

MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Minutes of August 15, 2012
Lansing Community College West Campus, 5708 Cornerstone, Lansing
9:00 AM

The meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Board of Trustees meeting commenced at 9:07 AM.

The following Board members were present:

Keith Charters
Bob Garner
Frank Torre
Dr. William Moritz, Natural Resources
Deputy (sitting in for Director Keith
Creagh)

Mr. Cummings and Director Keith Creagh were not in attendance due to prior commitments.

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

Chairperson Garner advised the audience that the "MNRTF Phase II: Refining the Vision for a New Era" discussion will not be held this afternoon and is being postponed to a later date.

At this point, Mr. Tom Bailey, Executive Director, Little Traverse Conservancy, made some comments. The Conservancy has been working with the Village of Mackinaw City on a project. They are over halfway in the local share fundraising process for a future project they will be proposing. Hayes Township continues to work on the local share for their application (Camp Seagull Acquisition, 12-036), as well as to respond to questions that were posed.

Mr. Bailey also made some comments on the Little Traverse Conservancy annual meeting. Former Director Rodney Stokes was the guest speaker. He provided information on public land in Michigan and the MNRTF. Little Traverse Conservancy and its membership will be very active in these issues.

I. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF JUNE 13, 2012.

Chairperson Garner called for the adoption of the minutes for the June 13, 2012 MNRTF Board meeting.

**MOVED BY MR. CHARTERS, SUPPORTED BY MR. TORRE, TO
ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 13, 2012 MNRTF BOARD
MEETING. PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.**

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA FOR MEETING OF AUGUST 15, 2012.

Due to a another commitment, Chairperson Garner will be leaving the Board meeting before its anticipated conclusion. Due to a Board quorum issue, he asked to take agenda items that require a motion and approval by the Board up at this time.

MOVED BY MR. TORRE, SUPPORTED BY MR. CHARTERS, TO ADOPT THE AGENDA FOR THE JUNE 13, 2012 MNRTF BOARD MEETING, WITH ITEMS REQUIRING A MOTION AND APPROVAL TO BE TAKEN UP FIRST. PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

V. NEW BUSINESS.

TF09-167, Parker Road Park Expansion, Fort Gratiot Township – PROJECT WITHDRAWAL

MOVED BY MR. CHARTERS, SUPPORTED BY MR. TORRE, TO APPROVE THE WITHDRAWAL OF TF09-167, PARKER ROAD PARK EXPANSION, FORT GRATIOT TOWNSHIP. PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

TF10-163, City Beach Acquisition, City of Marine City – PROJECT WITHDRAWAL

MOVED BY MR. CHARTERS, SUPPORTED BY MR. TORRE, TO APPROVE THE WITHDRAWAL OF TF10-163, CITY BEACH ACQUISITION, CITY OF MARINE CITY. PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

TF10-117, Betsie River-Jewell Land Acquisition, DNR, Fisheries Division – PROJECT WITHDRAWAL

MOVED BY MR. CHARTERS, SUPPORTED BY MR. TORRE, TO APPROVE THE WITHDRAWAL OF TF10-117, BETSIE RIVER-JEWELL LAND ACQUISITION, DNR, FISHERIES DIVISION. PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

Chairperson Garner informed the audience that he needed to leave the meeting by 12:30 PM. Due to the quorum issue, the meeting will be officially adjourned at that time. All remaining public appearances and agenda items will still be presented and discussed.

At this point, Mr. Steve DeBrabander, Manager, Grants Management Section, DNR, introduced Grants Management staff to the audience. Staff in attendance included: Mr. Jon Mayes (Unit Manager, MNRTF), Ms. Linda Harlow (Administrative Assistant to staff and MNRTF Board), Ms. Janet Liesman (Financial Analyst, MNRTF), Ms. Jule Stafford (Grant Coordinator), Ms. Tamara Jorkasky (Grant Coordinator), and Ms. Shamika Askew-Storay (Grant Coordinator). Ms. Christie Bayus (Grant Coordinator) was not in attendance.

III. PUBLIC APPEARANCES.

Mr. Kip Miller, Chief Naturalist, Berrien County – 12-018, Silver Beach County Park Improvements, Berrien County

Mr. Kip Miller, Chief Naturalist for Berrien County, made a PowerPoint presentation in support of the Silver Beach County Park Improvements project, 12-018. Berrien County manages five parks, totaling approximately 500 acres.

