

MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Minutes of August 20, 2014

Thomas S. Welsh Activity Center, Lake St. Clair Metropark
31300 Metro Parkway, Harrison Township

The meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Board of Trustees commenced at 9:02 AM, Wednesday, August 20, 2014.

The following Board members were present:

Brad Canale
Keith Charters
Keith Creagh
Sam Cummings
Erin McDonough

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

Chairperson Cummings commented on the extraordinary tour of some of the natural and park assets in the area. This included a boat tour across Lake St. Clair. On behalf of all who participated in the tour, he wished to thank all those involved in organizing the events, including Mr. Chris Bunch, Director of the Six Rivers Land Conservancy; SEMCOG and Macomb County.

I. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF JUNE 18, 2014.

Chairperson Cummings called for the adoption of the minutes for the June 18, 2014 MNRTF Board meeting.

**MOVED BY MR. CHARTERS, SUPPORTED BY MS. McDONOUGH, TO
ADOPT THE MINUTES FOR THE JUNE 18, 2014 MNRTF BOARD
MEETING. MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.**

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA FOR MEETING OF AUGUST 20, 2014.

Chairperson Cummings called for the adoption of the agenda for the August 20, 2014 Board meeting.

**MOVED BY DIRECTOR CREAGH, SUPPORTED BY MR. CANALE TO
ADOPT THE AGENDA FOR THE AUGUST 20, 2014 MNRTF BOARD
MEETING.**

Chairperson Cummings wished to modify the agenda to include an update of the Old Mooring Site acquisition project (TF13-131) by Mr. Paul Yauk, Parks and Recreation Division, DNR. The agenda item will be under “Old Business.”

MOTION PASSED, WITH MODIFICATION, WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

III. INTRODUCTIONS.

Mr. Steve DeBrabander, Manager, Grants Management Section, Finance and Operations Division, DNR, introduced himself and Grants Management Section staff: Mr. Jon Mayes (Unit Manager, MNRTF), Ms. Linda Harlow (Administrative Assistant to staff and Board), Ms. Janet Liesman (MNRTF Financial Analyst), Ms. Jule Stafford (Grant Coordinator), Ms. Amy Matisoff (Grant Coordinator), Ms. Christie Bayus (Grant Coordinator) and Ms. Tamara Jorkasky (Grant Coordinator). Mr. DeBrabander also introduced Mr. Joe Frick, Assistant Division Chief, Finance and Operations Division.

The Board members introduced themselves.

PUBLIC APPEARANCES.

Mr. Stan Kurzman, Waterford, Michigan – TF13-131, Old Mooring Site, DNR, Parks and Recreation Division

Mr. Stan Kurzman made some comments opposing a possible boat launch at the Old Mooring Site, located in Peninsula Township, Grand Traverse County (TF13-131). He has a summer home nearby.

Mr. Kurzman supports having the boat launch expanded at Haserot Beach. He contends that a boat launch at the Old Mooring Site would interfere greatly with water sports—kayaking, swimming, etc.

Chairperson Cummings stated that the acquisition was never in question—the resolution by the township has already been received and has local support. The Board motion made at the time of approval of this project was trying to allow some local determination, as there were some differing opinions about what functions should happen on the Old Mooring Site property, as well as the Haserot Beach property.

Ms. Amy Mangus, SEMCOG – Welcome and Presentation on Green Initiative

Ms. Amy Mangus of Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), welcomed the MNRTF Board and staff to southeast Michigan. SEMCOG is made up of seven southeastern Michigan counties – St. Clair, Livingston, Oakland, Macomb, Washtenaw, Wayne and Monroe.

Ms. Mangus made a PowerPoint presentation outlining a green infrastructure plan for southeast Michigan. With green infrastructure, there are many economic benefits. There has been a 3 to 14 percent increase in residential property values when they are located near parks, wetlands and trees. For commercial properties, consumer spending has increased and they return more frequently to stores with tree canopy. Also, there has been an increased rental rate (7 percent higher) where quality landscaping is included.

