of Saugatuck – 09-001, Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area Acquisition – UPDATE ON ISSUES RAISED BY BOARD AT FEBRUARY 4, 2009 MEETING

Senator Patricia Birkholz provided some updates regarding 09-001, Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area Acquisition, City of Saugatuck. She advised the Board that there is now a buy-sell agreement with the owner of the McClendon (Denison) property. The contract is contingent on the receipt of the MNRTF grant.

There have been two appraisals done on the property. There were some questions on the first appraisal as the appraiser assumed there was total access to the property, which there was not. A second appraisal was done and that will be taken up in the Board's Executive Session. The second appraisal assumes the property as it is today. There are several points of access on the property. In addition, there are ongoing discussions with property owners to buy access over the sand area on Lake Michigan.

The request is for the same amount of property on the south side; however, the city is now asking for a reduction in the grant request to \$12.6 million (original request was \$15 million). This reduction is due to some major donors, fundraising and local monies that had been invested.

At this point, Mayor Barry Johnson continued with a PowerPoint presentation to provide additional information on the acquisition. The property includes 3600 feet of Lake Michigan shoreline. Major highways come within several miles of the area, which would provide easy access. Parking would be provided at the Mt. Baldhead Park. Dial-A-Ride service is being provided for \$1.00.

The Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area is surrounded by public land. The Tallmadge Woods Conservation Easement property is jointly formed by the City of Saugatuck and Ox-Bow Summer School of Art. In addition, the Mt. Baldhead and Oval Beach Parks are public land. There are also trail areas in the back portion of the proposed acquisition.

Various aspects of the property were pointed out via maps on PowerPoint.

Mayor Johnson pointed out that the city has a handicap-accessible wheelchair available at no charge for the beach area.

The City of Saugatuck has received \$10 million from the federal government to rebuild piers to use for fishing.

At this point, Mr. Vettori provided information on the natural features of the property. There are open dunes along the lakeshore, wetlands, rare plant and animal species. The property also features a Jack Pine forest that is the habitat for the Prairie Warbler. The Kalamazoo River is a safe haven for boaters on days where it is not safe to be out on Lake Michigan. There are access trails from the basin into the main part of the south part of the property.

Mr. Vettori stated that some of the proposed facilities include a viewing platform in the protected areas and two fishing platforms. In addition, Oval Beach Park is adjacent to the property. Hiking trails are also being proposed from Oval Beach.

Mr. Vettori further stated that the Saugatuck area was voted one of the most beautiful beaches in the country and featured in many publications. The area receives about two million visitors a year, according to Saugatuck Convention Bureau statistics.

Mr. Vettori stated that the purchase price is now down to \$20 million, with \$3.1 million in transitional, interest and management costs. Private donations have been pledged in the amount of \$6 million. If the grant is approved, an additional \$4.5 million will be raised to cover the remaining balance to complete the acquisition.

Mr. Greg Northrup from West Michigan Strategic Alliance, made some comments in support of the Saugatuck property acquisition. Acquisition of the property will reap benefits for West Michigan and encourages the Board to fund the project.

Mr. Charters asked of the \$12.6 million being requested, is the Board locked into a three-phased funding. Senator Birkholz responded yes, according to discussions held at the February Board meeting. This is how it was negotiated with the seller.

Mr. Muchmore asked Mr. Northrup what his view was of the economic development of the area and if this property completes the assessment. Mr. Northrup responded the property was indicated as one of ten most important assets in the region for tourism.

Mr. Garner pointed out that with the Board funding this project, there would be no property tax consequences to the MNRTF, which makes it appealing to him.

Chairperson Pollack asked how many feet of Lake Michigan beachfront and acres are contained in the property. The response was 3,650 feet of Lake Michigan beachfront and 171 acres.

Chairperson Pollack asked how the city planned to fund the trails and the fishing platforms. The response was the initial funding was from the endowment fund, but the first year there will be \$50,000 of "seed money" to start to build the fishing and observation platforms. Chairperson Pollack asked what the city would be contributing. The response was \$30,000 so far. The city is anticipating adopting a resolution that would increase the endowment fund over a period of years. Chairperson Pollack asked about entry fees. The response was there is a parking fee at Oval Beach of \$5.00 to \$10.00, depending on the season and day of the week, Memorial Day to Labor Day. The rest of the year it is free.

Chairperson Pollack asked about the structure on the property (near Deam property). Senator Birkholz responded that with the purchase of the property, the structure issue will be resolved. The person residing in this structure was there to deal with people issues on the property. Discussions have been ongoing with the Deam family for access. Chairperson Pollack wondered what kind of easement or access would be involved if negotiations were successful. Senator Birkholz responded the Deam property is being looked at as the major access.

Mr. Torre asked how much money is being anticipated to be raised with the fundraising. The response was \$6.1 million. In addition, there are pledges for the acquisition.

Chairperson Pollack asked if there were any lawsuits ongoing that might complicate the acquisition. Senator Birkholz responded no. There were some old lawsuits from the Denison property purchased by McClendon, but those have been resolved.

Ms. Marcia Perry, Vice-President, Saugatuck Dunes Coastal Alliance

Ms. Marcia Perry, Vice-President, Saugatuck Dunes Coastal Alliance, made comments in support of 09-001, Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area Acquisition, City of Saugatuck. Last week the Alliance encouraged supporters to send out letters to the Board. She pointed out the support of Hope College faculty and students, where 1500 students have studied the dunes. Seven dissertations were written on the property. She pointed out various other supporters of the property, including Western Michigan University and Congressman Vern Ehlers. She provided the Board with a copy of "The Saugatuck Dunes – Artists Respond to a Freshwater Landscape."

Ms. Suzanne Dixon, Secretary, Kalamazoo River Sturgeon for Tomorrow and League of Women Voters

Ms. Suzanne Dixon, Secretary, Kalamazoo River Sturgeon for Tomorrow and League of Women Voters, made comments in support of 09-001, Saugatuck Harbor Natural Area Acquisition, City of Saugatuck. The organization has a Great Lakes ecosystem position written in 1974 which supports protecting this shoreline area. In addition, the Michigan Great Lakes plan, chaired by Lieutenant Governor Cherry, brought together a group of stakeholders, which the League of Women Voters is a member of, to protect watershed areas.

Ms. Dixon further stated that the fishery and charter industry is important to the economy in the area. The Kalamazoo River Sturgeon for Tomorrow organization has been working with school groups, DNR and others.

Mr. Darwin Watson, Acting City Manager and Commissioner Juanita Henry, City of Benton Harbor; and Ms. Wendy Dant Chesser, President, Cornerstone Alliance –
UPDATE ON JEAN KLOCK PARK AND MITIGATION PARCELS

Mr. Darwin Watson, Acting City Manager for the City of Benton Harbor, provided an update on Jean Klock Park and mitigation parcels for the Board's information. A DVD of Cornerstone Alliance's development of the golf course and improvements to Jean Klock Park was played.