Silver Beach County Park has a long history of public access on the shores of Lake Michigan. The property was acquired in 1990 with considerable assistance from the MNRTF. This was privately-owned land and was slated for condominium development. The park features swimming and sunbathing, as well as numerous special events that take place in the park. In addition, the park provides public access to the south pier at the top of the St. Joseph River. This pier is popular for site-seeing and fishing.

Mr. Miller further stated that the park is enormously popular and provided photographs via PowerPoint to showcase its usage. In 2010, over 32,000 day passes were sold. So far this year, 25,000 day passes have been sold. Annual passes are also sold, as well as walk-in visitors. Sixty-nine percent of the day passes were sold to visitors from out of Berrien County.

The City of St. Joseph has also made efforts to tie up-town with the beach area. Improvements have been made – where there were vacant lots from old warehouses are now family-friendly facilities and events going on.

The county is now looking to make some improvements to the north section of Silver Beach County Park. Improvements will be to relocate the play area and upgrades, additional pavilion, pier trail to the south, restroom at the base of the south pier, electrical for special events, and additional parking.

The total cost of the project is \$400,000. Commitments have been received by the county of \$50,000 and the concessionaire (Pepsi) of \$50,000. The MNRTF request is for \$300,000.

Mr. Charters asked what type of trail is being proposed. Mr. Miller responded it will be a concrete trail.

Mr. Gailen Thornton, Township Treasurer, Caledonia Township (Alcona County) – 12-015, Hubbard Lake North End Park Development, Caledonia Township

Mr. Gailen Thornton, Township Treasurer, Caledonia Township (Alcona County), made a presentation and provided handouts in support of the Hubbard Lake North End Park Development project, 12-015.

Hubbard Lake is located on the northern tip of Alcona County, with 30 miles of shoreline. There are only three boat launches on the lake: the North Shore Park, a DNR launch on the East Shore and a primitive launch at the south end.

The park currently has two picnic tables, one port-a-jon and no running water available. The township has received a DNR Waterways grant for \$95,000. This grant will provide

burying power lines, rebuilding the boat ramp, new handicap accessible docks, new pit toilet for boaters, adding more parking spaces, expanding the staging area, repaving the entire surface of the roadway and new landscaping. These scope items are considered as Phase I of the park improvements. At this time, the township has invested over \$100,000 towards the park improvements.

Improvements for Phase II have been requested from the MNRTF and include pavilions, ADA bathrooms, shoreline protection, beach volleyball, well, electricity, lighting, ADA platform for beach viewing and landscape furniture. The request from the MNRTF is for \$245,000.

Mr. Ross Maxwell, Charlevoix County – 12-070, Butler Trust Property Acquisition; and 12-075, Boyne City-Charlevoix Road Path, Charlevoix County

Mr. Ross Maxwell, Charlevoix County, made a PowerPoint presentation in support of the Butler Trust Property Acquisition, 12-070; and Boyne City-Charlevoix Road Path, 12-075, Charlevoix County.

The Butler property acquisition (12-070) shares 2,700 feet of contiguous border with the county's Whiting Park. The acquisition would be to acquire 72.4 acres, with one-half mile of frontage on Lake Charlevoix and is approximately three miles from the City of Boyne City.

Whiting Park was donated to the county in 1923. The park received MNRTF funding several years ago for development.

The Boyne City-Charlevoix Road Path (12-075) will be for a non-motorized path along Boyne City-Charlevoix Road consisting of clearing, earthwork, drainage improvements, retaining walls, timber boardwalks, signage, landscaping and slope restoration.

At this point, Chairperson Garner introduced former Director Rodney Stokes to the audience. Director Stokes, who also served on the MNR Board, recently accepted a position in the Governor's office. Mr. Charters presented a recognition plaque to Director Stokes in honor of his service on the MNRTF Board and his over 30 years of dedication to the MNRTF program. Director Stokes was very appreciative of this recognition plaque and expressed his thanks to the Board and audience. He provided comments on his experiences with the program.

Mr. John Greenslit, Director, Parks and Recreation; and Mr. Robert McConnell, Chair, Eaton County Parks and Recreation Commission, Eaton County – 12-020, Crandall County Park Acquisition, Eaton County

Mr. Robert McConnell, Chair of the Eaton County Parks and Recreation Commission, made a presentation in support of the Crandall County Park Acquisition, 12-020.