Green infrastructure vision for southeast Michigan includes:

- Benchmark what we have.
- Vision where we want to go.
- Regional policies of how to get there.

Parks provide the most economic benefit, according to a public poll and stakeholder meetings. A map showing the regional and National Recreation and Park Association averages was outlined.

Ms. Mangus outlined a map showing high quality areas in the region, consisting of recreation and conservation lands, as well as legacy land recommendations. SEMCOG is looking at a way to connect these together.

Accessibility to large parks, water and connectivity to trails were also reviewed.

SEMCOG's visioning includes:

- Mapping Process – stakeholder input
- Mapping Process – consistency with county plans
- Public access – provides greatest economic benefit
- Coordinate visions – municipality, county, HCMA, State of Michigan, private owner
- Creating a coordinated system for parks, recreation and natural resource services

Ms. Mangus further stated that SEMCOG and MNRTF could link together to create the green infrastructure vision. This would include:

- Support linking system
- Ensure accessibility
- Inventory uses and gap analysis
- Common survey
- Include green infrastructure in development projects.

Ms. Mangus thanked the Board for their visit to southeast Michigan.

Ms. Sue Lackey, Legacy Land Conservancy; and Ms. Donna Folland, Oakland County Parks – Huron River Watershed

Ms. Sue Lackey of the Legacy Land Conservancy, made a presentation on the Huron River Watershed. The Huron River Initiative is an informal partnership of non-profit conservancies and public parks and recreation authorities. The Legacy Land Conservancy, with its partners, hopes over the years to develop and bring forward a series of projects that link public lands. As outlined on the map, these include:

- Portage Creek Area – includes acquisitions and conservation easements in and around the Pinckney Recreation Area (PRA). Feature of this project is 223 acres owned by the Detroit Public Schools which is considering a conservation easement with Legacy Land Conservancy.
- Potential agricultural easements on working farms that are inholdings in PRA, as well as others that could be added.
- Connect the University of Michigan’s Stinchfield Woods with PRA to ensure a habitat corridor.
- Farmland protection, recreational opportunities and water quality protection.
- Milford Connectors – includes connecting major public land resources in the Milford area and preserving inholdings and bordering parcels in and around major habitat tracts.
- White Lake Expansion – includes expansion of state and county lands, protection of inholdings and bordering parcels.

Ms. Donna Folland of Oakland County Parks outlined partnerships and funding sources. Funding sources include:

- MNRTF for publicly-held recreational lands.
- Michigan Department of Environmental Quality – conservation easements on lands protecting water quality.
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program funds – previously farmed lands, conservation easements on working farms and other private landowner funding.
- Great Lakes Initiative Funds – restoration of habitat on properties that provide improved water quality.
- Parks and Recreation Commission millage – acquisition and development of recreational lands and connecting trails.
- Foundation grants.
- Private fundraising on the part of conservancies.

Initial partners include:

- Legacy Land Conservancy

- Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission
- Six Rivers Conservancy
- Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission.
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources
- Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority

Mr. Adam Wit and Mr. Kenneth Verkest, Supervisor, Harrison Township (Macomb County) – 14-0216, Nature Trail

Mr. Adam Wit and Mr. Kenneth Verkest, Supervisor, Harrison Township, made a PowerPoint presentation in support of the Nature Trail project, 14-0216. The township submitted applications in 2000, 2001 and 2002 to acquire the property and was not recommended for funding. In 2003, the township was finally approved, but ran into some issues and had to withdraw the grant. In 2007, the township was able to purchase 155 acres of rare, wooded wetlands.

Mr. Wit outlined various features of the trail via photographs on PowerPoint. The bike path trail connects to Lake St. Clair Metropark.

Development for the trail will include construction of the nature trail, boardwalk, overlook, interpretive signage and benches.

