

MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Minutes of December 3, 2014
Lansing Community College West Campus
5708 Cornerstone, Lansing
9:00 AM

The meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Board of Trustees commenced at 9:05 AM, Wednesday, December 3, 2014.

The following Board members were present:

Brad Canale
Keith Charters
Mark Hoffman (for Keith Creagh)
Sam Cummings
Erin McDonough

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 OCTOBER 22, 2014.

Chairperson Cummings called for the adoption of the minutes for the October 22, 2014 MNRTF Board meeting.

**MOVED BY MS. McDONOUGH, SUPPORTED BY MR. CANALE, TO
ADOPT THE MINUTES FOR THE OCTOBER 22, 2014 MNRTF BOARD
MEETING. MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.**

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA FOR THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 3, 2014.

Chairperson Cummings called for the adoption of the agenda for the December 3, 2014 MNRTF Board meeting.

**MOVED BY MR. CANALE, SUPPORTED BY MR. CHARTERS, TO ADOPT
THE AGENDA FOR THE DECEMBER 3, 2014 MNRTF BOARD MEETING.
MOTION PASSED 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. Christie Bayus (Program Manager, LWCF/Recreation Passport/Marine Safety Grant Programs and Grant Coordinator), Ms. Janet Liesman (MNRTF Financial Analyst), Ms. Amy Matisoff (Grant Coordinator), and Ms. Tamara Jorkasky (Grant Coordinator). Two new Grants Management staff members include Ms. Merrie Carlock (Grant Coordinator) and Ms. Kammy Frayre (Program Manager, Invasive Species Grant Program). Mr. DeBrabander also introduced Mr. Joe Frick, Assistant Division Chief, Finance and Operations Division; and Ms. Sharon Schafer, Chief, Finance and Operations Division.

The Board members introduced themselves.

At this point, Chairperson Cummings advised the Board that Mr. Charters was retiring and that today was his last meeting. Chairperson Cummings stated that it has been an honor to serve on the Board with Mr. Charters over the past four years, and that he has been a great mentor. Mr. Charters has served 19 years on the MNRTF Board, among other volunteer activities. All of us will miss him and his great knowledge and history of the MNRTF program.

Chairperson Cummings presented Mr. Charters with a retirement plaque in honor of his service to the MNRTF Board.

Mr. Charters stated that the MNRTF Board members are great and he feels confident that they will carry on with the goals of the program. There has been quite a transition over the past few years and now the MNRTF is taking on the functions of a “foundation”. He felt that this was a good time to move on. Mr. Charters mentioned that he can move around the state and look at projects funded with MNRTF funding, and know he had a vote in their acquisition and/or development.

IV. PUBLIC APPEARANCES.

Ms. Debra Kortas, Bundy Hill Off-Road Recreation – Ms. Kortas described her concern as: “The duplicative nature of establishing this DNR-funded ORV park and its impacts on private recreation providers.”

Ms. Debra Kortas, owner and operator of Bundy Hill Off-Road Recreation in Jerome, Michigan, made a PowerPoint presentation, outlining their business operation and expressing her opposition to TF14-0191, Oakland County Adventure Park Partnership, an application submitted by the DNR, Parks and Recreation Division for \$2.9 million.

Ms. Kortas stated that Bundy Hill Off-Road Recreation was established in 2009. The facility is an old gravel pit consisting of 350 acres of excavating land. This has been family owned since

1954. Over \$800,000 has been invested into the park, with an additional \$200,000 planned for enhancements this year. There have been no fatalities on the property since its conception.

Ms. Kortas questioned the need for another ORV recreational park based on the fact that Bundy Hill provides new and exciting, non-traditional off-road experiences for the novice as well as the seasoned thrill-seekers in southeastern Michigan. Their contribution to Somerset Township and Hillsdale County is significant and would be damaged greatly by the creation of a new park.

Bundy Hills Off-Road Recreation is less than 100 miles from many major cities and Groveland Township. One-third of their customers come from the zip codes surrounding the proposed site. A loss of business would have a significant impact on not only Bundy Hill Off-Road Recreation, but on the area.

Ms. Kortas further stated that the two sites are very similar, as viewed by an aerial map. She stated this is excavated property and asked if it even meets the criteria for a natural resource grant. She also asked if this could be considered mine abandonment. They had to conduct an environmental study when they were considering purchasing their property.