Chairperson Pollack stated that the Board is interested in the 22 acres that were converted from Jean Klock Park and the mitigation parcels. When the Board passed the resolution that permitted the conversion and mitigation, an annual report on progress was requested. It has now been three years.

Ms. Wendy Dant Chesser, President of Cornerstone Alliance, made comments. She provided maps of the Jean Klock Park area identifying the use of the land within the park. As part of the lease agreement between Harbor Shores and the City of Benton Harbor, 22 of the 70 acres in the park are being leased by the golf course (for holes 7, 8 and 9). The remaining portions of the park have been improved and/or nearing completion (by Memorial Day of 2010). This includes a picnic pavilion in the interior of the park, walking trail, picnic tables and grills. The exterior of the park (paving) is complete.

Harbor Shore's commitment to the area was to spend \$1.5 million within the park and the majority of the money has been spent to increase public access to the park.

Ms. Chesser further stated that one of the portions in the lease agreement was to purchase 38 additional acres of park land and deed to the City of Benton Harbor. This has been accomplished. The 38 acres consist of seven separate parcels. The seven parcels are being connected by a trail system and when completed, will consist of approximately 12 miles of trails, all connecting to Jean Klock Park and the downtown and residential neighborhood of Benton Harbor. Ms. Chesser pointed out the areas via a map.

Ms. Juanita Henry, Commissioner for the City of Benton Harbor, made some comments. She stated that some of the promises that were made in the agreement were not kept. One of the issues she has a problem with is access to the public. This is an important issue.

A PowerPoint containing maps of Jean Klock Park was viewed and discussed.

- Item 1 – Parking area consumed more parts of the beachfront area.
- Item 2 – Residentially developed homes – no access.
- Item 3 – Landlocked property.
- Item 4 – Part of Jean Klock Park being utilized by golf course.
- Item 5 – Drainage ditch present, on public land. Proposed picnic area is near ditch.
- Item 6 – Proposed additional picnic area – has decreased in size. Not handicapped accessible.
- Item 7 – Not discussed.
- Item 8 – Entrance road into park – bird watch area. Should be a trail in this area. Not handicapped-accessible.
- Item 9 – Do not know what plans are for this area. Need to know if this area will be open to the public.
- Item 10 – Parking area that has been taken away from beachfront area.

Commissioner Henry further stated that she walked the trail areas and found that these were shared with walk areas and the golf course path. She was not aware that the park would share that much property with the golf course. As yet, the proposed trails have not been connected with city trails.

Mr. Garner stated that he sees this as a pretty simple issue. There were those people who stood by the development for more opportunity for the area. Since the golf course development has been done, did Cornerstone Alliance comply with the agreement for conversion of Jean Klock Park that the Board approved? He knows some people will never approve of the conversion or the decision the Board made. Ms. Chesser responded that in the agreement submitted to the MNRTF Board and the National Park Service, Cornerstone Alliance has five years to complete all the construction from the date it was signed (July 2008). Plans are in place to complete all portions of the agreement.

Ms. Chesser also stated that Commissioner Henry's concerns had not been presented to Cornerstone Alliance until today. She suggested that a meeting be set to go over details at the local level and she is confident there will be a solution to many of the issues outlined. Mr. Garner would like the Board to be assured that these concerns are addressed and things are moving forward.

Ms. Chesser was able to answer some of the concerns addressed by Commissioner Henry.

- The parking spot differences. Have not yet discussed this issue with Commissioner Henry.
- Was not aware of the drainage ditch issue. This issue will be investigated with engineers.
- The purpose of the southwest corridor will be reviewed.
- Accessibility to the bird viewing area will be reviewed. Still maintained from the front portion of the lakeside of the dunes and the pedestrian rails and stairs were repaired.

Mr. Charters asked if Ms. Chesser could provide the Board with a written response to each point that Commissioner Henry addressed. He requested that this report be presented to the Board at their December 2, 2009 meeting.

Mr. Muchmore had concerns about the trail system and coming across signs of “no trespassing” and trash around the area. The trail system was supposed to connect the mitigated properties so the citizens of Benton Harbor could walk around at their leisure and use the property. Mr. Muchmore will point out the areas he is concerned with to Mr. Watson. Mr. Watson responded he will find out the answers to these concerns and provide information to the Board at their December meeting.

Mr. Stokes stated arrangements will be made for the city, Cornerstone Alliance and DNR staff to meet and work out these issues. A complete report will be made to the Board at their December meeting.

Chairperson Pollack stated that she is concerned with the trails being cleaned up and safe for the public to use. In addition, she would like to see an overlay of the paths for the public and where the paths are for the golf course. Walking paths were part of the agreement and you cannot use a path for a golf course as a public walking path.

Chairperson Pollack also stated the public does not have access to areas outlined where encroachment of the golf course has occurred. She does not know who gave permission to build the second parking area on beachfront property. There appears to be some deviations from what the Board approved.

IV. NEW BUSINESS.

Name Change of Tri-Centennial State Park and Harbor to William G. Milliken State Park and Harbor – RESOLUTION ADOPTION

No discussion.

MOVED BY MR. GARNER, SUPPORTED BY MR. CHARTERS, TO SUPPORT THE NAME CHANGE OF THE TRI-CENTENNIAL STATE PARK AND HARBOR TO THE WILLIAM G. MILLIKEN STATE PARK AND HARBOR. PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

09-086, Grass River Natural Area-Cold Creek Headwaters Addition, Antrim County – APPLICATION WITHDRAWAL

Withdrawal due to match.

09-117, Iron County Heritage Trail Non-Motorized Pathway, Iron County – APPLICATION WITHDRAWAL

Withdrawal due to match.

09-069, North Meridian Road Park Development, Meridian Township – APPLICATION WITHDRAWAL

Withdrawal as township received \$75,000 grant under Land and Water Conservation Fund program.

09-162, Farm House Acquisition, City of Fennville – APPLICATION WITHDRAWAL

No reason provided for withdrawal.

MOVED BY MR. GARNER, SUPPORTED BY MR. MUCHMORE TO APPROVE THE WITHDRAWALS OF APPLICATIONS 09-086, ANTRIM COUNTY; 09-117, IRON COUNTY; 09-069, MERIDIAN TOWNSHIP; AND 09-162, CITY OF FENNVILLE. PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

V. STATUS REPORTS.

DNR Real Estate Report – State Acquisitions

Mr. Ed Meadows, Section Manager, Real Estate Services Section, Office of Land and Facilities, DNR, outlined some of the acquisitions in the DNR Real Estate Report – State Acquisitions for the Board. Some of the acquisitions were:

- Completion of first of the Detroit Free Press property for William G. Milliken State Park and Harbor, with 2,160 feet of frontage along the Detroit River.
- Completion of Conservation Easement #5 (Phase 5) of the Kamehameha project.