The Crandall Lake acquisition would create a public park on the largest lake in the county. The acquisition would be for 424 acres to provide a variety of outdoor recreational purposes – fishing, boating, swimming, trails, camping, cross-country skiing, sliding, and ice fishing. This park could also tie into a railway system in the county.

This project ties into the county's five-year recreation plan which identifies picnic facilities, swimming areas, boating, canoeing and hiking trails as its priorities. It is also consistent with the recreation plan's objective to acquire new park facilities and to expand the county parks system. The county's feasibility study also provides strong support for this project. The project would be located in an area easily accessible to visitors.

Two public meetings have been held on the project and information has been provided to Grants Management staff. Participants at the meeting were very supportive of the acquisition.

At this point, Mr. John Greenslit, Director, Parks and Recreation, Eaton County, continued with the presentation. He advised the Board that when he was with the Michigan Recreation and Park Association, he worked very closely with MNRTF Board member Tom Washington, the DNR Director, Mr. Frank Mortl of the Michigan Oil and Gas Association and legislators in the establishment of the MNRTF. This is a great program and he will continue to be an advocate of it.

Chairperson Garner asked the cost of this acquisition. Mr. Greenslit responded the initial appraisal came in around \$4 million. A second or third appraisal will be done as required. One of the portions has been sold so it will be a little smaller (around 415 acres). The county is asking \$3.1 million of the MNRTF.

Mr. Richard Haberman, City Manager, City of Fraser – 12-021, McKinley Barrier-Free Park Improvements, City of Fraser

Mr. Richard Haberman, City Manager for the City of Fraser, made a PowerPoint presentation and provided handouts in support of the McKinley Barrier-Free Park Improvements project, 12-021. He introduced Ms. Vania Apps, Fraser First Booster Club President, and Ms. Linda Davis-Kirksey, Grant Writer.

The City of Fraser is a small city, bordering Warren, Sterling Heights, Clinton Township and Roseville. The city has a long history of volunteerism and supporters for service organizations. The Fraser First Booster Club worked with the city to develop a site plan and preliminary design for a barrier-free playground at McKinley Park.

The project would include development of ADA-accessible parking lots, ADA-accessible walking path (playscape area), restrooms, removal of existing parking lots and paths, drainage and land preparation, basketball court and picnic pavilion. Match components would include cash match as well as in-kind contributions. The MNRTF grant request is for \$300,000. The project was approved unanimously by the City Council.

The MNRTF grant would provide funding for infrastructure improvements at McKinley Park for barrier/universal accessibility to the park for ADA-compliant parking, as well as provide walking paths to support the goal of a universally barrier-free park.

Ms. Apps provided some additional comments in support of the project. Approval of the grant would enable the park to be made accessible to children of all abilities. Research has shown that recreational outdoor play helps develop social skills.

Ms. Davis-Kirksey provided some additional comments in support of the project. The Macomb Intermediate School District identified to the First Booster Club that there were 25,000 potential families that are affected with special needs. The park is 14 acres and is easily accessible and close to businesses, as well as low-income housing. It is located in a residential area. The project will include urban recreation opportunity and universal accessibility.

Mr. Patrick Waterman, City Manager, and Ms. Michelle Fare, Marketing Coordinator, City of Hudsonville – 12-031, Village Green Property Acquisition, City of Hudsonville

Ms. Michelle Fare, Marketing Coordinator for the City of Hudsonville, made a PowerPoint presentation in support of the Village Green Property Acquisition, 12-031.

The city would like to acquire three parcels (1.08 acres) located in downtown Hudsonville. This would be to develop an urban park downtown to use as a gathering place for residents to focus on outdoor, community-based recreation. The Village Green will be this gathering place.

Ms. Fare pointed out the three parcels' locations via a photograph on PowerPoint.

Some development proposals for the property include a stage, water features and open green space area.

The total cost of the three parcels is \$341,400, with the MNRTF grant request being \$238,900 (with a 30% match).

At this point, Mr. Patrick Waterman, City Manager for City of Hudsonville, made some comments in support of the project. The planning of the Village Green project started in 2004 which was called the Ottawa County Urban Smart Growth Demonstration Project. A plan was developed to attract and retain residents in the downtown area. One of the principles developed was to return to the 20th Century design in the downtown area. The Village Green property is the core feature. There was a survey conducted in 2011 which showed overwhelming support by residents for a revitalized downtown area. Businesses in the area were also in support of the Village Green project.

The creation of an urban park will help provide a better quality of life and placemaking. The park will have accessibility, programming and will encourage recreation.

