

MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Minutes of August 14, 2019

Shanty Creek Resort, 5780 Shanty Creek Road, Bellaire

9:00 AM

The meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Board of Trustees commenced at 9:03 AM, Wednesday, August 14, 2019.

The following Board members were present:

Daniel Eichinger  
Steve Hamp  
Sam Cummings  
Erin McDonough  
Bill Rustem

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 JUNE 12, 2019.

Chairman Hamp called for the adoption of the minutes for the JUNE 12, 2019 MNRTF Board meeting.

**MOVED BY DIRECTOR EICHINGER, SUPPORTED BY MR. CUMMINGS, TO ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 12, 2019 MNRTF BOARD MEETING.  
MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.**

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA FOR MEETING OF AUGUST 14, 2019.

Chairman Hamp called for the adoption of the agenda for the AUGUST 14, 2019 MNRTF Board meeting.

**MOVED BY MR. RUSTEM, SUPPORTED BY DIRECTOR EICHINGER, TO ADOPT THE AGENDA FOR THE AUGUST 14, 2019 MNRTF BOARD MEETING.  
MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.**

### III. INTRODUCTIONS.

The Board members introduced themselves.

Mr. Dan Lord, Section Manager, Grants Management Section, Finance and Operations Division, DNR, introduced himself and Grants Management staff: Mr. Jon Mayes (Recreation Grants Manager), Ms. Rachel Schumaker (Administrative Assistant to staff and Board), Mr. Mike Chuff (MNRTF Financial Specialist), Ms. Merrie Carlock (Grant Coordinator), Ms. Lindsay Ross (Grant Coordinator), Ms. Erin Campbell (Grant Coordinator) and Ms. Tamara Jorkasky (Grant Coordinator).

### IV. PUBLIC APPEARANCES.

Mr. Jeff Shaw, Supervisor, Elmwood Charter Township, Mr. Matt McDonough, Rotary Charities, and Mr. Greg Weykamp, Edgewater Resources

Mr. Shaw presented on Elmwood Charter Township's Discovery Pier Access project.

The Greilickville Harbor Park currently has 174 boats slips, a playground, picnic pavilion, 2 public restrooms and a beach. Phase 1 & 2 will begin this fall, with a total of \$4.1 million in renovations over the next 3 years.

Mr. McDonough stated that this park is home to the Great Lakes Children's Museum, The Great Lakes Heritage Alliance, The Watershed Center and Inland Seas. This project is to add universally accessible amenities on the pier. This includes: a new marina, a universally accessible kayak and canoe launch, parking and restrooms.

Mr. Weykamp discussed accessibility of the proposed kayak and canoe launch. It is a platform that moves up and down, making it user-friendly and accessible no matter the water level.

Mr. Chris Bunch, Executive Director, Six Rivers Land Conservancy

Mr. Bunch thanked the Board, and staff, for the work they do and the commitment to Michigan and preserving its great natural resources. He also thanked the staff for the work they are doing to evaluate the current scoring criteria and the great job they are doing involving the stakeholders in those efforts.

Ms. Julie Stoneman, Director of Outreach and Education, Michigan Nature Association

Ms. Stoneman thanked the Board, once again, for inviting Ms. Amy Derosier, Wildlife Biologist, Wildlife Division, DNR, to speak at the April Board meeting and for taking part in listening to the Wildlife Action Plan. She also thanked the Board for engaging in the scoring criteria review and hopes that the Wildlife Action Plan is tied into the scoring criteria.

Mr. James Kalajian, Co-Director, Mud, Sweat & Beers Mountain Bike Race

Mr. Kalajian presented in support of the Holiday Woods Recreation Area Acquisition project.