Last year the township was awarded a Coastal Zone Management grant for redevelopment of a portion along the lake's edge. The township is looking to add more walkability and paths along this area.

Mr. Wit stated that the project meets all three of the MNRTF Board Initiatives: Trails/Greenways, Wildlife/Ecological Corridor Acquisitions, and Projects Located within Urban Areas.

The township has made a great commitment to trails. It has over eight miles of trails, with 4-1/2 miles added since 2010. Another mile is in the planning stage.

Mr. Tim Phillips, Park Planner, Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority – 14-0127, Stony Creek Boat Launch Redevelopment

Mr. Tim Phillips, Park Planner for Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority, made a PowerPoint presentation in support of the Stony Creek Boat Launch Redevelopment project, 14-0127. The project cost (estimated) is \$280,000 with a grant request of \$50,000 from the MNRTF.

Stony Creek Metropark is located in Macomb County, Washington Township. It was constructed in 1964 and is the second largest metropark at 4,435 acres. It is the second most visited metropark (1.6 million visitors in 2013).

One of the main attractions in the park is the 500-acre Stony Creek Lake. The boat launch provides opportunities to get out on the water to fish, sail, boat and paddle. The ramps provide winter access to the lake during the winter for ice skating and ice fishing. In a 2013 fish survey, 23 species of fish were observed. The state record crappie was caught here in 2000. Stony Creek Lake is the only inland lake in Macomb County with public access.

The boat launch facility is more than 45 years old. Redevelopment of the launch would include:

- Remove the six existing piers.
- Construct four new piers.
- Widen the piers to 5 feet minimum width and provide ADA access to each pier.
- Change the scope and length of the concrete ramps to reduce problems launching larger and longer boats.
- Change the pavement configuration in front of the launch and create more open space around the boat launch restroom building, which will be removed and replaced as part of a separate project in 2015.

Kayak and canoe launch facilities will be improved by:

- A sandy soft shore launch will be added for canoes/kayaks and paddle boarders.
- The launch facility will be constructed west of the boat launch away from motorized boat traffic.
- A floating EZ Launch dock system will be installed to assist paddlers getting into and out of kayaks.
- Other amenities are picnic tables, grill, barrier-free parking spaces, shade trees, lighting and signage.
- Accessible walkways will connect both launch facilities as well as the existing fishing pier and restroom building.

Three separate advocacy groups have reviewed the project to insure it addressed accessibility issues – Macomb-Oakland Regional Center, Ann Arbor Center for Independent Living, and Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America.

Mr. Roger Sabine, Director of Parks, Kent County – 14-0229, Two Rivers Park Addition

Mr. Roger Sabine, Director of Parks for Kent County, made a PowerPoint presentation in support of the Two Rivers Park Addition project, 14-0229. The goal of this acquisition project is to create a regional park at the confluence of the Coldwater and Thornapple Rivers.

In 2006, the county bought the current property for the park. The 2014 request is to acquire 170 acres to the existing 91-acre park. The goal is to develop a water trail on the Thornapple River. The property includes rolling fields, open meadows, marshes, prairie potholes, wooded slopes, as well as frontage on the Coldwater and Thornapple Rivers.

Chairperson Cummings asked about access and parking at the park. Mr. Sabine responded that there will be two kayak launches to the Thornapple River, as well as rentals that the county would operate. Public roads would be in the area. Parking would be available.

Mr. John Dupray, Mayor; and Mr. Lee Miller, Director of Parks and Recreation, City of New Baltimore – 14-0074, Festival Park Universal Access

Mr. John Dupray, Mayor; and Mr. Lee Miller, Director of Parks and Recreation, City of New Baltimore, made a PowerPoint presentation in support of the Festival Park Universal Access project, 14-0074. He advised the Board that in 2014, the City of New Baltimore was voted the safest city in the State of Michigan, and is one of the fastest growing communities in the state.