Hudsonville is a small town, but there are 225,000 people who reside within 10 miles, and is directly between the cities of Holland and Grand Rapids.

The project is an ideal setting for community engagement in a park setting. The city currently lacks a centralized public recreation/green space area. Acquisition of the property will create an urban park setting and will provide accessible parking and pedestrian walkways.

Mr. Paul J. Muelle, Chief of Natural Resources, Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority – 12-057, Lake St. Clair Metropark Land Acquisition, HCMA

Mr. Paul Muelle, Chief of Natural Resources for the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority (HCMA) made a PowerPoint presentation in support of the Lake St. Clair Metropark

Land Acquisition project, 12-057. The project is located in Macomb County on the shores of Lake St. Clair. Lake St. Clair Metropark was formerly known as “Metro Beach Metropark.”

Lake St. Clair Metropark is a 770-acre park and had 1.2 million visitors last year. It is one of the largest remaining coastal wetland areas left on the American shoreline of Lake St. Clair.

The project is to acquire five separate parcels totaling 106 acres adjacent to the Lake St. Clair Metropark Black Creek Marsh. Acquiring this property would put the entire wetland system into public ownership. The Michigan Natural Features Inventory has identified over 170 native species in the marsh system.

Acquisition would simplify future management activities and enhance the potential for hydraulic restoration of the marsh by placing the entire ownership of the wetland under a single ownership. Acquisition would also enhance recreational and educational opportunities.

The acquisition will consist of five parcels totaling 106 acres (85 acres wetland and 21 acres upland) with an estimated value of \$350,000. The total cost of the project is \$475,000. The request from the MNRTF would be \$229,000.

Mr. Mitchell Whisler, Assistant City Engineer for Transportation, City of Lansing – 12-019, Frances Park Trail Improvement, City of Lansing

Mr. Mitchell Whisler, Assistant City Engineer for Transportation for the City of Lansing, made a PowerPoint presentation in support of the Frances Park Trail Improvement project, 12-019.

The Frances Park Trail project is part of an overall regional recreation connection and is included in the city’s five-year recreation plan. Goals in the plan are to expand the existing trail, provide crossing across the Grand River, a greenbelt and regional connection.

Mr. Whisler pointed out regional trail projects in the city via photographs on the PowerPoint presentation. The Frances Park Trail project would provide a recreational link for public area residents, a greenbelt where currently there is none, address safety issues and regional connection for both recreational and utilitarian use.

The improvement project (at Moores River Drive at Waverly Road) would include landscape features (plantings, bike racks, benches), construction of an ADA pathway, and connect the ADA path to the pathway south of Moores River Drive. This would reduce Moores River Drive to two lanes with bike lanes, construct ADA parking, a transition pathway to the river, provide fishing, resting and viewing area and incorporate plantings and trees along the pathway.

At Moores River Drive at Mt. Hope Avenue, it would transition from three to two lanes with bike lanes. In addition, landscape features would include plants, benches, and bike racks in newly created greenbelt areas and an ADA path and ramps would be constructed.

The project cost is \$1.5 million, with a conditional commitment for a Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) Enhancement grant of \$479,800 and DALMAC approved grant of \$20,000. The grant request from the MNRTF is \$300,000. The city is also requesting a \$45,000 grant from the Recreation Passport Program. Local match from the city will be \$650,800.

Mr. DeBrabander pointed out that in the initial review of this project, there were a few items that staff determined to be ineligible and the city has removed those items from the project.

Mr. Jim Schiffer, Consultant, Schiffer Group – 12-105, Christmas Cove Adjacent Property Acquisition, Leelanau Township (Leelanau County); and 12-106, Haserot Park Waterfront Improvements, Village of Northport

Mr. Jim Schiffer, Consultant for the Schiffer Group, provided PowerPoint presentations and handouts for the Christmas Cove Adjacent Property Acquisition, Leelanau Township, 12-105; and Haserot Park Waterfront Improvements, Village of Northport, 12-106 projects.

The Christmas Cove Adjacent Property Acquisition project (12-105) consists of .7 acres of property on Lake Michigan, with 223 feet of frontage. The parcel is adjacent to a well-used and maintained Township Park, which would double the size of the park. Acquisition of this property will provide the critical space required to create universal access to Lake Michigan.

The request from the MNRTF is for \$375,000, with \$125,000 local match from Leelanau Township.