In addition, several properties were acquired with extensive river frontage, trail corridor connections, properties for hunting opportunities and land consolidation.

Kamehameha Conservation Easement #3 is expected to be completed by the Board's December meeting, which involves 53,000 acres in the Upper Peninsula. Conservation Easement #6 still will need to be completed.

Financial Report

Mr. Joseph Frick, Chief, Office of Financial Services, DNR, outlined the Financial Report. He stated it is similar to those presented in prior quarters. Final figures will be presented after the books are closed by November 17, 2009.

Chairperson Pollack advised that at this time the estimates of funds available for acquisition is \$25.7 million and development \$9.7 million.

Mr. Muchmore stated that there are two proposals out right now to divert MNRTF funds: one in the Michigan Department of Transportation through a ballot issue and the other to claim it is not constitutionally protected and could be diverted. He encouraged everyone to tell their local units what a valuable asset the MNRTF is and that funds should not be diverted.

Mr. Frick outlined the process of lapsed funds. These are funds from awarded projects that were not completed. After the constitutional amendment that allowed investments in the stock market, the MNRTF Board adopted a resolution that directed a "Stabilization Reserve" be established and that lapsed funds be put into this "reserve." At the beginning of the fiscal year 2008, the reserve balance was \$26 million. With the decline of the stock market, the balance was \$8.4 million. Up until the downturn in the stock market, investments were doing well, averaging 10% a year, but distributing 5%.

Chairperson Pollack stated that the Board may want to consider a policy change that would direct that lapsed funds be put into the next year's funds for redistribution rather than the Stabilization Reserve. Mr. Charters asked Mr. Frick if the Board could get a fact sheet on this possibility so it could be approved at the December meeting. Mr. Frick responded it is unknown how much money will be lapsed this fiscal year. He could provide information on the pros and cons for a policy change.

Chairperson Pollack stated she would like a history of lapsed funds going back to when the constitutional amendment was allowed. She would like this on the agenda for the Board's December meeting. Mr. Garner suggested that it be on the Board's December evening meeting (December 1).

Ms. Apostol outlined the phased projects from 2008. These phased projects are:

- TF08-011, Academy Preserve Acquisition, Monroe County. Second phase for 2009 will be \$1,000,500.
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- TF08-095, Waterfront Park Acquisition, Acme Township. Second phase for 2009 will be \$3,022,000. This was a three-phase project (In 2010, phase three will be \$2,477,700).
- TF08-126, Southeast Michigan Eco-Region Acquisitions, DNR. Second phase for 2009 will be approximately \$3,500,000.

Total acquisition funds committed for 2009 will be \$7,522,500.

Completed Projects Report

Ms. Apostol stated that one local acquisition (TF07-040, City of Manistee) and four local development projects (TF04-087, City of Alma; TF05-008, City of Scottville; TF05-009, City of Scottville; and TF05-128, Iron County) have been completed. In addition, one state development project, TF06-133, Multi-Use Shooting Sports and Education Facility, has been completed.

Open Projects Status Report

Ms. Apostol outlined the Open Projects Status Report. These are both local and state acquisition and development projects still not completed.

Mr. Muchmore asked about TF06-199, Upper Bushman Lake Acquisition, Oakland County and wondered if the problem with the project was the appraisal. Ms. Apostol responded that staff is working with the county to resolve issues. Mr. Stokes also added comments about the appraisal, and that it was due to a building being on the property. These issues are being worked out.

MNRTF Lump Sum and Line Item Department Projects

No discussion.

Grants Management Outreach Report

Ms. Apostol advised the Board that Ms. McTiernan and Ms. Hegstrom had completed three outreach meetings across the state. All these workshops were well attended. There were many different resources in attendance to offer services to communities.

Chairperson Pollack wanted to thank staff for conducting these workshops. Mr. Stokes also stated he had received letters from communities and organizations thanking staff for their excellent job in helping communities.

VI. PUBLIC APPEARANCES.

DNR Staff – Presentation of DNR Applications

Mr. Steve Sutton, Fisheries Division, DNR; and Mr. Paul Yauk, Parks and Recreation Division, DNR, made a PowerPoint presentation in support of applications submitted by the DNR for possible funding.

Mr. Sutton outlined the Tier 1 acquisition applications submitted.

- 09-135, Sturgeon River Corridor Acquisition – Forest, Mineral and Fire Management (FMFM) Division. Acquisition of 813 acres of property and two miles of Sturgeon River frontage. High quality of grouse and woodcock habitat. \$1,750,000 request.
- 09-136, Menominee River Oxbow Acquisition – FMFM Division. Acquisition of 1,265 acres of inholding with five miles of Menominee River frontage and an oxbow. Contains unique hardwood species and excellent habitat. \$3,000,000 request.
- 09-137, Little Pigeon River Property Acquisition – FMFM Division. Acquisition of 1,060 acres adjacent to Green Timbers portion of the Pigeon River Country State Forest, with over 1.5 miles of Little Pigeon River frontage. Protection of critical elk habitat and wildlife corridor. \$1,800,000 request.

- 09-138, State Trails Initiative Acquisitions – FMFM Division. Acquisitions of land that help connect and extend the state trail network, including adjacent lands for better access and trailhead facilities. \$2,000,000 request.
- 09-157, Huron Mountains Deeryard Complex Acquisition – Wildlife Division. Acquisition of 1,280 acres of deeryard complex. This is an important deer wintering complex in the Western Upper Peninsula and is adjacent to state forest lands. Part of the largest single location of remnant hemlock in the Upper Peninsula. \$1,920,000 request.
- 09-154, Pinckney Recreation Area Land Consolidation – Parks and Recreation Division. Acquisition of up to 500 acres in southeast Michigan, which includes a large wetland complex and inland lakes. Provides hunting, fishing and recreation opportunities. \$2,000,000 request.
- 09-152, Holly Recreation Area-Roy Lahring Property Acquisition – Parks and Recreation Division. Acquisition of 160 acres, with access to Gravel, Strawberry and Mud Lakes. Provides fishing, boating and passive recreation. \$1,000,000 request.

Mr. Sutton continued by outlining the DNR's Eco-Regional Land Consolidation applications. These applications are multi-division applications with the overall goal of utilizing MNRTF to reinvest in the DNR through critical land acquisition projects. Parcels have been identified that the DNR would like to acquire. The applications are as follows:

- 09-131, Upper Peninsula Eco-Regional Land Consolidation – Executive Division. \$2,000,000 request.
- 09-133, Northern Lower Peninsula Eco-Regional Land Consolidation – Executive Division. \$2,000,000 request.
- 09-130, Southwestern Lower Peninsula Eco-Regional Land Consolidation – Executive Division. \$2,000,000 request.
- 09-132, Southeast Michigan Eco-Regional Land Consolidation – Executive Division. \$6,200,000 request.