The Festival Park project is the result of strong collaboration with Bay Rama, which is a non-profit organization that has raised funds specifically to purchase land and develop Festival Park. To date, over \$750,000 in cash and in-kind services for the development of the park has been raised.

Bay Rama has invested over \$350,000 in the park. This involves 40 acres of park land developed in a prime local residential community. It has a high volume for all aspects of recreation usage, with a one-mile walking path that encircles the entire park.

Development of the park will include:

- Universal design elements.
- Infrastructure improvements with accessibility features.
- Handicapped park and pathway entrances.
- Improvements for universal accessibility and ADA to allow all residents the ability to recreate and participate equally.
- Comfort station with universal design elements and features.
- Universal design pavilion.

Festival Park will provide universal accessibility and infrastructure improvements to allow users to move freely between the support and comfort facilities. It is a destination park for Macomb County residents and visitors, as well as residents of the Anchor Bay community.

Ms. Nancy Winzer, City of Port Huron – 14-0138, Lakeside Park Universal Redevelopment

Ms. Nancy Winzer, City of Port Huron, made a PowerPoint presentation in support of the Lakeside Park Universal Redevelopment project, 14-0138. The City of Port Huron has a population of 30,000. The Parks and Recreation Department also serves and collaborates with four other townships in the area. The city sits along the St. Clair River.

Lakeside Park is located along Lake Huron, which includes 1,100 feet of lakefront property. The park is 17.5 acres in size and is the crown jewel of the city's park system. It is a very popular tourist destination.

Unique assets of Lakeside Park include:

- It is along a National Water Trail, designated this year and the first in Michigan.
- Spawning of sturgeon.
- Along Lake Huron.
- Provides fishing, paddle boarding and boating.
- Relaxing with the beautiful sights of Lake Huron.

The park dates back to the 1890s and has served the public for many years. Some features of the park are becoming quite worn. The community has raised \$70,000 for renovation. If the project is funded, improvements would include:

- Build a new comfort station.
- Make beach accessible to all.
- Provide areas for people to sit and enjoy Lake Huron.
- Make sidewalk ADA accessible.

Parks help create a community by developing a healthy, livable, and walkable lifestyle. They also draw business and industry to the community. Lakeside Park has thousands of visitors each week. According to "Pure Michigan" the average tourist spends \$116.00 per day and \$366.00 overnight.

Ms. Jeanne VanZoeren and Mr. Jim Sullivan, Board Members, Friends of the Blue Star Trail, Saugatuck Township – 14-0185, Blue Star Highway Trail

Ms. Jeanne VanZoeren and Mr. Jim Sullivan, Board Members of the Friends of the Blue Star Trail, made a PowerPoint presentation in support of Saugatuck Township's Blue Star Highway Trail project, 14-0185.

Mr. Sullivan outlined the project. The Friends of the Blue Star Trail has been the driving force for the development of a safe, accessible trailway to connect communities along the 20-mile route from South Haven and Saugatuck. The proposed project would include the construction of a paved, 20-mile trail. This would be a multi-use, all-season trail for walking, biking, hiking, skiing or snowshoeing.

The Blue Star Trail becomes the missing link in a series of statewide trail that will link east to west and north to south. The trail route is broken into five primary construction phases. Phase I has been endorsed and one mile completed by the City of the Village of Douglas. The second mile will be completed in 2015. Funding is being requested of the MNRTF for Phase III. All phases are expected to be completed by 2020. Cost of the 20-mile trail is estimated at \$6.1

million. This also includes a Trail Maintenance Endowment for long-term maintenance. Phases will be a “pay-as-you-go” implementation.

Development of the trail is a true collaboration between private and public sectors. The majority of the funds are coming from government grants.