The Haserot Park Waterfront Improvements project (12-106) consists of development of a boulevard and rain garden in the North Marina parking lot, creation of a north outlook to Northport Bay, north and south Northport Bay outlook gazebos, Northport Creek restoration and multiple crossings, universal access to Haserot Park and North Beach, site amenities, Third Street parking and access and pathways/connection to South Beach and G. Marsten Dame Marina.

Development will be for the north portion of Haserot Park. The south portion has been completed.

Mr. Harry Thibault, Niles Township – 12-111, Indiana-Michigan River Valley Trail Development, Niles Township (Berrien County)

Mr. Harry Thibault of Niles Township, made a presentation and provided handouts in support of the Indiana-Michigan River Valley Trail Development, project. 12-111.

Mr. Thibault has been involved with developing this project for many years. Other supporters, planners and partnerships are MDOT, DNR, Berrien County Parks Commission, Berrien County Road Commission, Southwest Michigan Planning Commission, City of Niles, foundations, as well as many city, county and state agencies in Indiana.

The Indiana-Michigan River Valley Trail development project will connect all the existing trail routes. At this point, all but 6-1/2 miles of the trail is a straight route from Niles to Mishawaka, Indiana. Four and one-half of these 6-1/2 miles is through Niles Township.

This trail section would be an alternative means of transportation for the main highway (M-51), which can be heard two blocks away. There are no sidewalks on the highway. In addition, businesses, schools, parks, etc. in the township are within ten blocks of the trail. It is considered to be an urban "Kal-Haven Trail." It is estimated that 500,000 people will benefit from the trail.

Mr. Jason Mangum, Director, Parks, Recreation and Cultural Studies, City of Novi – 12-051, ITC Community Sports Park Trailhead and Trail, City of Novi

Mr. Jason Mangum, Director of Parks, Recreation and Cultural Studies for the City of Novi, made a PowerPoint presentation in support of the ITC Community Sports Park Trailhead and Trail project, 12-051.

City of Novi officials have identified certain priority areas, two of which affect parks and recreation: natural areas, features and community character and also to enhance parks, recreation and cultural services. In 2010, a non-motorized master plan was adopted which helped to prioritize areas for development.

Mr. Mangum pointed out various aspects of the proposed trail project via photographs on PowerPoint. The trail will come down through the City of Novi and connect into Maybury State Park. The trail also connects to the state park via City and Township of Northville from the other side. It then connects to the Hines Drive Trail. Users could get on the trail in Dearborn, travel through Maybury State Park, through Novi and up to the Powerline Trail. The Novi portion of the trail is key to connecting the other trails in southeast Michigan.

The city is currently working with ITC Transmission Company to work out licensing to build trails in the corridor. The company donates \$100,000 a year to the parks foundation.

The trail development will include a non-motorized trail, including restoration, bike racks, park benches, signage and information kiosk.

There is great support for this project from the community and local organizations.

Mr. Tony Comden, President, West Michigan Miracle League; and Mr. John Short, Director, Parks and Recreation, Plainfield Township – 12-040, Miracle Field-West Michigan Sports Complex Development, Plainfield Township (Kent County)

Mr. John Short, Director of Parks and Recreation, Plainfield Township, made a PowerPoint presentation and provided handouts in support of the Miracle Field-West Michigan Sports Complex Development project, 12-040.

Mr. Short advised the Board that the township is absolutely committed to universal design and access. The township is partnering with the West Michigan Miracle League to make this project a reality.

Mr. Comden made some comments in support of the project. This project is important to him as he has a disabled son. He applauded the Board for their comments about the importance of providing recreation opportunities for the disabled community.

The goal of this project is to bring Miracle League baseball to West Michigan. The project should be looked at not just as a baseball field, but an opportunity to provide recreation for the disabled children in West Michigan.

Miracle League baseball is a special brand of baseball that allows children with physical and mental disabilities a chance to play the game. The game is played on a special rubber surface for safety. In addition, every disabled child is accompanied by the “buddy system”, a person who assists in picking up balls for the child, hitting ball, etc.

Mr. Comden pointed out a Miracle League field for the Board via a photograph on PowerPoint. In addition, he read comments of support from a mother in Gladwin who has a disabled child and the opportunities a Miracle League field has provided, and comments from a Miracle League volunteer in Southfield.

There are four Miracle League fields in Michigan: Southfield, Plymouth, Bridgeport Township and Dewitt Township. None of these areas are on the west side of the state. Nationally, over 200,000 children are Miracle League athletes. Bridgeport Township received a MNRTF grant of \$500,000 and Dewitt Township a \$394,200 MNRTF grant for Miracle League fields.

