

MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Minutes of June 12, 2019

Courtyard by Marriott Battle Creek, 12891 Harper Village Drive, Battle Creek

9:00 AM

The meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Board of Trustees commenced at 9:00 AM, Wednesday, June 12, 2019.

The following Board members were present:

Daniel Eichinger

Steve Hamp

Erin McDonough

Bill Rustem

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

I. ADOPTION OF MINUTES FOR MEETING OF APRIL 10, 2019.

Chairman Hamp called for the adoption of the minutes for the APRIL 10, 2019 MNRTF Board meeting.

**MOVED BY MR. RUSTEM, SUPPORTED BY DIRECTOR EICHINGER, TO ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 10, 2019 MNRTF BOARD MEETING.
MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.**

II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA FOR MEETING OF JUNE 12, 2019.

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

**MOVED BY MS. McDONOUGH, SUPPORTED BY DIRECTOR EICHINGER, TO ADOPT THE AGENDA FOR THE JUNE 12, 2019 MNRTF BOARD MEETING.
MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.**

III. INTRODUCTIONS.

The Board members introduced themselves.

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

Mr. Lord also introduced Ms. Sharon Schafer, Chief of Finance and Operations Division.

IV. PUBLIC APPEARANCES.

Ms. Susan Phelan, Chikaming Township

Ms. Phelan introduced Mr. David Bunte, Chikaming Township Supervisor.

Mr. Bunte presented on the Cherry Beach project. This is their second time applying for a MNRTF grant for this project. He stated that with support from more than 900 local business owners, members of the community, philanthropic organizations, and other awarded grants, they've raised over \$1.2 million.

This property is approximately 3 acres and has 400 feet of Lake Michigan beach frontage. The property boasts wooded dunes, a creek, local vegetation, nesting areas and a natural corridor for wildlife. The property is located next to existing property that the township already owns, known as Cherry Beach. The existing property has 200 feet of lake frontage. Only 2 percent of the 7 miles of lake frontage in Chikaming Township is available for public access.

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

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

Mr. Bunch extended an invite to the Board members for a luncheon on October 30th hosted by Six Rivers Land Conservancy at the Detroit Athletic Club. Formal invites to follow.

Mr. Bunch also gave the Board members a flier for a dedication and hike at the new Casco Township Belle River Park that will take place on June 18th at 6:00pm.

Mr. Derek Smith, Director, Independence Charter Township Parks, Recreation & Seniors

Mr. Smith presented on Independence Township's Walters Lake Land Acquisition project.

This application proposes the acquisition of two parcels which would be developed into a signature park for Independence Township and the northern Oakland County region. The two parcels, totaling nearly 75 acres, would have a significant regional impact for Independence Township and the surrounding communities by preserving public open space, providing a point of interest with non-motorized trail connectivity, promoting economic impact, and creating health and wellness opportunities.

Parcel 1 – Walters Lake Frontage: approximately 34 acres, has 840 feet of lake frontage, is the only public access on Walters Lake and sits on the west side of Clarkston Road.

Parcel 2 – Soccer Complex: approximately 40 acres, lots of open space and wooded land and sits on the east side of Clarkston Road.

Independence Township's grant request is \$4.5 million, their local match is \$1.5 million, for a total project cost of \$6 million.

Mr. Fred Thorsby, Supervisor, Flushing Township and Mr. Doug Schultz, PLA and Board Chair, Flint River Watershed Coalition

Mr. Thorsby and Mr. Schultz presented on Flushing Township's Nature Park Accessible Kayak Launch project.

Currently, there is a gravel lot that leads to the old kayak launch within the park. This project is to improve the accessibility to the existing launch and improve the launch itself. This would include paved parking, a connector route, a universally accessible kayak launch system and other site improvements such as benches, interpretive signage and more. This project is also located along the 72-mile Flint River Water Trail route.

Flushing Township's grant request is \$163,400, their local match is \$57,400, for a total project cost of \$220,800.

Ms. Elizabeth Iszler, Chief of Planning, Wayne County Parks

Ms. Iszler presented on Wayne County's Crosswinds Marsh Restroom and Sustainable Improvements project.

Wayne County currently has over 5,600 acres of park land. They serve 43 communities in Wayne County, as well as Metro Detroit. The park system includes trails, natural areas, playgrounds, athletic fields, shelters & picnic areas and aquatic recreation.

Crosswinds Marsh is one of the largest self-sustaining wetlands in the nation. It receives an estimated 50,000 visitors annually. This site has been operating for over 20 years. Without a restroom facility, access to the natural resources and all the educational opportunities on site has been limited. School groups require a place to clean and wash their hands. This project will provide for restrooms and parking improvements, making greater universally accessible access for all to enjoy.

Wayne County's grant request is \$300,000, their local match is \$579,300, for a total project cost of \$879,300.

Mr. Scott Faulkner, Fundraising Coordinator, The Dragon Trail Project

Mr. Faulkner presented on the Michigan's Dragon at Hardy Dam project for both Newaygo County and Mecosta Township.

The Dragon is envisioned to be a nonmotorized trail system. It will be a complete 47-mile loop trail along the Muskegon River. It will cross 3 suspension bridges, have 13 scenic overlooks and more than 1,000 campsites along the trail.

Each year the Dragon will generate an additional 104,000 visitors, more than 70 new jobs and contribute an estimated \$4.15 million in economic activity.