Partnerships include:

- Friends of the Blue Star Trail
- Allegan County Board of Commissioners
- Allegan County Road Commission
- Allegan County Community Foundation (serves as “fiduciary agent” for the trail and provides logistical support for fundraising)
- City of Saugatuck
- City of South Haven
- City of the Village of Douglas
- Saugatuck Township

Formal resolutions of support have been provided by City of South Haven, South Haven Township, Casco Township, Ganges Township, City of the Village of Douglas, City of Saugatuck and Saugatuck Township.

The Saugatuck Township portion of the trail will:

- Reconnect Lakeshore residents south of “the Washout” to the village and city again.
- Five major parks within 1-2 miles (two Lake Michigan beaches).
- Connect both the village and the city to the Saugatuck Dunes State Park via the Holland trail north of town.
- Promote non-vehicular traffic to Saugatuck-Douglas shops, galleries, restaurants and riverfront attractions.
- Ensures safety of pedestrians and cyclists.

Mr. Mark Brochu, Director of Parks and Recreation, St. Clair County – 14-0093, Blue Water River Walk Phase 2 Acquisition; and 14-0094, Bouvier Bay Waterfront

Mr. Mark Brochu, Director of Parks and Recreation, St. Clair County, made a PowerPoint presentation in support of the Bouvier Bay Waterfront project, 14-0094. The acquisition is to acquire 9.15 acres on Bouvier Bay of Lake St. Clair at Beaubien Creek. The property is an island in name only, with the bridge being approximately four feet.

The MNRTF grant request is for \$666,000.00, with 26 percent local match.

The property will provide universal access to the riverfront for swimming, fishing, paddling, birding and site seeing.

Mr. Brochu proceeded to outline the Blue Water River Walk Phase 2 Acquisition project, 14-0093. This acquisition is to acquire approximately 2.1 acres adjacent to the St. Clair River along the Blue Water Riverwalk, north of the 2.75-acre parcel that was recently acquired, with assistance of the MNRTF, for the restoration of wetlands. The project will also support activities on the River Walk.

Facilities to be developed will include a children's playground, picnic shelter, bike racks, interpretive and information panels, picnic tables and native trees and shrubs.

The MNRTF grant request is for \$118,400, with 26 percent local match.

Mr. Brad Barrett, City Manager, City of Vassar – 14-0070, Cass River Greenway Water Trail Development

Mr. Brad Barrett, City Manager for the City of Vassar, made a PowerPoint presentation in support of the Cass River Greenway Water Trail Development project, 14-0070. The City of Vassar is located in Tuscola County (thumb of Michigan), along the M-15 corridor and Cass River.

For many years, the Cass River has been viewed as an obstacle or threat to the community. Recently that opinion has changed to an asset and a recreation resource for the community, thanks to the Cass River Greenway Committee. The committee is made up of volunteers, two counties and multiple jurisdictions.

The river obstruction (dam) was removed with the assistance of funds from the Saginaw Watershed Initiative Network, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Tuscola County Community Fund and DNR's Dam Management grant program.

The city is requesting MNRTF funds to develop a kayak launch/canoe launch, fishing area/dock, pathway and public parking. These will be located in a gathering place in a park-like setting along the river.

Mr. Barrett further outlined various aspects of the project via maps on PowerPoint.

The estimated cost of the project is \$65,100.

There are two public access areas for the Cass River Water Trail – in the City of Frankenmuth and Tuscola Township. The water trail is 27.2 miles long.

The Saginaw Watershed Initiative Network has committed \$20,000 and Tuscola County Community Foundation committed \$2,500 for the project. The city is requesting a \$42,600 grant from the MNRTF.

The project has much support from the City of Frankenmuth, neighboring townships and others.

V. OLD BUSINESS.

Mr. Paul Yauk, Parks and Recreation Division, DNR - TF13-131, Old Mooring Site Acquisition – UPDATE

Mr. Paul Yauk, Parks and Recreation Division, DNR, updated the Board on the Old Mooring Site Acquisition, TF13-131. He stated that the DNR continues to work with Peninsula Township. The most recent meeting was last week. Ideas, concepts, and plans were discussed.