The Mud, Sweat & Beers Mountain Bike Race is an annual event held the first weekend each May. There are approximately 1,000 participants and 1,000 spectators. This is a fundraising effort that started 10 years ago. Since its inception, over \$500,000 has been raised. Over 95 percent of that money goes to Mt. Holiday to support their seasonal maintenance, purchase new equipment, installation of a zipline and more. Mt. Holiday gives away 50 skiership scholarships each year. This provides access to those that would not normally be able to afford to ski. The scholarship also includes lessons and equipment. The trails on the property are used 12 months of the year for hiking, snowshoeing, cross country skiing, running, dog walking and more.

Mr. Jim Lamond, Chairman, Holiday Woodlands Preserve Organization

Mr. Lamond presented in support of the Holiday Woods Recreation Area Acquisition Project.

This is an 80-acre property which has 5 ecological zones; woodlands, meadows, sand dunes, wetlands and head waters on Baker's Creek. Baker's Creek is a designated State of Michigan protected trout stream that flows into East Bay. This land also contains over 35 species of birds. The local schools request use of this property for outdoor recreation programs.

Ms. Lisa Leedy, Deputy Supervisor, Green Lake Township

Ms. Leedy presented in support of the Camp Saki Acquisition project.

This is Green Lake's second time applying for a MNRTF grant for this project. It is a 515-acre parcel that is currently owned by Rotary Camps and is a former Girl Scout camp.

Ms. Leedy thanked the Board for the opportunity to reapply and wanted to give an update on the changes to the new application. There is an increased match amount and strong partnerships for future low-impact development. This would be the first water access site for Green Lake Township, the first kayak launch for Bass Lake and there would also be access to Saunders Lake, which is a duck hunting area that currently does not have any public access.

Mr. Brian Dissette, City Manager, City of South Haven, and Mr. Greg Weykamp, Edgewater Resources

Mr. Dissette presented in support of the All Seasons Marine Acquisition project.

Mr. Weykamp stated that this project will protect the existing historic character of the Maritime District, maintain a full-service marina operation downstream of the drawbridge, prevent potential undesirable development alternatives, will be a community sailing center, have ADA-compliant paddle sports access and generate significant positive economic impacts. This marina has 4 acres of riverfront. It is also one of only two fueling stations in the area.

This marina currently has a dry rack building that contains 168 slips. It is very dated and inefficient. The current boat lift needs repairs. It is only accessible to those using the wet and dry boat slips, there is not public access. This project will allow the City of South Haven to gain control and renovate and repair all buildings, boat slips, the boat lift and create fishing access.

The City of South Haven's grant request is \$1,875,000, their local match is \$625,000, for a total project cost of \$2,500,000.

Ms. Beth Friend, Supervisor, East Bay Charter Township, and Mr. Glen Chown, Director, Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy

Ms. Friend presented the Holiday Woods Recreation Area Acquisition project.

This acquisition is for 3 parcels totaling 195 acres. This property is located in Grand Traverse County. It is a culmination of a partnership between 3 non-profit organizations; Holiday Woodlands Preserve, Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy and Mt. Holiday.

The average 10-year population growth in Grand Traverse County is 23 percent. It has the 4<sup>th</sup> highest growth rate among all Michigan counties.

Mr. Chown stated that this property will provide water quality protection and outdoor recreation opportunities on the east side of Traverse City. There is 1,800 feet of frontage on Baker's Creek.

East Bay Charter Township's grant request is \$584,800, their local match is \$250,700, for a total project cost of \$835,500.

Mr. Gary Neumann, Supervisor, Lovells Township

Mr. Neumann presented the Au Sable River Access project.

This project is to create an access point on the North Branch of the Au Sable River. In 1987 the North Branch of the Au Sable River was designated as a "natural river" by the DNR. The river is widely known for its trout fishery. Enthusiasts of this river include; bird watchers, photographers, canoeists, kayakers, etc. This will increase tourism, recreational activity and be an economic driver for this area.

The DNR Roscommon Service Center has committed a construction crew and equipment to complete the excavation work for the parking lot and walkway down to the river.

Lovells Township's grant request is \$151,000, their local match is \$60,574, for a total project cost of \$211,574.