The Miracle Field for Plainfield Township will be located on Ten-Mile Road just north of Grand Rapids, just east of U.S. 131 near Rockford. It is very accessible from the expressway.

Development of the project would include the Miracle field, earthwork, utilities, parking lot and drive, signage, flag pole, scoreboard and sound.

Team members of the project include the West Michigan Sports Commission, West Michigan Miracle League, Kent County, Plainfield Township, Progressive A/E and Owen Ames Kimball.

Chairperson Garner commented that Mr. Comden presented a great case for a regional facility such as this, but the problem is it would be located in the northernmost part of the region.

Mr. Joseph Youngblood, Director, Parks, Recreation and Maintenance; and Ms. Carol Thurber, Engineer, Shelby Township – 12-115, Riverbends Park to Macomb Orchard Trail Connection, Shelby Township (Macomb County)

Mr. Joseph Youngblood, Director of Parks, Recreation and Maintenance, Shelby Township, made a PowerPoint presentation and provided handouts in support of the Riverbends Park to Macomb Orchard Trail Connection project, 12-115.

The project would be to connect the Riverbends Park to Macomb Orchard Trail in Shelby Township.

At this point, Ms. Thurber outlined maps and photographs on PowerPoint. The project would involve construction of approximately three miles of a 10-foot wide asphalt trail. The trail would connect from Shelby Township to the City of Richmond.

The Macomb Orchard Trail also connects to the Clinton River Trail and Paint Creek Trail, which are over 70 miles of trail in Oakland County.

The trail is being designed to include many natural features: forested/woodland areas, historic Clinton/Kalamazoo Canal, a large portion of which will be along the Clinton River, Blue Heron Rookery/Holland Ponds, scenic views, and wildlife.

Ms. Thurber provided a “virtual tour” of the trail via photographs on PowerPoint.

Ms. Debra Davidson, Grant Writer, City of South Haven – 12-096, South Beach Park Extension Acquisition, City of South Haven

Ms. Debra Davidson, Grant Writer for the City of South Haven, made a PowerPoint presentation in support of the South Beach Park Extension Acquisition project, 12-096.

Ms. Davidson stated that the acquisition would include four parcels on the Lake Michigan bluff. These parcels would be for an extension of South Beach Park for the purpose of a recreational trail.

In addition, Ms. Davidson provided photographs, via PowerPoint, of the completed improvements to the South Beach Park. In 2010, the city received a MNRTF grant of \$250,000 for these improvements. Improvements included beach, promenade and connector walks, amenities, playground improvements, accessible upgrades to existing channel view area, timber overlook/seating/interpretive signage, channel parking area, parking lot safety improvements and security lighting.

At this point, Ms. Davidson pointed out, via PowerPoint photographs, the parcels that the city would like to acquire. Chairperson Garner asked if there was any resistance from the surrounding property owners to acquire these parcels. Ms. Davidson responded that they were in support of the acquisition.

Mr. William Drozdalski, Trustee, Suttons Bay Township – 12-068, Herman Community Park Development, Suttons Bay Township (Leelanau County)

Mr. William Drozdalski, Trustee for Suttons Bay Township, made a PowerPoint presentation and provided handouts in support of the Herman Community Park Development project, 12-068.

In 2006, the township was awarded an acquisition grant for this park. The township is now requesting a MNRTF grant for \$185,000 for development of the park. Development will include site preparation and grading, non-motorized universal accessible trail, fishing pond improvements, potable water, irrigation, shade structures and native plant landscaping.

Mr. Drozdalski pointed out aspects of the development proposal via photographs on PowerPoint.

Mr. George Walker, Jr., Supervisor, Yates Township – 12-011, Williams Island Park Renovation, Yates Township (Lake County)

Mr. George Walker, Jr., Supervisor of Yates Township, made a presentation and provided handouts in support of the Williams Island Park Renovation project, 12-011.

Mr. Walker stated that about half of Yates Township is contained within the Manistee National Forest. The year-round population of the township is 714; during the summer months it is around 2,000. Boating, fishing, swimming, picnicking, hiking and biking are activities enjoyed by residents, however, Williams Island Park has no playground equipment, park benches, picnic pavilion, drinking fountain, limited electrical service and parking and few picnic tables and grills. In addition, the restrooms have not been operational in two years.