Recreational areas already meet the needs for the off-road enthusiast nearby. These include: Bundy Hill Recreation Company, Genesee County Mounds Park (23 miles from proposed site) and Rocks and Valleys Off-Road Park (less than two hours from proposed site). These offer the same activities as the new park proposes. The already established off-road parks all have unique non-competitive attributes that complement each other.

Ms. Kortas stated that rangers are on site during operating hours. They assist, recover, aid and enforce the rules. As a result, there have been few injuries and no fatalities. In 2013, \$89,000 was spent on trail maintenance due to wear from vehicles.

Ms. Kortas believes that public funding was intended to fund where private investment is not meeting needs. She feels Bundy Hill Off-Road Recreation is meeting the needs of off-roaders in Michigan already. After investing over \$800,000 into Bundy Hill Off-Road Recreation, she asks that the Board rethink funding of a new off-road park so close as there is not enough demand. With the building of the Oakland County off-road park, it will be detrimental to Bundy Hill and local businesses in the community and, because customer saturation will be split between the parks, no one will prosper.

Bundy Hill Off-Road Recreation and Rocks and Valleys have been open five or more years and have created a loyal customer base at no cost to townships, counties or the State of Michigan.

Mr. DeBrabander answered the question regarding the criteria of eligibility. If the land was already publicly owned and being used for recreation, it would not be eligible. This land would be providing outdoor recreation which makes it eligible.

Ms. Kortas mentioned the mine abandonment and that it falls under federal guidelines. Mr. DeBrabander stated that he does not know the answer to this question. Parks and Recreation Division staff or Oakland County Parks and Recreation may have the answer to this.

Mr. Canale asked about the potential market for the property. Mr. Dan Stencil, Executive Officer, Oakland County Parks and Recreation, responded that the DNR's ORV Plan of 2008 indicated that close-to-home recreation is a key and an important part of ORV use. A lot of people will use these facilities because they have an opportunity to make a day trip. There seems to be a need, especially in the urban areas of southeast Michigan, for additional experiences where this area could serve as a gateway to public and private recreation statewide by providing close-to-home experiences.

Ms. McDonough commented that ORV uses are one of the fastest growing forms of recreation. Mr. Stencil further stated that there have been significant reports by the local and state ORV clubs as well as the business community in terms of opportunities to sell, test drive and use ORV vehicles.

Mr. Charters asked about the expense of maintenance for the proposed new facility and will Oakland County be providing this function. Mr. DeBrabander responded that this is still under discussion. Mr. Stencil responded that will be formalized down the road as the property has not yet been acquired. Mr. Charters said there are existing state parks that need maintenance improvements. Rather than seeing a business go bankrupt, he would rather see money be used for existing parks.

Mr. Tom Bailey, Executive Director, Little Traverse Conservancy

Mr. Tom Bailey, Executive Director for Little Traverse Conservancy, wanted to commend Grants Management staff for all their hard work on scoring the applications.

He also commended the Board for their role in determining the projects to be recommended. These are not easy decisions to make on the development side.

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

Mr. Chris Bunch, Executive Director, Six Rivers Land Conservancy, stated that it has been a privilege to share in the legacy of Mr. Charters, both on the MNRTF Board and also the Natural Resources Commission.

Mr. Bunch further stated he supports the Oakland County Adventure Park Partnership ORV project (TF14-0191) and feels it is very important. There is a critical need in the southeastern portion of the state to provide large-scale outdoor recreational opportunities in proximity to the population base in the state. Providing ORV recreation opportunities close to people in this area will do exactly what the state ORV plan is striving to.

Mr. Bunch further stated he would always advocate for access and acquisition of natural resources based recreation.

Mr. James Biehl, Legislative Aide for Representative Andrea LaFontaine – TF14-0074, Festival Park Universal Accessibility, City of New Baltimore

Mr. James Biehl, Legislative Aide for Representative Andrea LaFontaine, wanted to express the Representative's support for the Festival Park Universal Accessibility project submitted by the City of New Baltimore (TF14-0074).

Chairperson Cummings pointed out that the MNRTF Board and staff visited this project in August with the Mayor of New Baltimore. Even though the project did not score very high, it is still up for funding consideration. He stated the Board is grateful for Representative LaFontaine's leadership in natural resources.

Ms. Marlene Golovich, Township Clerk, Hayes Township (Charlevoix County) – TF14-0232, Camp Sea-Gull Boat Launch, Hayes Township

Ms. Marlene Golovich, Township Clerk, Hayes Township (Charlevoix County), stated that Hayes Township was awarded an acquisition grant in 2012 for Camp Sea-Gull (20 acres). The park is open 24-hours a day, seven days a week.