Ms. Amy Jenema, Treasurer, and Ms. Lindsey Wolf, Planner, Acme Township

Ms. Jenema presented the Traverse City – Charlevoix Trail: Bunker Hill to M-72 Segment project.

Ms. Wolf stated that this project is to develop a non-motorized trail connecting two major destinations in northwest Lower Michigan. This trail is identified as a priority and/or goal in every park and recreation, village or master plans along the 46-mile corridor. There are 20 parks/natural areas along the trail. It will connect the existing pedestrian and cycling facilities to shopping centers and become an economic driver for the region. This trail will be barrier free and ADA-accessible. It runs along Acme Creek where there will be fishing opportunities, bird watching and unobstructed viewing points for members of the nearby senior community.

Acme Township's grant request is \$300,000, their local match is \$683,400, for a total project cost of \$983,400.

Mr. Edgar and Lisa Holbrook, Portage Township

Mr. and Mrs. Holbrook presented the Portage Township Fishing Piers project.

This project is to construct ADA-accessible fishing piers on the Shoepac River and Portage Creek. This is located approximately 65 miles west of the Mackinac Bridge. There is currently an old bridge that the community fishes from, which is very narrow and not easily accessible. The new docks would be ADA-accessible and barrier-free.

Portage Township's grant request is \$120,800, their local match is \$42,500, for a total project cost of \$163,300.

Mr. Wendell Dompier, President, Village of Baraga

Mr. Dompier presented the Baraga Non-motorized Pathway – Phase II project.

The Village's Phase II project is part of a regional 12-mile non-motorized trail around Keweenaw Bay. It will be a 10-foot wide pathway. It will connect the Village's marina to Baraga State Park. Pedestrians currently walk along the highway, very close to the traffic.

The Village of Baraga's grant request is \$300,000, their local match is \$809,000, for a total project cost of \$1,109,000.

Mr. Scott Bell, Lapham Associates

Mr. Bell presented the Buckeye Trailhead Development – Gladwin to Beaverton Trail project.

This project is to develop a regional pathway trailhead at the midpoint of the Gladwin to Beaverton Trail. The park development will enhance the present opportunities for access to hunting, fishing and trapping as well as signage and parking, a pavilion, a restroom, canoe/kayak launch to the Cedar River Water Trail, and a kiosk with informational signage.

Gladwin County's grant request is \$255,300, their local match is \$89,700, for a total project cost of \$345,000.

Mr. Jon Swenson, Director of Community Services, City of Marquette

Mr. Swenson presented the Marquette Universal Design Inclusive Playground project.

There are currently no inclusive playgrounds in this area. The need for this was identified during their master planning process. They looked at several different areas to build this all-inclusive playground and settled on a site that already has existing infrastructure, restrooms and accessible parking. This location is also along the Iron Belle Trail. The current playground was built in 1996. It is surrounded by wood chips, making it difficult for a wheelchair to access. The existing play structure has rotting posts and the beams are starting to sag and crack.

The City of Marquette's grant request is \$300,000, their local match is \$86,000, for a total project cost of \$386,000.

Ms. Janet Dunn, Supervisor, Macomb Township, and Mr. Chris Bunch, Executive Director, Six Rivers Land Conservancy

Mr. Bunch and Ms. Dunn presented the Macomb Township Nature Park Acquisition project.

This is a 2-acre parcel comprising 30 acres of land. There is a security gate in place at the entrance and a 17,000 square foot barn, that was previously used for equestrian purposes. There is office space, restrooms and a kitchen facility also located in the barn. This will be made functional for a variety of public uses. There is a pole barn on the property that will allow for storage of the maintenance equipment. There are existing crushed stone trails throughout the property. There is a lot of organized recreation, but no natural parks in this area.

Macomb Township's grant request is \$937,500, their local match is \$312,500, for a total project cost of \$1,250,000.