The township is committed to the project. There is a 2013 resolution from the township board supporting the application.

One thing that is agreed upon by all is safety – we want to separate the issues of the boaters and the swimmers that are on the site right now at Haserot Beach. Parking is the other issue. Finally, there is a need for additional Great Lakes boating. Boaters and fishing clubs from other regions are coming out and voicing their support.

One of the issues from the last meeting was what type of soil conditions are on the site. DNR staff went through the Michigan State University archives and these records showed that even though the water depths went up and down, the shoreline was consistent.

Chairperson Cummings reiterated that it was never the Board's intention to put the acquisition in question, but rather to have local support and try to facilitate local discussion in the most efficient and cost-effective use for the site. It was the intent of the Board's previous motion that there was support from Peninsula Township for the project, and this has been done.

Chairperson Cummings further stated that this is an important piece of property and it is important that it is in public use. It has local township support.

Director Creagh stated that this is an important acquisition for the DNR, relative to natural resources and to access to the Great Lakes. The acquisition was never in doubt. No one ever contested the acquisition, but use of the property. He supports Chairperson Cummings' comments. Ms. McDonough and Mr. Charters agreed.

Mr. Canale presented the following motion:

MOVED BY MR. CANALE, SUPPORTED BY MS. McDONOUGH, THAT IN THE BEST LONG-TERM INTEREST FOR THE PEOPLE OF MICHIGAN, MOVE TO PROCEED ACQUIRING THE OLD MOORING SITE [TF13-131] FOLLOWING DUE DILIGENCE. IF ACQUISITION IS COMPLETED, DNR'S PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION SHALL WORK EXPEDITIOUSLY WITH LOCAL INTERESTS TO ASCERTAIN PRIORITY OPTIONS FOR A PUBLIC BOAT LAUNCH. THROUGH

AN OPEN DEMOCRATIC PROCESS, THE TOWNSHIP BOARD SHOULD THEN PASS A RESOLUTION INDICATING LOCATION OF SUCH BOAT LAUNCH WITHIN 90 DAYS AFTER CLOSING THE PROPERTY. IF THE TOWNSHIP BOARD FAILS TO PROVIDE A RESOLUTION, DNR'S PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION, BEING THE LAND MANAGING AGENCY OF THIS STATE-OWNED PARCEL, WILL DETERMINE THE BOAT LAUNCH LOCATION.
MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

MNRTF Board Subcommittees – Funding and Finance and Program Review – UPDATES

Mr. Jon Mayes outlined progress of the MNRTF Board's Funding and Finance Subcommittee. Chairperson Cummings and Mr. Canale head up this subcommittee. There has been some discussion relative to moving forward to have a facilitator better analyze how to partner with foundations, as to projects such as the Governor's Showcase Trail.

Chairperson Cummings continued by stating the Funding and Finance Subcommittee has had a couple of meetings and connected with a couple of Michigan foundations and other parties relative to outdoor recreation and conservation. The net result was in order to come up with an action plan, we need to come up with a shared vision of all the constituent groups, taking into account all the work that has already been done regarding land use, etc. It is the subcommittee's intention to move forward using some private and philanthropic support, as well as DNR funds, to facilitate a discussion or input from the various interest groups to come up with shared vision that can be put into operating plans.

The goal is to use the universal Governor's Showcase Trail as the first project that is believed to be a model for collaboration in the future – using regional, state, private business and philanthropic efforts to achieve a lot of the public outdoor recreation and conservation goals.

Mr. Canale stated that it is a very doable plan to achieve trails over a number of years. The dollar figure that was brought up was \$250 million. Between foundation participation, community, MNRTF and current owners gifting land, it is a great vision as to what could be achieved over 10-15 years.