The development application submitted for possible funding is to provide access to Lake Charlevoix with development of a boat launch. The township has been awarded a Waterways Fund grant which would assist in the development.

Chairperson Cummings asked if there was a cross-over of the two accesses from Young State Park. Ms. Golovich responded that the boat launch at Young State Park was not usable because the water level was down last year. It may get more use if the water level is up next year, but in essence it was not usable.

Mr. Charters responded that there is a lot of dredging needed for the proposed boat launch.

Mr. Robert DeVore, Past President, Great Lakes Four-Wheel Drive Association; and Treasurer, United Four-Wheel Drive Association – TF14-0191, Oakland County Adventure Park Partnership, DNR, Parks and Recreation Division

Mr. Robert DeVore, Past President, Great Lakes Four-Wheel Drive Association; and Treasurer, United Four-Wheel Drive Association, made comments in support of TF14-0191, Oakland County Adventure Park Partnership, DNR, Parks and Recreation Division. He stated "build it and they will come." His group is growing and is very enthusiastic. The proposed project is within close proximity of users and it is all about location.

Mr. Tom Foret, Supervisor, Hampton Township – TF14-0151, Finn Road Park Improvements, Hampton Township

Mr. Tom Foret, Supervisor, Hampton Township, made comments in support of the Finn Road Park Improvements project (TF14-0151). Improvements will include a one-third mile path through woodlands/wetlands with an observation tower overlooking the Saginaw Bay, bench, interpretive sign, paved handicap accessible parking to existing parking area. Improvements will also include the dredging of existing boat launch basin.

He pointed out various aspects of the project and locations to other areas via a map.

Mr. Foret further stated that the project was not given any “Trail” points. He said that the existing 2.5-mile trail, plus the future regional trail, will be connected. He feels they should have received the “Trail” points.

Ms. Emily Meyerson, Northern Lower Peninsula Trailway Coordinator; and Mr. Ralph Ochs, President, Village of Wolverine – TF14-0171, Renovation and Improvements to Lumberman Park and Trailhead, Village of Wolverine

Ms. Emily Meyerson, Northern Lower Peninsula Trailway Coordinator; and Mr. Ralph Ochs, President, Village of Wolverine, made comments in support of the Renovation and Improvements to Lumberman Park and Trailhead project (TF14-0171).

Ms. Meyerson stated that the village received a Recreation Improvement Fund grant to help with their match. This project is in alignment with the Northcentral State Trail, which is part of the Governor’s Showcase Trail in the north region.

Ms. Meyerson commented about the point (scoring) system of applications. In 2002, the Village of Wolverine applied for a grant for a similar project. The Northcentral State Trail was not developed at that point. In the time that it took to get the grant, there was new leadership in the village. If the village took the grant, it would bankrupt them as there wasn’t enough money to complete it, so it was withdrawn. The scoring issue is this project did not receive points for never receiving a grant (40 points).

Mr. Ochs added that when the village withdrew the previous grant, it was before his administration. He was elected in 2004. His predecessor had resigned and his wife was treasurer. Both moved out of the area. This created a void in getting the grant started. There was no way the village could get the project going in such a short time frame.

Mr. Glen Chown, Executive Director, Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy

Mr. Glen Chown, Executive Director, Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, wished to thank Mr. Charters for all his dedication to the MNRTF for many years. He has served the MNRTF Board with distinction.

Mr. Chown also thanked Mr. Charters for the balance in projects he has recommended over the years – between local units of government, regions of the state, and DNR projects. Mr. Charters has also asked tough questions of applicants and staff and have expected them to “do their homework” in advance of the Board making their final recommendations.

V. OLD BUSINESS.

Funding Amounts Available for Grant Awards

Chairperson Cummings commented on the new Excel spreadsheet system that has been prepared by Ms. Janet Liesman and other Grants Management staff. This new system automatically will show balances when grants are recommended and balances remaining.

Mr. Frick outlined the funding amounts available for grant awards for 2015. The investment returns were more than anticipated. This came in at \$40 million (closer to 17 percent than the assumed average 5.5 percent). There is more money than anticipated in the Stabilization Reserve.

The total amount available from FY 2014 revenue is \$14.5 million (investment income distribution-\$14.1 million and other income-\$394,610).

The total for acquisition grants is \$21.8 million. This includes \$7.6 million from revenue, \$10.8 million from lapses, and \$3.2 million from withdrawn grants.