Tier 2 applications are:

- 09-134, Boardman River Confluence – Fisheries Division - \$850,000 request
- 09-175, Blue Lakes Minerals Acquisition – FMFM Division - \$650,000 request
- 09-156, Grassland/Bird Habitat Initiative – Wildlife Division - \$1,000,000 request
- 09-153, Negwegon State Park Consolidation – Parks and Recreation Division - \$750,000 request

Mr. Yauk outlined the Tier 1 DNR development applications submitted.

- 09-155, Building Demolition Initiative – Wildlife Division (as well as other divisions). This is to continue building demolition. Last year 24 buildings were removed. There are over 100 still to remove. Removal will reduce liability and vandalism. \$500,000 request.
- 09-129, Rose Lake Shooting Range Development – Office of Communications. This is for construction of an educational building and shotgun patterning range. \$425,000 request.
- 09-141, RAM Center Classroom and Parking Lot – Office of Land and Facilities. This is for construction of a “green”, ADA-accessible classroom and parking lot upgrades. \$500,000 request.
- 09-140, Goose Creek Equestrian SFCG/Trail Development – FMFM Division. This is for development of a new designated site campground and riding trails in Central Michigan. \$500,000 request.
- 09-151, Waterloo Recreation Area-Cedar Lake Outdoor Center Development – Parks and Recreation Division. This would be to provide infrastructure upgrades at the Cedar Lake Center. The DNR has a partnership with Michigan United Conservation Clubs for urban outreach and outdoor recreation. \$316,000 request.
- 09-148, State Park Infrastructure Development – Parks and Recreation Division. This would be to provide infrastructure needs to state parks statewide. \$500,000 request.
- 09-146, Interlochen State Park-Campground Electric Pedestals – Parks and Recreation Division. This would be for building improvements, wastewater system and electrical systems. \$500,000 request.
- 09-147, Ludington State Park-Water System Replacement – Parks and Recreation Division. This is for upgrades to a building that collapsed, water system, and other infrastructure needs. \$500,000 request.
- 09-149, William G. Milliken State Park and Harbor-Detroit East Riverwalk – Parks and Recreation Division. This is to complete the riverwalk trail to link Dequindre Cut. \$500,000 request.

Tier 2 applications are:

- 09-139, State Forest Campgrounds – FMFM Division - \$500,000 request
- 09-128, Island Lake Shooting Range Improvements – Office of Communications - \$125,000 request
- 09-150, Algonac State Park-Shooting Range – Parks and Recreation Division - \$275,000 request
- 09-145, Holland State Park-Campground Restroom – Parks and Recreation Division - \$500,000 request

- 09-144, Fort Custer Recreation Area-Road Improvements – Parks and Recreation Division - \$500,000 request
- 09-142, Bay City Recreation Area-Accessible Urban Spray Park – Parks and Recreation Division - \$450,000 request
- 09-143, Dodge #4 State Park-Water System Replacement – Parks and Recreation Division - \$450,000 request

Ms. Julie Cowie, Clerk, Casco Township (Allegan County) – 09-091, Casco Township Nature Preserve Expansion

Ms. Julie Cowie, Clerk for Casco Township (Allegan County), made a presentation in support of 09-091, Casco Township Nature Preserve Expansion. She introduced Mr. Hanenburg (property owner), Mr. William Martinus, Mr. Bruce Brandon and Mr. Bruce Barker who also were in attendance.

The township was awarded a grant to fund a nature preserve of 8.62 acres in 2007 (TF07-170 and TF08-145, funded in two phases). The neighboring parcel to the north became available late in 2008 and made available to the township. This is a 12-acre site with over 100 mature maple trees and has 400 feet of frontage along Lake Michigan. This area is easily accessible from Blue Star Highway.

Ms. Cowie stated that the township is requesting \$2.5 million to acquire the additional property. This would more than double the nature preserve. She also noted that there is a willing seller and this would be an uncomplicated transaction.

Casco Township will provide \$500,000 match and the landowner will donate \$600,000. This is a 30% match. The township is willing to have the project funded in phases.

At this point, Mr. Martinus provided some comments about the environmental aspects of the property. He pointed out the mature maple grove of trees on the property. This would be a great opportunity for a sugar bush operation. The site also has a unique clay bank that creates a fen-like habitat that is unusual in southern Michigan.

Mr. Mike Lapchick – 09-091, Casco Township Nature Preserve

Mr. Mike Lapchick made a presentation in opposition of 09-091, Casco Township Nature Preserve. He is representing several residents in the neighborhood. He questioned where the match for the project was coming from. He also questioned where funds were going to come from for the upkeep of the property.

Discussion ensued on the cost of the property.

Ms. Cowie responded to Mr. Lapchick's concerns. Letters from residents in opposition to the project had been provided to the Board. There is a quarter mill for parks and recreation that has been in place since 2006 and are prepared to use millage money to operate this nature reserve. The township is also in the process of hiring a consultant to work with the township board and parks and recreation to create the best park operation plan.

Ms. Kathleen Cassidy, Administrator, Commerce, Walled Lake and Wixom Management Council – 09-170, Michigan Airline Railway Acquisition

Ms. Kathleen Cassidy, Administrator for the Commerce, Walled Lake and Wixom Management Council made a presentation in support of 09-170, Michigan Airline Railway Acquisition. The project is for the acquisition of 5.45 miles of railroad right-of-way for a trail that would traverse Commerce Township and the cities of Walled Lake and Wixom. These communities have formed an intergovernmental trails management council for the purpose of acquisition and development of this trail. There is great support for the project, with over 100 letters of support being received from citizens, politicians, adjacent communities and trail enthusiasts.

When completed, the proposed trail will connect with the Huron Valley and West Bloomfield Trails. The trail is within a mile of eight elementary, two middle and two high schools. In addition it adjoins to the downtown areas of Walled Lake and Wixom.

All three communities have pledged to operate and maintain their portions of the trail through their parks and recreation budgets. There is a willing seller.

The trail is part of the cross-state Michigan Airline Trailway and is one of the nine missing links in this trail.

Ms. Nancy Krupiarz, Executive Director, Michigan Trails and Greenway Alliance – 09-170, Michigan Airline Railway Acquisition

Ms. Nancy Krupiarz, Executive Director of the Michigan Trails and Greenway Alliance, made a presentation in support of 09-170, Michigan Airline Railway Acquisition. This is a critical connection for the Michigan Airline Trail. It is located in a heavily populated area. She outlined where the trail would be located via a map.

Mr. Charters asked how much was being requested for this acquisition. Ms. Krupiarz responded the council is asking for \$4,222,700 from the MNRTF.

Ms. Krupiarz advised the Board that a grant has recently been received from the Kresge Foundation to close some of the other gaps in the trail (five gaps).