Mr. Charters asked if there was a sincere effort from the community foundations to be involved in this. Chairperson Cummings responded yes; however, they do not have entrepreneurial funds available for efforts like this. As a result, the subcommittee has gone out independently and talked to some people, most who wish to remain anonymous, to fund the project. Funding sources for the project would be MNRTF, Council of Michigan Foundations, private donations, business, state, DNR, etc. The facilitation will involve all of the potential sources. Over the coming months, we intend to come up with a work plan or scope of who the sources will be and what the work should be.

Mr. Mayes continued by outlining updates from the MNRTF Board's Program Review Subcommittee. Ms. McDonough and Mr. Charters head up this subcommittee. There were

three meetings held with stakeholders over the course of the summer. Stakeholders attending were Michigan Recreation and Park Association, various DNR divisions, regional planning commissions, and conservancies. The subcommittee came up with a Draft Summary plan which will be posted on the DNR's website.

There was discussion of invasive species. It was discussed to ask the applicants when applying for MNRTF dollars to provide their plan for dealing with invasive species on the property.

Trails and Urban Areas were discussed and suggested they be maintained as Board priorities. Economic Impact of a project was discussed and there is not a readily available tool to determine this factor.

The draft summary will be put on the DNR's website for additional comments.

Ms. McDonough thanked all who attended the subcommittee meetings and helped develop the draft summary. She encouraged all to read the draft and provide comments. One of things there was a lot of comment on was strategic investment. This is outlined under "Priority Projects" in the draft.

Another item discussed was local recreation plans and how they could be utilized to gather some of the gap analysis data.

Mr. Charters stated that as this information is made available for the public to comment, we should include a date to get responses back. The Board will need the final report at the October meeting to make a motion to move on so staff can include in the guidelines booklets for 2015.

VI. NEW BUSINESS.

Update on MNRTF Staff Activities

Mr. DeBrabander outlined updates of various MNRTF staff activities:

- Grant Coordinators have visited approximately 240 project sites. This includes MNRTF, Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) and Recreation Passport Grant applications.
- Application scoring has been completed for LWCF and Recreation Passport Grant applications. The goal is to make preliminary scores available by mid-September on MiRecGrants. All applicants will be notified when their preliminary score is available.
- Staff is continuing to work on MiRecGrants and more progress is being made.
- Progress is being made on Post-Completion Self-Certification inspections. There are approximately 4,000 sites – between LWCF and MNRTF. These projects must be inspected every five years. The Self-Certification inspection process was instituted a year ago. Linda Harlow has been heading up this process.

- Staff has been attending many park dedications/ribbon-cutting ceremonies. This is now a requirement for MNRTF, LWCF and Recreation Passport Grant programs.
- Staff also participated on the Board's Funding and Finance/Program Review Subcommittees.
- Grants Management Section will be getting a new grant program – Aquatic Invasive Species Grant Program. The program will start October 1 and have \$3.6 million to give out in grants. This is the 11th grant program in the section.
- Christie Bayus is now the Program Manager for the LWCF, Recreation Passport and Marine Safety grant programs. In addition, she will continue to be the regional contact/grant coordinator for the Northwest Michigan counties (Region 2). The Grant Coordinator position for the Upper Peninsula has been posted.

Mr. Charters asked if the Post-Completion Self-Certification inspections included the State projects. Mr. DeBrabander responded yes; Parks and Recreation and Forest Resources Division staff have received lists of their projects that require inspection. Inspections also will identify any conversions and if signs are in place.

Mr. Charters asked if many conversions have been found. Mr. DeBrabander responded that through this process a few conversions have been identified. The vast majority of issues discovered were not having a sign in place. Mr. Charters asked if conversions are presented to the Board for approval. Mr. DeBrabander responded no, unless it is a unique, controversial issue. Most conversions are quite simple to remedy and are handled through the appraisal process.

Mr. Charters asked if the Board could be made aware of conversions. Mr. DeBrabander responded that this will be added as a standing item under "Staff Reports" and will be for the Board's information only.