The total for development grants is \$4.4 million. This includes \$3.6 million from revenue, \$653,356 from lapses, and \$118,400 from withdrawn grants.

Mr. Frick outlined the “Unawarded Amounts (prior to FY 2013)” under the Stabilization Reserve Balances. Of these totals, the Board could use \$1.9 million to award more development grants this year. The Board would need to make a motion to use this extra amount for development grants.

Mr. Frick further outlined the investment balances. The minimum Stabilization Reserve target was \$53,844,531. The ending investment balance was \$55,276,497, leaving a \$1,431,966 transition amount for FY 2014.

Mr. Frick stated that staff from the Department of Treasury will be invited to provide a presentation on investments at the February 11, 2015 MNRTF Board meeting.

Mr. Charters asked how much extra money could be used for development grants. Mr. Frick responded that the \$1.9 million would be about the maximum extra amount the Board could spend without violating the 25 percent allocation for development projects in the Constitution.

Discussion ensued regarding funding balances and plans for grant award amounts in future years.

At this point, Chairman Cummings recognized former Director and MNRTF Board member, Rodney Stokes, who was in the audience.

2014 MNRTF Acquisition and Development Applications – FINAL STAFF RANKINGS FOR BOARD ACTION

Chairperson Cummings stated that the application for Saugatuck Dunes State Park – Singapore Dunes (TF14-0192) has been withdrawn. Staff received notice from the owner that they were not willing to sell the property. This has been removed from the acquisition list.

Acquisition Projects

Chairperson Cummings called for a motion to approve the acquisition recommendations.

MOVED BY MR. CHARTERS, SUPPORTED BY MS. McDONOUGH, TO APPROVE ALL ACQUISITION APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED BY STAFF. THE RECOMMENDED ACQUISITION APPLICATIONS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- TF14-0208, CITY OF MONROE - \$4,986,200**
- TF14-0094, ST. CLAIR COUNTY - \$666,000**
- TF14-0141, DNR, WILDLIFE DIVISION - \$440,000**
- TF14-0288, CITY OF SOUTHFIELD - \$99,800**
- TF14-0259, DNR, FOREST RESOURCES DIVISION - \$150,000**
- TF14-0272, DNR, FOREST RESOURCES DIVISION - \$530,000**
- TF14-0229, KENT COUNTY - \$810,000**
- TF14-0233, DNR, WILDLIFE DIVISION - \$1,100,000**
- TF14-0117, GRAND HAVEN CHARTER TOWNSHIP - \$276,500**
- TF14-0093, ST. CLAIR COUNTY - \$118,400**
- TF14-0129, HURON-CLINTON METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY - \$75,000**
- TF14-0182, MONTROSE TOWNSHIP - \$103,400**
- TF14-0189, DNR, PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION - \$750,000**
- TF14-0090, CITY OF HOUGHTON - \$80,500**
- TF14-0187, DNR, PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION - \$2,000,000**
- TF14-0161, CITY OF GRAND LEDGE - \$150,000**
- TF14-0200, DNR, FISHERIES DIVISION - \$749,900**
- TF14-0065, ST. JOSEPH COUNTY - \$504,800**
- TF14-0190, DNR, PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION - \$750,000**
- TF14-0235, CITY OF NOVI - \$385,000**
- TF14-0158, VILLAGE OF MIDDLEVILLE - \$135,600**
- TF14-0198, DELTA TOWNSHIP - \$281,000**
- TF14-0207, CALUMET CHARTER TOWNSHIP - \$80,000**

TF14-0191, DNR, PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION - \$2,900,000
TF14-0124, HIGHLAND TOWNSHIP - \$127,800
TOTAL AMOUNT OF ACQUISITION PROJECTS RECOMMENDED IS \$18,249,900.
MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

MOVED BY MS. McDONOUGH, SUPPORTED BY MR. CANALE, THAT
THE REMAINDER OF THE ACQUISITION FUNDING GO INTO THE
STABILIZATION RESERVE. THIS AMOUNT IS \$3,581,864.00.
MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

Development Projects

MOVED BY MR. CHARTERS, SUPPORTED BY MS. McDONOUGH, TO
APPROVE THE FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENT APPLICATIONS:

TF14-0138, CITY OF PORT HURON - \$295,000
TF14-0180, ONEKAMA TOWNSHIP - \$261,000
TF14-0211, SOUTH HAVEN AREA RECREATION AUTHORITY - \$50,000
TF14-0166, GOGEBIC COUNTY - \$295,000
TF14-0217, BRIDGEPORT CHARTER TOWNSHIP - \$121,100
TF14-0095, CITY OF DETROIT - \$300,000
TF14-0078, ONTONAGON COUNTY - \$210,400
TF14-0092, CITY OF HOLLAND - \$300,000
TF14-0176, DNR, PARKS AND RECREATION - \$300,000
TF14-0219, CHOCOLAY TOWNSHIP - \$50,000
TF14-0128, WAYNE COUNTY - \$200,000
TF14-0275, CITY OF SOUTHFIELD - \$280,000
TF14-0096, CITY OF DETROIT - \$300,000
TF14-0143, BERRIEN COUNTY - \$300,000
TF14-0169, ROSCOMMON TOWNSHIP - \$182,500
TF14-0171, VILLAGE OF WOLVERINE - \$289,500
TF14-0194, CITY OF KALAMAZOO - \$300,000
TF14-0201, ARCADIA TOWNSHIP - \$298,700
TF14-0265, CITY OF ISHPEMING - \$91,400
TF14-0274, VILLAGE OF ONTONAGON - \$46,300

MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

Chairperson Cummings stated that the amount available for development grants is \$4,415,142. The total of the recommended development grants is \$4,470,900 (\$55,000 over amount). There is still the amount from last year of \$1,431,966. This is above the ten percent of the corpus in the Stabilization Reserve.

MOVED BY MS. McDONOUGH, SUPPORTED BY MR. CHARTERS, TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING SMALL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS:

TF14-0070, CITY OF VASSAR - \$42,600
TF14-0159, IRON ORE HERITAGE AUTHORITY - \$22,000
TF14-0230, EMMET COUNTY - \$49,000
TF14-0254, WHEATLAND TOWNSHIP - \$50,000
TF14-0127, HURON-CLINTON METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY - \$50,000
TF14-0133, MARQUETTE CHARTER TOWNSHIP - \$36,600
TF14-0247, CITY OF GAASTRA - \$37,000
TF14-0270, ARVON TOWNSHIP - \$45,000
TF14-0076, EAST BAY TOWNSHIP - \$50,000
TF14-0109, CITY OF ST. JOHNS - \$50,000
TF14-0136, CITY OF IRONWOOD - \$37,500
TF14-0223, LONG LAKE TOWNSHIP - \$46,900
TF14-0170, OSHTEMO TOWNSHIP - \$30,000
TF14-0121, HOLLAND CHARTER TOWNSHIP - \$50,000
TF14-0193, LYON TOWNSHIP - \$40,000
TF14-0221, CITY OF IRONWOOD - \$37,500
TF14-0132, DNR, WILDLIFE DIVISION - \$40,000
TF14-0220, VILLAGE OF CHESANING - \$50,000
TF14-0066, OAKLAND COUNTY - \$36,300
TF14-0177, VILLAGE OF TUSTIN - \$28,300

MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

MOVED BY MR. CHARTERS, SUPPORTED BY MR. HOFFMAN, TO MOVE \$1,431,966 FROM PREVIOUS UNAWARDED GRANT AMOUNTS AND ADDING TO THE AMOUNT AVAILABLE FOR DEVELOPMENT GRANTS. THE TOTAL FOR DEVELOPMENT GRANTS WILL BE \$5,847,108. MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

MOVED BY MR. CHARTERS, SUPPORTED BY MS. McDONOUGH, TO ADD TF14-0234, FRANKENLUST TOWNSHIP, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$280,000; AND TF14-0268, CITY OF JACKSON, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$300,000.

MOVED BY MS. McDONOUGH, SUPPORTED BY MR. CHARTERS, TO ADD TF14-0131, DNR, WILDLIFE DIVISION, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$300,000.

MOTIONS PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

Mr. Charters asked about the RAM Center 2-Lodge Accessibility and Modernization application submitted by DNR's Parks and Recreation Division (TF14-0137). He noticed that it did not score well. He stated that a lot of money has been spent trying to upgrade the facilities and he does not want to see the job half completed. Mr. Mayes responded that these are infrastructure improvements that did not score very well, but are important to the facility. Mr. Hoffman added that the RAM Center is not just for programming, but for education and training. One of the challenges it has faced is trying to do training sessions because of accessibility issues. The center is unable to host accessibility events in some areas.