They have created an operational plan, an incidental action plan, an economic impact plan, an environmental assessment plan and a trail plan.

Newaygo County and Mecosta Township are each requesting \$300,000, for a total of \$600,000 towards this project. They have \$850,000 in match and other miscellaneous donations, with another \$1.2 million in the pipeline from various corporations and other organizations. The total project cost is \$3.375 million.

Mr. Ross Stein, Supervisor, South Haven Area Recreational Authority (SHARA)

Mr. Stein presented on the Pilgrim Haven Natural Area – Royle Addition. Peter Ter Louw, Executive Director, Southwest Michigan Land Conservancy also presented on this project.

Pilgrim Haven Natural Area contains a barrier-free park with access to Lake Michigan. The Royle Addition adds an additional 47.9 acres to the existing 27.4-acre park for a total of 75 acres and 1800 feet of Lake Michigan frontage.

With fundraising, and the South Haven Township Open Space millage, they have invested over \$450,000 into the existing portion of Pilgrim Haven Natural Area. There are improvements taking place this summer, which include: bike and kayak racks, pit toilets and expansion of the surface walkways.

SHARA's grant request is \$2,262,000, their local match is \$754,100, for a total project cost of \$3,016,100.

Mr. Jamie Learman, Office Administrator/Clerk, City of Caseville

Mr. Learman presented on Lake Huron Access & ADA Trailhead Acquisition project.

This project is part of the City's Recreation Plan. Goals included in this plan are: water access for all abilities, year-round activities and growing a youthful elder population. Sixty-five percent of their population is 45 or older.

This property is a former marina. They are proposing basketball courts, a kayak launch, ice rink, boat launch, shore fishing and more. They have also had several locals offer to donate benches and tables for the property.

The City of Caseville's grant request is \$152,300, their local match is \$433,400, for a total project cost of \$585,700.

Ms. Hilary Hanzel, Park Planner/Landscape Architect, City of Ann Arbor

Ms. Hanzel presented on the Universal Access and Site Improvements at Argo Nature Area project.

This development project is to update the current Argo Livery site to provide barrier-free access and improve universal design. They are proposing expanded accessible paths, renovations to make the restrooms ADA-accessible and more. The livery is not currently barrier-free and the restroom is not ADA-compliant. They are the largest livery operation in the State of Michigan with over 550 boats and serving over 90,000 boaters each year. This livery is part of the Huron River Water Trail and was identified as a priority site for an accessible kayak launch.

The City of Ann Arbor's grant request is \$300,000, their local match is \$300,000, for a total project cost of \$600,000.

VI. OLD BUSINESS.

Scoring Criteria Update

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

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

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

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

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

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

Final Grants Management Section staff recommendations will be presented in August.

VII. NEW BUSINESS.

Draft Changes to the Conversion Policy

Mr. Jon Mayes stated that from time to time there are communities that would like to take a piece of their park land and add something that is not recreationally compliant. There is guidance in the DNR's policies and procedures for the Trust Fund Board on how to handle conversions. This, however, is not how the process has been functioning with respect to board involvement.

Mr. Mayes provided the Board with the current Board Policy 94.1 as it relates to conversions and also a draft new version. The new policy removes the Board from having to approve conversions, but adds that any proposed conversion of significant acreage or value, or those likely to be of interest to the Board, be brought to the Board's attention.

Ms. McDonough stated that it would be helpful to have the conversion information prior to making grant award decisions, as that is relevant.

This will be discussed at the August MNRTF meeting for further recommendations or for the Board to adopt the changes suggested in the new policy.

Student Interns

Ms. Tamara Jorkasky presented on the interns that Grants Management has worked with. She stated it has been a great resource to manage the staff's workloads. These interns are managed through the Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy. These interns are currently enrolled in school and work for one semester. It is an unpaid internship. Each intern gets to be a project manager, working on 6-8 projects at a time, with the opportunity to manage at least one of those projects. They have helped us with the Post-Completion Inspection Reports. We require our grantees to complete these reports to let us know the condition of the grant-funded site, is it open to the public, is it being maintained? The interns had the opportunity to do field work to complete Post-Completion Reports for DNR sites. They also updated the massive tracking sheet that is used for the reports. They uploaded and tracked 620 reports. These reports are typically submitted with the 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plans, which the students also reviewed. They were taught what the guidelines were and what they should be looking for. They reviewed 72 5-Year Parks and Recreation Plans. This breaks down to approximately 800 hours of work.

Update on MNRTF Staff Activities

Mr. Lord outlined various MNRTF staff activities:

- Staff is working on site-visits for all 2019 applications.
- Staff is working on initial scoring of the 2019 applications.
- We received a donation for the MNRTF from relatives of a man that is deceased. The donation was made in his honor.

VIII. STATUS REPORTS.

MNRTF Financial Report

No discussion.

DNR Real Estate Report – State Acquisitions

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

Completed MNRTF Projects Report

No discussion.

MNRTF Land Consolidation and Line Item Department Projects

No discussion.

IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The next meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board is scheduled for 9:00 AM, Wednesday, August 14, 2019, Shanty Creek Resort, 5780 Shanty Creek Road, Bellaire, MI.

X. ADJOURNMENT.

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

The meeting was adjourned at 12:07 PM.



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



Dan Lord, Manager
Grants Management Section
Finance and Operations Division

AUG. 18, 2019
DATE