The MNRTF development grant being requested is to provide two picnic shelters, picnic tables, grills, drinking fountains, concrete boat ramp, skid pier, modern play structure and to expand the beach area. The MNRTF request is for \$225,000.

Chairperson Garner mentioned that the Idlewild area has a lot of history in the state. Mr. Walker stated that there is a lot of potential to revitalize this community, especially along the Pere Marquette snowmobile trail, which runs directly through Idlewild.

Mr. Charters asked if the Flamingo Club was still there. Mr. Walker responded that this is part of the Williams Island renovation. There is a music festival yearly on the island which attracts between 3,000 to 4,000 people.

Ms. Bonnie Wessler, Planning and Development, City of Ypsilanti – 12-120, River's Edge Linear Park and Trail Development, City of Ypsilanti

Ms. Bonnie Wessler, Planning and Development for the City of Ypsilanti, made a PowerPoint presentation and provided handouts in support for the River's Edge Linear Park and Trail Development project, 12-120.

The MNRTF grant request is for \$300,000 and the city will be providing \$292,000 in match. The total project is for \$592,000.

This project is a collaborative effort between the City of Ypsilanti and Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. It will extend the county-wide Border-to-Border Trail from Michigan Avenue, which is located downtown, to on-road facilities at Grove Road. It will provide trail users with a fishing pier, river overlook and public plaza.

Development will replace an existing ad-hoc trail with approximately 800 feet of a 10-foot wide graveled trail (constructed in 2010), 500 feet of eight-foot wide paved trail (built in the 1980s), approximately 200 feet of unpaved footpath and approximately 1500 feet of abandoned railbed. This trail will move approximately 1.2 miles of Border-to-Border Trail from an on-road facility through residential and commercial neighborhoods to off-road facility along the scenic Huron River.

Other development for the project will include a plaza, fishing pier, river overlook, signage and site amenities.

Ms. Wessler pointed out various aspects of the project via photographs on PowerPoint.

Mr. Paul Zardus, Resident of Hayes Township – 12-036, Camp Seagull Acquisition-Lake Charlevoix

Mr. Paul Zardus, resident of Hayes Township, made a presentation in opposition to the Camp Seagull Acquisition-Lake Charlevoix project, 12-036. He is opposed to this project, but not opposed to a park. There has been much opposition to the project.

The problem is if this project is the best location for a park and the financial and maintenance responsibilities that would be involved. This is a small community and could prove to be a tax burden.

Mr. Zardus also feels the township cannot afford the scale of the project that is being proposed. He also is concerned about the wetlands and tree removals.

Mr. Zardus further stated that there is lake access in Young State Park and Whiting Park. In addition, in the township community there is a park that has not been properly supported.

Mr. Charters asked about the removal of trees. Mr. Zardus responded that there were two site plans and he heard that trees would be removed. To put a boat launch and a parking lot in the area, trees would have to be removed.

Chairperson Garner stated since the Public Appearances have concluded, he would like to formally adjourn the meeting as he needs to leave. The remaining Board members will stay for the rest of the agenda items.

IX. ADJOURNMENT.

MOVED BY MR. TORRE, SUPPORTED BY MR. CHARTERS, TO ADJOURN FORMALLY ADJOURN THE MNRTF BOARD MEETING. MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

Chairperson Garner left the Board meeting at 12:00 PM.

Mr. Charters continued the meeting for Chairperson Garner.

V. NEW BUSINESS (continued).

Update on MNRTF Staff Activities

Mr. DeBrabander advised the Board that 2012 applications site inspections (approximately 240 inspections for all Land and Water Conservation Fund/MNRTF/Recreation Passport; 140 were MNRTF) have been completed by the Grant Coordinators. Preliminary scoring meetings have begun.

Grants Management has received a lot of information requests from legislators, some of which has been time-consuming.

In addition, a Senator has asked for a program audit of the MNRTF, which will begin the end of August. It is anticipated that the auditors (five full-time) will be reviewing

documents for about a month and a half and then two or three will remain for a time after that. Mr. Charters asked what they, in particular, were looking for. Mr. DeBrabander responded he did not know. The program was last audited in 2008.

VI. STATUS REPORTS.

DNR Real Estate Report – State Acquisitions

Mr. Steve Sutton, Manager, Real Estate Services Section, Finance and Operations Division, DNR, outlined the DNR Real Estate Report for the Board.