Ms. Krupiarz also mentioned the I-275 Pathway, 40 miles that will connect halfway to the middle of the critical link. These 40 miles of trail go south to Monroe.

Mr. Jay DeBoer, Supervisor, Clay Township (St. Clair County) – 09-124, Harsens Island Conservation Area Acquisition

Mr. Jay DeBoer, Supervisor for Clay Township (St. Clair County), made a presentation in support of 09-124, Harsens Island Conservation Area Acquisition. He introduced Mr. Tom Dueweke who was a supporter of the acquisition. A few years ago this property was slated for development as the zoning was changed. There have been various offers on the property to purchase it, contingent on a bridge being developed from mainland Clay Township to Harsens Island. There is an offer that still exists.

The owners of the property came to the township and asked if they would be willing to preserve the land. It fits into the theme of the township of recreation and environmental preservation.

The township is asking for \$7 million for this acquisition. The property is for 550 acres within 40 minutes of over three million people in southeast Michigan.

The township has a parks and recreation millage for preservation and maintenance. Also, the township has discussed with the landowners the possibility of phasing the project. There is a 52-acre parcel adjacent to the property that is an ecological center.

Mr. DeBoer provided the Board with a report the DEQ received, which was written by Environmental Consulting and Technology, Inc.

At this point Mr. Dueweke outlined the ecology and preservation of the property. Several species have been located on the property that are on the state and federal endangered species list. The property is also contiguous to state-owned land (St. Clair Flats Wildlife Area), which 9,000 hunters visit annually. This property would serve as a buffer for a natural wildlife corridor. There also is a golf course and property owned by the Illitch family adjacent to the property which is slated for development.

The acquisition would provide opportunities for bird watching and other recreational activities. The property offers five miles of ADA trails and three miles of dirt trails. There are free ferry rides for educational purposes and no fees would be charged to enter the park.

Mr. Garner asked how much money was being requested and how many acres were involved in the acquisition. Mr. DeBoer responded that there were 550 acres and the request is for \$7 million from the MNRTF. The total project would be \$9.5 million. Last week the township received an appraisal that meets all federal and state requirements at \$15.9 million. The owner is in-kind reducing costs and also put money aside for the acquisition. Mr. Garner asked who the property owner was. Mr. DeBoer responded Mr. Daryl Repokis owns the property.

Mr. Terry Smith, Supervisor; and Ms. Beverly Isenbarger, Chairperson, Parks and Recreation Committee, Forest Home Township (Antrim County) – 09-164, Miley’s Beach Acquisition

Ms. Beverly Isenbarger, Chairperson of Parks and Recreation Committee for Forest Home Township (Antrim County), made a presentation in support of 09-164, Miley’s Beach Acquisition. This acquisition is to acquire 300 feet of beach property on Lake Bellaire. She introduced other members of the Parks and Recreation Committee in attendance.

The need for additional beach property has been identified in the township’s parks and recreation plan. The township, as a peninsula, is surrounded by 27 miles of shoreline (four lakes and three rivers). The township is water rich, but beach poor. Of this 27-mile border, only one small area is dedicated as a public beach. It is 150 feet along an impoundment created by dams on the Intermediate River in the Village of Bellaire. This area was pointed out via a map. Chairperson Pollack asked about other access points.

Ms. Isenbarger responded there are six road endings and one dedicated swimming area.

The Miley family owned 1,000 feet on Lake Bellaire where they ran a tourist resort, and a few years ago it became known that they were not going to continue to use the property as a resort, but likely would be dividing and selling the property. The parks and recreation committee discussed with the family the possibility of the township acquiring the northern parcel, adjoining the DNR boat launch and Steiner Road ending to be used as a public beach. In the spring, the family agreed to consider this proposal.

This is the best beach property on Lake Bellaire. In addition, there has never been a permanent structure, septic system, gas tank, paved driveway or any other permanent feature on the property. It is a flat, open area with a sandy shoreline which is perfect for a public park.

The property could be used immediately for a beach. Plans are to buoy off the swimming area, designate parking, install picnic tables, install portable restrooms and put up a sign. It is estimated that maintenance for the park would be less than \$1,000 per season. Long-range goals would include a pavilion, dock and permanent restroom facilities. Grants would be sought for these improvements. The township would plan with neighbors for a buffered area between the park and their property.

The township currently has a public places ordinance which regulates hours, noise, parking, mooring, littering, camping and fires and is enforced by the county sheriff. Traffic will be routed along roads with fewer residences.

Mr. Torre asked what the grant request was. Ms. Isenbarger responded \$933,000.

Mr. Al Gibbs – 09-164, Miley’s Beach Acquisition, Forest Home Township

Mr. Al Gibbs made a presentation in opposition to 09-164, Miley’s Beach Acquisition. He was made aware of the proposed project when it was brought to his attention in the local newspaper. He is the Zone Director of Three Lakes Association for Forest Home Township. This Association provides leadership to preserve and protect the environmental issues of the Elk River chain of lakes.

Mr. Gibbs mentioned he had previously sent the Board a letter outlining what transpired at the public hearings. The parks and recreation committee and Board of Supervisors approved the project unanimously; however, there were a significant number of people opposing it. The people in opposition are not opposing access to the lake.

Three Lakes Association is taking the position to oppose the project until they learn more about it.

Mr. Gibbs pointed out via map other areas that could be used for a swimming beach. There are 87 access points and 24 swimming beaches in Antrim County. Chairperson Pollack asked about parking at various locations, and Mr. Gibbs responded where and how much parking was available.

Mr. Garner asked if he could receive a copy of the map that showed where the access areas and swimming beaches were located. Mr. Gibbs will point out these areas to Mr. Garner.

Mr. David Baker – 09-164, Miley’s Beach Acquisition, Forest Home Township

Mr. David Baker made a presentation in opposition to 09-164, Miley’s Beach Acquisition. He is a member of the Michigan Loon Preserve Association. He pointed out loon platforms and areas via a map. This past summer, there were eight loons and two nesting pairs on Lake Bellaire.

Mr. Baker also stated that Antrim County is number nine in the state for receiving the most grant money per capita (\$497.00 per person). Residents for Forest Home Township, with a population of 1600, would be in the 99 percentile for grant money.

He encouraged the Board to continue to support the Grass River Natural Area project.

Ms. Sandy Ewasek – 09-164, Miley’s Beach Acquisition, Forest Home Township

Ms. Sandy Ewasek made a presentation in opposition to 09-164, Miley’s Beach Acquisition. She provided a handout to the Board.

She stated that zoning laws ask for shoreline protection strips 30 feet from the high water mark. The township has no plans or money set aside to comply with these laws. Reeds encompass one-third of the area that the township is planning on pulling up for the swimming area. This is a spawning bed for fish.

She wants to make sure that what the township proposes for this property does not detrimentally affect the lake.