**MOVED BY MR. CHARTERS, SUPPORTED BY MR. CANALE, TO ADD
TF14-0137, DNR, PARKS AND RECREATION DIVISION, IN THE AMOUNT
OF \$300,000. MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.**

To recap, the Board added \$3,581,864 to the Stabilization Reserve for acquisition. It withdrew \$1,984,121.96 from the development side of the Stabilization Reserve (unawarded amounts). The amount of the "over-awarded carry-forward" is \$80,335.91 from the Stabilization Reserve (development). The net increase to the Stabilization Reserve is \$1,517,406.13.

MNRTF Board Funding and Finance Subcommittee – UPDATE

Chairperson Cummings provided an update on the MNRTF Board Funding and Finance Subcommittee. The subcommittee has been active and has formed a steering committee (DNR staff and constituency groups). The subcommittee is in the process of scheduling some input sessions over the next few months (philanthropies, businesses, local constituencies, municipalities, etc.). The goal is by the second quarter to develop a sources and uses statement for the Governor's Showcase Trail (short-term goal). The long-term goal is to create a more broad-based and collaborative model for funding and maintaining public outdoor recreation resources in the future.

VI. NEW BUSINESS.

Update on MNRTF Staff Activities

Mr. DeBrabander outlined updates of various MNRTF staff activities:

- As has been demonstrated, staff has created and improved the display for staff recommendations and Board decisions. These improvements make it much easier for the Board, audience and staff to follow as projects are recommended and balance of amounts available. Mr. DeBrabander thanked staff for their hard work on these improvements.
- There are ten recreation grant workshops scheduled around the state in January, as well as February 12 at the Michigan Recreation and Park Association Conference in Lansing. Locations around the state are: Baraga, Muskegon, Escanaba, Detroit, St. Ignace, Freeland, Novi, Kalamazoo and Roscommon.

- MiRecGrants is being worked on for improvements. Amy Matisoff is taking the lead with the vendor for incorporating new data and improvements.
- Post-Completion Self-Certification inspections are ongoing. Linda Harlow has been taking the lead on this task.
- Application booklets for 2015 are in the process of being updated.
- Staff has been assisting on the MNRTF Board Subcommittees.

Election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson for 2015

MOVED BY MR. CHARTERS, SUPPORTED BY MR. HOFFMAN, TO ELECT MR. CANALE AS CHAIRPERSON AND MS. McDONOUGH AS VICE-CHAIRPERSON FOR 2015. MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.

VII. 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. Five acquisitions went to the DNR Director and information on each is identified in the report.

Mr. Sutton also advised the Board that last fiscal year, there were 1655 acres closed, totaling \$16 million in MNRTF funding. This involved 25 MNRTF projects.

Completed MNRTF Projects Report

No discussion.

MNRTF Financial Report

Mr. Frick added that the MNRTF Annual Report for 2014 will be prepared very soon. Staff would like to improve the appearance of this report to be more appealing.

Staff from the Department of Treasury will be making a presentation at the Board's February meeting and will identify how much is in reserve.

MNRTF Land Consolidation and Line Item Department Projects

No discussion.

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

Mr. Canale wanted to express his congratulations to Mr. Charters and his great knowledge of the MNRTF. He also commented how well the MNRTF Board has worked together as to the model we were in, the model we are now in and the model for the future.

He also mentioned as to where we will be next year relative to a possible ballot proposal for 2016 to amend the Constitution for more balanced funding of acquisition and development projects.

Mr. Rodney Stokes thanked Mr. Charters for all his service on the MNRTF Board and all the years he has served with the Department of Natural Resources on the Natural Resources Commission. He has appreciated the opportunity to work with Mr. Charters over the years.

Ms. McDonough stated that Mr. Charters has been a mentor to her personally over the past ten years and that he was a leader for the Natural Resources Commission and how strategically he looked at buying, acquiring and developing parcels of property through the MNRTF and how they come together.

Mr. Hoffman added that Mr. Charters is a legend and an icon. Mr. Charters is a giant in natural resources. One of things Mr. Hoffman has noticed is Mr. Charters' passion. He has never met anyone whose passion is as deep, long and as committed to natural resources.

Chairperson Cummings reiterated his previous comments and Mr. Charters' absence will be a great loss to the Board. Chairperson Cummings added that the MNRTF Board is and continues to be one of the most gratifying experiences of his life. He looks forward to the Board continuing its great work.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The next meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board is scheduled for 9:00 AM, Wednesday, February 11, 2015, Lansing Convention Center, 333 E. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, Michigan.

X. ADJOURNMENT.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 AM.

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

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

DATE