Mr. Sutton pointed out that the Detroit Riverwalk Easements were approved. This was for seven conservation easements along the Detroit River for \$15 million. Also, the Vigo Tract – Gregory State Game Area Land Initiative property was acquired (200 acres) for \$760,000.

There also were five other acquisitions acquired under eco-region consolidation projects. These are examples of why the eco-region consolidation grants are so important to the DNR.

At this point, Mr. Sutton outlined the administrative functions of PA 240 of 2012 (Land Cap Act) which directly involves Real Estate Services Section. These are:

- With new acquisitions, need to notify of estimated PILT payments that would come with the acquisition.
- Effective immediately there is a 4,626,000-acre ownership limit. Currently, our ownership is at 4.589 million acres.
- Effective May 1, 2015, there is a 3,910,000-acre ownership limit north of the Mason-Arenac county line. Currently, this total acreage is at 3.889 million acres.
- Exclusions to the ownership limit are conservation easements and platted lots. Currently there are 250,000 acres of conservation easements statewide. Also, after July 2, 2012, there are exclusions for access land, trails, Commercial Forest Act land, gifts and litigation.
- Land Ownership Records and Web Reporting – Real Estate Services Section keeps track of land ownership at this time.
- A Strategic Plan is to be developed by October 1, 2014. The plan will do the following:
 - a) Divide the state into regions;
 - b) Identify DNR managed lands within each region;
 - c) Develop measurable strategic performance goals for each region for the following:
 1. Maximize access to lands or water
 2. Maximize outdoor recreation opportunities
 3. Forests
 4. Wildlife and fisheries

To assist in achieving the goals, the following needs to be identified:

- Land to be acquired and disposed
- Resource management plans
- Identify other public lands that affect the performance goals
- Identify methods to coordinate achieving the goals recognizing multiple uses, including motorized and non-motorized uses

Mr. Charters stated that one of the desires of the MNRTF Board was to develop ways to do closings faster. He asked with the requirements of PA 240, has a strategic plan been developed, since more work will be involved with less personnel. Mr. Sutton responded not at this time, but this is a serious challenge. Just with the accounting portion it would justify one more full-time position. The section is being internally reorganized to better align with this additional work.

Mr. DeBrabander commented that when Valerie Lafferty was hired as an appraisal reviewer this has taken care of a big backlog of appraisals. This position is partially funded through the MNRTF.

Dr. Moritz stated that the DNR is in the process of building a comprehensive report on land use.

Completed MNRTF Projects Report

Mr. DeBrabander advised the Board that 13 local acquisition and development projects have been completed.

MNRTF Financial Report

Mr. Joe Frick, Assistant Division Chief, Finance and Operations Division, DNR, outlined the MNRTF Financial Report. He mentioned that the Real Estate Services Section was recently audited at a legislator's request. The results of the audit were very positive. We are anticipating favorable results for the MNRTF audit as well.

Mr. Frick stated that the spending plan (5% for investments) should be on target. The equity market has done well over the past 12 months. There has been some turnover in the bond portfolio so some gains were recognized.

The \$1 million identified for program lapses is low. There were \$3.2 million in project withdrawals so far this year. This creates an additional amount of \$250,000 for development projects and additional \$2 million for acquisition projects. There may be some additional money from lapses.

The \$400,000 amount identified for the Grants Management database improvement project is a one-time charge. This money will carry forward into the new fiscal year.

Funds available for 2012 projects are estimated at \$23.7 million for acquisition and \$6.7 million for development. This does not include the amounts for withdrawn projects or project lapses.

MNRTF Land Consolidation and Line Item Department Projects

Mr. DeBrabander stated that the Board has been provided these reports in their Board materials. Mr. Charters asked if this is what the legislature has been watching. Mr. DeBrabander responded that he believes this will be part of the MNRTF audit (as to how quickly the projects are being completed).

Mr. DeBrabander mentioned the "Governor's Dashboard" and the evaluation of programs. The MNRTF program has submitted three metrics for evaluations. One was to make sure projects are getting completed in a timely manner. Staff has been working to keep on top of both local and DNR projects to make sure they are completing their projects in a timely manner.

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

None.

VIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The next meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board is scheduled for 9:00 AM, Wednesday, October 24, 2012, Lansing Community College West Campus, 5708 Cornerstone, Lansing, Michigan.

The meeting was concluded at 12:30 PM.

Bob Garner, Chairperson
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund
Board of Trustees

Steven J. DeBrabander, Manager
Grants Management

DATE