Mr. John Monte, Project Control Engineer, City of New Baltimore – 09-053, County Line Road Non-Motorized Pedestrian Path Development; and 09-054, Maple Creek Park Development

Mr. John Monte, Project Control Engineer for the City of New Baltimore, made a presentation in support of 09-053, County Line Road Non-Motorized Pedestrian Path Development; and 09-054, Maple Creek Park Development. Also in attendance were Mayor Tom Goldenbogen; Ms. Judy Sproat, Director of Planning and Economic Development; and Mr. John Crumm, Program Manager for Planning, Macomb County.

Project 09-053, County Line Road Non-Motorized Pedestrian Path Development is for a non-motorized path at County Line Road. This road divides two counties—Macomb and St. Clair Counties. This project also borders and impacts several townships. The path is 1.8 miles and connects with a current trail on the south side (Bridge to Bay Trail) and eventually will connect to a trail on the north (Macomb-Orchard Trail).

In the late 90s, the City of New Baltimore’s population doubled. Six subdivisions exit onto County Line Road where the path will be located. The road and shoulders are narrow and there is no place for someone to safely walk along the road. Because of the subdivisions, there are a lot of interconnecting walks that would join the path which would connect to the downtown Beach Park and two other parks.

The request from the MNRTF is \$409,200. There are commitments from the Michigan Department of Transportation for Enhancement Funds, Ira Township, Anchor Bay Community Schools and City of New Baltimore. The local match is 55%. This meets all the goals and objectives of all local master plans.

Mr. John Crumm, Program Manager, Planning, Macomb County – 09-053, County Line Road Non-Motorized Pedestrian Path Development, City of New Baltimore

Mr. John Crumm, representing Macomb County Planning, made comments in support of 09-053, County Line Road Non-Motorized Pedestrian Path Development, City of New Baltimore. Via a map, he pointed out the 70-mile loop of trails that the county is committed to. There is 24 miles left to construct on the trail. Last year the Macomb County Commission passed a resolution committing to completing both acquisition and development of the loop within two years. Macomb County has been working with communities between the cities of New Baltimore and Richmond to get this completed.

Mr. Chuck Korn, Supervisor; Mr. Brad Kaye, Director of Planning; and Mr. Brian Vandenbrand, Deputy Planner, Garfield Charter Township (Grand Traverse County) – 09-173, Boardman Lake Trail and Nature Reserve Expansion

Mr. Chuck Korn, Supervisor for Garfield Charter Township, made a PowerPoint presentation in support of 09-173, Boardman Lake Trail and Nature Reserve Expansion. The project is to acquire 60.9 acres for expansion of the township nature reserve and easements for the Boardman Lake Trail along the Boardman River. Grand Traverse County recently voted to remove three dams up the river, which will improve quality. An improved highway is being put in along Keystone Road which fronts the river.

Via a map, Mr. Korn pointed out that there is residential development to the east and industrial to the west.

At this point, Mr. Kaye made some comments. The project has been a collaboration with Grand Traverse County, City of Traverse and Garfield Township. The current portion is in Garfield Township. He pointed out various points of the project area via a map. With the acquisition of this project, it would increase the nature reserve from 94 acres to 154 acres. The project will put land on both sides of the river in public ownership, as well as benefiting the natural wildlife corridors.

Mr. Kaye stated that there is development pressure in the area. Keystone Road, which runs along the east side of the parcels, is having water and sewer systems installed right now.

The township's master plan has identified this property as an important corridor to protect for wetlands. The Boardman River is one of the top ten trout streams in the State of Michigan.

At this point, Mr. Vandenbrand made some comments on the easements being requested for the Boardman Lake Trail. He outlined via a map where the township would like to seek easements for the trail.

Mr. Vandenbrand stated that the township is requesting \$1.2 million from the MNRTF and will be matching 25% with local donated land value and township funds.

At this point, Mr. John Monte, Project Control Engineer for the City of New Baltimore, continued his presentation in support of the city's second application being requested, 09-054, Maple Creek Park Development. The project is 34 acres in size and at one time the second phase of a subdivision development. The developer had problems with DEQ over wetlands issues, as well as the city with drainage issues. As a result, the developer offered the parcel to the city if they could take care of all issues involved. The city has agreed to do this and is in the process of doing so. Seventeen acres (about half the property) is wetlands and the entire parcel will not end up within a conservation easement.

Development for this project would include wetlands preservation, walking path, wood timber path over wetlands, paved parking lot and connecting road, restroom facilities, play area and nature trails. The city is asking a grant of \$312,000 from the MNRTF, with the local match \$124,000.

Ms. Marjorie Banner, Trustee; Ms. Jennifer Frey, Director of Community Development, Northville Township; and Mr. Grant Trigger, Representative, Real Estate Investments Group – 09-174, Linear Park Acquisition

Ms. Marjorie Banner, Trustee for Northville Township, made a PowerPoint presentation in support of 09-174, Linear Park Acquisition. The property originally was 414 acres. The acquisition is to create a linear park to connect the former Northville State Hospital property with the Wayne County Hines Parkway system and acquire 200-year old growth forest and link to Southeast Michigan Greentrails Network.

A millage was approved for the purchase of 232 acres of the property. The city already owned 100-acre and 17-acre parcels, totaling 350 acres. Chairperson Pollack asked what the millage would generate. Ms. Banner responded the millage generated \$23.5 million for the purchase of the property.

At this point, Ms. Frey made some comments. The property is located in the Detroit metropolitan region with a population of approximately 2.8 million within a 20-mile radius, located on the far west end of Wayne County. She pointed out particular areas involved with the acquisition via a map on PowerPoint.

On the eastern edge of the property is old grown forest, with some being 200 years old. The area is very accessible and open. There is the beginning of some trail development and could connect to the south end of the property. To the west there is an old rail grade that intersects that part of the property. The south side of the property provides some of the best and unique features. At the far left end of the property would be access to the Rogue River.

Ms. Frey further stated that the property is in a very visible and high profile location with easy access from major highways. She outlined partnerships with the county for trail systems and pointed out various aspects via PowerPoint. There is much support for this acquisition project.

Ms. Banner added that the developer of the project has agreed to a 50-50 (phased) funding of the acquisition.

At this point, Chairperson Pollack called for the Board to go into Executive Session to talk about an appraisal and a personnel matter.

MOVED BY MR. MUCHMORE, SUPPORTED BY MR. CHARTERS, TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS AN APPRAISAL AND A PERSONNEL MATTER. PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

At 1:30 PM, the Board went into Executive Session.

At 2:10 PM, the Board returned to the regular meeting session.

Mr. Charters was not in attendance due to another commitment.

MOVED BY MR. MUCHMORE, SUPPORTED BY MR. TORRE, TO RETURN TO REGULAR MEETING SESSION. PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

Discussion of 09-174, Linear Park Acquisition, Northville Township, continued.