Director Creagh thanked Mr. DeBrabander for attending meetings in 10 counties involving management of state lands. He also mentioned the new Invasive Species grant program and that there may be some opportunities to apply for a grant. He also mentioned the Wildlife Habitat and Aquatic Habitat Grant programs and that we are trying to get some uniformity, transparency and accountability for them.

In addition, the DNR divisions are working hard to clean up and close out any existing old projects that are still active. We are looking to clean up the active Detroit waterfront projects.

TF13-029, Attica Township Park Playground Redevelopment, Attica Township – PROJECT WITHDRAWAL

Mr. DeBrabander stated that this grant was for \$50,000, awarded in 2013.

**MOVED BY MR. CHARTERS, SUPPORTED BY MS. McDONOUGH, TO
ACCEPT THE WITHDRAWAL OF TF13-029, ATTICA TOWNSHIP PARK
PLAYGROUND REDEVELOPMENT, ATTICA TOWNSHIP.
MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.**

VII. STATUS REPORTS.

DNR Real Estate Report – State Acquisitions

Mr. Charters commented on the report. There are some great acquisition projects that have been acquired. A couple of these acquisitions created a total infill of the state's ownership. He expressed his appreciation to staff for successfully acquiring these parcels.

Completed MNRTF Projects Report

No discussion.

MNRTF Financial Report

Mr. Joe Frick outlined the MNRTF Financial report. He stated that not much has changed from the last report presented to the Board in June.

He outlined for the audience how the MNRTF receives and distributes its funding. By Constitution, only twenty-five percent can be allocated for development projects; with 75% going towards acquisition. Lapses and withdrawals are also returned to the fund.

Estimated funds available this year are \$19.5 million for acquisition and \$4.2 for development.

Mr. Canale suggested that we identify a Board meeting date to have a discussion regarding the 25 percent restriction for development. Mr. DeBrabander mentioned that as of today there is \$19.5 million available for acquisition; there is \$18.5 million in requests. For development, there is \$4.2 million available and \$26 million in requests.

Ms. McDonough suggested that if it is put on the October Board meeting agenda that we reach out to the advocacy groups that would want to engage in this conversation.

Mr. Canale added that now that we have more acquisition money available than requests it does not mean we need to award all of the allocation for projects. We need to allocate some funds for trails and should budget an amount.

Mr. Canale asked if the Board could get a five-year report on returns (withdrawals/lapses) of projects. He especially was interested in the multi-million dollar projects. Mr. DeBrabander responded that this can be provided. Some of the withdrawals are attributed to why there is

such a large balance available for acquisitions. Also, there has been the problem with landowners not wishing to sell their property after the appraisal(s) have been completed.

Ms. McDonough stated that even though it has been mentioned about allocating (a higher percentage of) funds toward trails, we are not there yet. The Board needs to have this discussion to make sure this is the direction we actually want to go.

Mr. Canale stated that there are high strategic reasons for going forward with requests rather than to battle over price of the property later on. He wants to make sure when a request is made, that it is for the strategic long-term interest of the community or the state to acquire the property.

MNRTF Land Consolidation and Line Item Department Projects

No discussion.

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

Ms. Melinda Milos-Dale, Director of Parks and Recreation, Oakland Township, wanted to express the township's appreciation to the MNRTF for all their support over the years. She outlined several township projects that the MNRTF has assisted in.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The next meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board is scheduled for 9:00 AM, Wednesday, October 22, 2014, Lansing Community College West Campus, 5708 Cornerstone, Lansing, Michigan.

X. ADJOURNMENT.

**MOVED BY MR. CHARTERS, SUPPORTED BY DIRECTOR CREAGH, TO
ADJOURN THE MEETING. MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 Noon.

Sam Cummings, Chairperson
Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund
Board of Trustees

Steven J. DeBrabander, Manager
Grants Management Section
Finance and Operations Division

DATE