## VI. OLD BUSINESS.

### Scoring Criteria Update

Mr. Dan Lord gave an overview of the stakeholder feedback on the recreation grant scoring changes. The stakeholders include Michigan Parks and Recreation Association, Heart of the Lakes, Michigan United Conservation Clubs and DNR Division staff.

Mr. Lord reminded the Board, and audience, that staff has been conducting a comprehensive evaluation across three programs: Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, Recreation Passport and Land and Water Conservation Fund. This includes:

- Revisiting statute language; adjustments and realignments to be more consistent across the programs
- Making associated processes more efficient for the applicants

During the month of April, Grants Management staff met with each of the stakeholders to introduce the current scoring process, provide an overview of the initial staff analysis and recommendations, and to gather initial stakeholder feedback on scoring changes.

Stakeholders met with Grants Management staff again in May and provided their recommendations.

In June, Grants Management staff met with Stakeholders to present the final outcomes of the recreation grant scoring changes process.

Today the final Grants Management Section staff recommendations were presented. In both the Acquisition and Development areas, Natural Resources is number 1 on the list. There has been language added to include the Wildlife Action Plan. Currently, Acquisition and Development have different scoring totals, 560 for Acquisition and 520 for Development. This revised scoring process brings them both to 500 possible points.

The final scoring change documents will be available soon on the DNR website. There will also be a press release, workshops and webinars.

Chairman Hamp called for the adoption of the updated scoring criteria.

**MOVED BY MR. RUSTEM, SUPPORTED BY DIRECTOR EICHINGER, TO ADOPT THE  
UPDATED SCORING CRITERIA.  
MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.**

## VII. NEW BUSINESS.

### Draft Changes to the Conversion Policy

Mr. Mayes stated Policy 94.1 addresses conversions of land, which sometimes happen inadvertently, by grantees. This can include; a parcel being sold, adding a cell tower, a library or fire station being constructed on the land, etc.

The new policy streamlines the language of the definition of a conversion, removes the Board from having to approve conversions, and adds that any proposed conversion of significant acreage or value, or those likely to be of interest to the Board, be brought to the Board's attention.

Ms. McDonough stated that it would be helpful to have the conversion information prior to making grant award decisions, as that is relevant. The Board would like a sentence added to the policy to reflect this. Director Eichinger proposed language to address this.

Chairman Hamp called for the adoption of the updated Conversion Policy 94.1, as amended.

**MOVED BY MR. RUSTEM, SUPPORTED BY MR. CUMMINGS, TO ADOPT THE  
UPDATED CONVERSION POLICY 94.1, AS AMENDED.  
MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.**

### Update on MNRTF Staff Activities

Mr. Lord outlined various MNRTF staff activities:

- Grant Coordinators have completed site-visits for all 2019 applications and are moving into the group scoring phase.
- The State contract for MiRecGrants expires next year. DTMB is looking into the RFP process to provide that software. Staff continues to make updates and enhancements on an annual basis.
- The State contracts for the MNRTF, LWCF and Recreation Passport are also expiring next year. There are currently two contracts in place. This will be consolidated into one contract.
- Staff is preparing for year-end closing.
- Staff will soon be organizing our annual workshops. We will need two Board members to join, once again, for the roundtable at the mParks conference.

VIII. STATUS REPORTS.

MNRTF Financial Report

No discussion.

DNR Real Estate Report – State Acquisitions

Since the last Board meeting, there were no MNRTF acquisitions taken to Director Eichinger for approval.

Completed MNRTF Projects Report

No discussion.

MNRTF Land Consolidation and Line Item Department Projects

No discussion.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The next meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board is scheduled for 9:00 AM, Wednesday, October 16, 2019, Lansing Community College West Campus, 5708 Cornerstone, Lansing, MI.

X. ADJOURNMENT.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 12:01 PM.



~~Steve Hamp, Chairman~~  
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund  
Board of Trustees

*William Rustem, Vice  
Chair*



Dan Lord, Manager  
Grants Management Section  
Finance and Operations Division

10/30/2019  
DATE