Mr. Garner wondered if all the property was formerly Northville State Hospital property. Ms. Banner responded yes. Mr. Garner further asked who bought the property from the state. Ms. Banner responded REIS and the township is currently purchasing the township-owned portion of the property from them.

Mr. Muchmore asked about the buildings on the site. Mr. Grant Trigger responded that the entire property, buildings included, was purchased by REIS. A portion of the proposed project will be donated by the landowner. Mr. Muchmore asked about the remediation of the buildings. Ms. Banner said by purchasing the property, the township will be remediating the property through a brownfield. Mr. Muchmore asked who would retain the oil well on the property. Ms. Banner responded that the well will be retained by the owner of the oil well (Sunoco). Mr. Trigger added that the state retains all the mineral rights of the property.

Chairperson Pollack asked about other school districts using the property. Ms. Banner responded that the surrounding local school districts were certainly able to use the property, as well as the Detroit schools. It is intended to be a regional area. This will be open to the public. Chairperson Pollack suggested that the township put in writing how they anticipate the property being used as a classroom for school districts.

Mr. Muchmore asked if there would be any entrance fees. Ms. Banner responded no.

Mr. Michael Hartner, Director of Parks and Forestry, City of Rochester Hills; and Mr. Gerald Carvey, Green Space Advisory Board – 09-165, Sheldon-Mead Greenspace Acquisition

Mr. Michael Hartner, Director of Parks and Forestry for the City of Rochester Hills, made a presentation in support of 09-165, Sheldon-Mead Greenspace Acquisition. This is for the acquisition of 39.31 acres along Sheldon and Mead Roads for greenspace preservation, secure sensitive wetlands, woodlands and greenway connectivity. Stony Creek High School and Hart Middle School are within walking distance of this acquisition project. Both of these schools use this area as part of their environmental education program.

In 2005, the City of Rochester Hills passed a ten-year millage for greenspace. The Greenspace Advisory Board was provided with nominated properties, inspected, scored and made recommendations to the City Council. This project was then submitted as an application for a possible MNRTF grant.

Mr. Hartner stated that the City of Rochester Hills has a single waste clause and recently contracted with Allied Waste. With this came a Recycle Bank Rewards Program. With recycling, points are earned that can then be donated to a stewardship fund to help fund stewardship activities for open space parks.

The proposed project was selected for its water resources and habitat protection. The project is also part of Oakland County's Hub and Site Green Infrastructure Network. There are hardwoods on the property, as well as 30% wetlands and 32% woodlands. The proximity to Stony Creek Metropark is directly across the road to the north.

Chairperson Pollack asked how much was being requested from the MNRTF. Mr. Hartner responded \$510,000, with a 50-50 match.

Mr. Bill Avery – 09-164, Miley's Beach Acquisition, Forest Home Township

Mr. Bill Avery made a presentation in opposition to 09-164, Miley's Beach Acquisition, Forest Home Township. He pointed out that "Nowhere's Landing" is a mile and a half from the city limits, with parking for 12 vehicles. This could be improved for a swimming beach. The property was donated to the State of Michigan for a DNR access site to stock fish. In 1973, it was returned to the county for use as a swimming area. It is used continuously in the summer by residents of Bellaire.

Mr. Garner stated he will make a trip up to look at these areas if he could receive a map. Mr. Avery said he will send Mr. Garner a map.

Mr. Avery continued to outline other areas that could be used for swimming beaches in the area, as well as surrounding areas.

Mr. Phillip Jordan, Village President; and Mr. Ronald J. Kennard, Trustee, Village of Lincoln – 09-012, Barlow Road Park Improvements

Mr. Phillip Jordan, Village President for the Village of Lincoln, made a presentation in support of 09-012, Barlow Road Park Improvements. The village is located in the center of Alcona County, with a population of 360. Surrounding townships use the village park.

Nine years ago volunteers built a playscape in Barlow Road Park. The village and Lincoln Lions Club raised money and built a restroom facility.

This is the second time the village has submitted this development application. The application is for handicap parking, an ADA accessible picnic area, courts and multi-use skate park facilities. The MNRTF grant request is \$122,100. The match will be \$52,400.

With these improvements, the Alcona County school district will use this park more for school functions.

Mr. Kennard made some comments. It is his understanding that Alcona County has never received a development grant.

Adjacent to the park is a senior citizens center and an old school next to the center. The village will be seeking acquisition funds in the future to add to Barlow Road Park.

Mr. Muchmore pointed out that Alcona County has received \$275,000 from the MNRTF for Hubbard Lake acquisition. Mr. Garner added that acquisition projects for \$100,000 or less almost always are funded by the MNRTF.

Mr. Steve Alman, Design Manager; and Mr. Alan Amen, Grant Administrator, Wayne County – 09-127, Elizabeth Park Riverwalk-Northpointe Development-Phase II

Mr. Alan Amen, Grant Administrator for Wayne County, made a PowerPoint presentation in support of 09-127, Elizabeth Park Riverwalk-Northpointe Development-Phase II. He provided some background information on the origin of the park. The park is on the Detroit River and features about one-quarter mile of frontage. The intent of this project is to stabilize approximately 620 lineal feet of severely eroded shoreline of the park for a riverwalk, provide fishing access and rehabilitate fish and wetland habitat along the river.

The park provides amenities for fishing, river watching, Victorian shelter, gazebo, recreational facilities, softball fields, in-line skating, pony rides, play equipment, hiking trails, ice skating, cross-country skiing, and boating at the marina.

Mr. Amen informed the Board that this is the 90th birthday for the park. Wayne County is the state's oldest park system.

Phase II development for Elizabeth Park will include the continuation of the reclamation and development of one-quarter mile of riverfront on the Detroit River in Trenton. There was a long period of lack of maintenance due to economic resources. It not only was not fit for recreational purposes, but dangerous to be there. A cement wall separated visitors from the river. Phase I has reclaimed much of the park's shoreline and created safe accessibility.

Development of the park is encroaching \$7 million along the river. The county has been successful with the development due to partnerships and other collaborations. Also, in 1996 the residents of Wayne County dedicated a millage for park expansion and maintenance.

At this point, Mr. Alman made comments. The metro Detroit, tri-county area has a population of over four million. Elizabeth Park is very accessible not only by surface streets, but boats as well. There is a 52-slip marina. The park provides many events and services. The park is totally handicapped-accessible.

The riverwalk is also a major part of the downriver greenways initiative, which was sponsored by the Southeast Michigan Community Foundation.

The grant request is for \$500,000 with a 50% match.

Mr. Pat Duvendeck, Member of Board of Loon Lake Property Owners Association and Loon Lake Association– 09-026, Plainfield Nature Park Expansion Acquisition

Mr. Pat Duvendeck, member of the Board of Loon Lake Property Owners Association and Loon Lake Association, made a PowerPoint presentation in support of 09-026, Plainfield Nature Park Expansion Acquisition. This association represents about 150 property owners who have access to Loon Lake and wished to express their strong support for Plainfield Township's proposed acquisition project.

There are two sections that are part of the grant application and are extreme natural habitat which would really benefit the nature preserve area. This will enhance and protect Loon Lake as well as the surrounding area. The lake is the home of nesting loons as well as other fish and wildlife habitats. The common loon is a threatened species in Michigan.

If this property is not acquired by the township, it will be sold to private investors.

There was a collaborative effort with the township, Lutheran Retreat Ministry Organization and Loon Lake Association to create a handicapped-accessible nature walk, improvements to the boat launch and restroom facilities for the nature park.

This is a “win-win” situation for everyone—property owners, visitors to the lake, fishermen, nature watchers and bicycle enthusiasts.

Ms. Nicole Moon, Resident of City of Benton Harbor – Jean Klock Park, City of Benton Harbor

Ms. Nicole Moon, a resident of the City of Benton Harbor, made some comments regarding Jean Klock Park, City of Benton Harbor. She stated that the proposal that was brought before the Board in 2006 was completely different from the one presented to the public in 2008.

She stated that Harbor Shores did not disclose the contamination of the mitigation sites at the October 2006 MNRTF Board meeting. There were discussions between the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, Harbor Shores and DNR in May of 2007 regarding contamination issues, yet no record of any update. In addition, the appraisal did not take into consideration the cost of remediation. The only disclosure to the public of contamination was a letter inserted in the Environmental Assessment section of the 2008 proposal and referenced the cleanup of only two parcels.

In addition, a map of the project was never placed in any public facility for residents to review nor in the conversion proposal in order to see the relationship of the mitigation sites in the project. No detailed plans were made available describing the clearing, grading and fill necessary to alter Jean Klock Park.

The natural features of the park have been destroyed as well as accessibility has been compromised. The only thing more accessible is getting a car to the beach. The ADA pathway to the bird watch tower has been eliminated.

Ms. Moon further stated that a golf course operated by Harbor Shores is not a public park. The city illegally sold part of the park, a 1.75-acre addition made to the park in 1952, which included 300 feet of Lake Michigan waterfront, for a luxury real estate development known as Marram Shores.

In 2004, the city also sold another part of the park for another luxury real estate development named Grand Boulevard Renaissance. Residents were to receive other parkland in exchange for this 3.4-acre parcel which was appraised at \$1.3 million. A number of these mitigation sites have yet to be developed five years later. The one which is developed was already a park.

Ms. Moon urged the Board to demand the restoration of the dunes, forest and wetlands that have been destroyed. The proposal was required to go before the MNRTF Board, which it did not.

Mr. Muchmore stated that the Board cannot go back and redo these true or perceived problems that have occurred. He is concerned about where the problems are and how to move forward. It is not the Board's job to remediate. The issue of people doing what they said they were going to do is part of the Board's responsibility. Ms. Moon responded by outlining the mitigation parcels. The mitigation parcels are on the Paw Paw River. There are problems with pathways open to surface water.

In addition, the groundwater is being irrigated by the golf course. Water can get into the waterways, pumped back out and recirculated. These waterways feed into the St. Joseph River which is near the beach area.

Ms. Moon also stated that she wondered how the city was going to pay to have these contaminated parcels cleaned up.

Information was provided to the Board for their review.

Chairperson Pollack reiterated Mr. Muchmore's feelings that the Board cannot go back and replace the dunes. Staff will be following up on issues that have been raised.

Ms. Debbie Slocombe and Mr. Richard Bahle, Supervisor, Suttons Bay Township – 09-039, Herman Center Community Park Development, Suttons Bay Township (Leelanau County)

Ms. Debbie Slocombe made a presentation in support of 09-039, Herman Center Community Park Development. She thanked the Board for the acquisition project that was awarded to Suttons Bay Township in 2006. The development project is to develop 126 acres within walking distance to the Village of Suttons Bay, Sutton Bay Schools, a new Senior Living Center, and Leelanau Trail.

The township is on the east side of Leelanau County and does not have any parks with passive and active recreational facilities in one location. The surrounding townships that would use the park include Bingham, Lake Leelanau, Leland, Suttons Bay, Omena, Peshawbestown and Northport.

The township refers to the project as the "Keystone Project." This project preserves wetlands and is identified as the highest priority conservation area within the Grand

Traverse Bay Watershed. It is a major tributary to Lake Michigan. The area is open for hunting. Students have educational opportunities for nature observation such as wetland functions, wildlife habitat and forest biodiversity, as well as interpretation and is within walking distance of Suttons Bay Schools.

The Leelanau Conservancy will help to develop a resource management and stewardship plan as part of the design process. The park will be connected to the existing Leelanau Trail and will serve as a trailhead. The site conceptual design will preserve and protect existing wetland areas while maximizing upland active recreational development. The design will provide for directional signage and adequate parking for both passive and active area.

Environmental friendly materials will be used and recycling bins will be on site. On the west side of the park there will be a living screen to delineate park borders. The township will be investigating the feasibility of a windmill technology for power sources. All elements of the design will be universally accessible and comply with ADA requirements.

The maintenance of the park will be shared by other townships and Suttons Bay Schools.

The township is requesting \$500,000 from the MNRTF. This would be for road access, parking, one tennis court, grading, irrigation and drainage for soccer field, and pathways.

Mr. Bahle commented that Ms. Jule Stafford and Ms. Linda Hegstrom did an outstanding job helping the township complete the acquisition project (TF06-110).

At this point, Chairperson Pollack mentioned that approval of the Board's 2010 meeting schedule had been inadvertently passed over (under "New Business").

MOVED BY MR. GARNER, SUPPORTED BY MR. MUCHMORE, TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING DATES FOR THE 2010 MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND BOARD MEETINGS: FEBRUARY 3, APRIL 7, JUNE 16, AUGUST 18, OCTOBER 6, NOVEMBER 30 (EVENING MEETING) AND DECEMBER 1. PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

Ms. Apostol noted that there have been two invitations received for the Board to hold their June meeting: Emmet County and Forsyth Township (Gwinn in Marquette County). The location will be decided next year.

VII. OTHER MATTERS AS ARE PROPERLY BROUGHT BEFORE THE BOARD.

None.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The **evening meeting** of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board is scheduled for **7:00-10:00 PM**, Tuesday, December 1, 2009, Lansing Community College West Campus, 5708 Cornerstone, Lansing, Michigan. The **regular meeting** of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board is scheduled for 9:00 AM, Wednesday, December 2, 2009 (same location as evening meeting).

IX. ADJOURNMENT.

**MOVED BY MR. GARNER, SUPPORTED BY MR. MUCHMORE, TO
ADJOURN THE MEETING. PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.

Lana Pollack, Chairperson
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund
Board of Trustees

James Wood, Manager
Grants Management

DATE