

MICHIGAN NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST FUND

BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING

Minutes of October 16, 2019

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 9:03 AM, Wednesday, October 16, 2019.

The following Board members were present:

Sam Cummings  
Daniel Eichinger  
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 AUGUST 13, 2019.

Vice-chairman Rustem called for adoption of the minutes for the August 13, 2019 MNRTF Board meeting.

**MOVED BY MS. McDONOUGH, SUPPORTED BY MR. CUMMINGS, TO ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 13, 2019 MNRTF BOARD MEETING.  
MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.**

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

Vice-chairman Rustem called for adoption of the minutes for the August 14, 2019 MNRTF Board meeting.

**MOVED BY MS. McDONOUGH, SUPPORTED BY MR. CUMMINGS, TO ADOPT THE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 14, 2019 MNRTF BOARD MEETING.  
MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.**

III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA FOR MEETING OF OCTOBER 16, 2019.

Vice-chairman Rustem called for adoption of the agenda for the OCTOBER 16, 2019 MNRTF Board meeting.

**MOVED BY MR. CUMMINGS, SUPPORTED BY MS. McDONOUGH, TO ADOPT THE AGENDA FOR THE OCTOBER 16, 2019 MNRTF BOARD MEETING.  
MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.**

#### IV. 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), Mr. Mike Chuff (MNRTF Financial Specialist), Ms. Rachel Schumaker (Administrative Assistant to staff and Board), Ms. Merrie Carlock (Grant Coordinator), Ms. Lindsay Ross (Grant Coordinator) and Ms. Erin Campbell (Grant Coordinator).

Mr. Lord also introduced Mr. Erik Eklund, Chief Budget Officer of the Finance and Operations Division.

#### V. PUBLIC APPEARANCES.

##### Mr. David Bunte, Supervisor, Chikaming Township

Mr. Bunte presented on the Cherry Beach project. This is their second time applying for a MNRTF grant for this project. The total project costs are approximately \$4.2 million. Their goal was to raise 40 percent match, as opposed to 25 percent. He stated that with support from more than 950 local business owners, members of the community, philanthropic organizations, and other awarded grants, including donations from 3 countries and 28 states, they've raised over \$1.65 million. They are requesting \$2.5 million from the MNRTF.

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

Mr. Bunch thanked the Board and Grants Management Section staff of the Department of Natural Resources for all the work they do. Mr. Bunch also thanked Mr. Cummings for his upcoming participation at the Detroit Athletic Club 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conservation Luncheon. Mr. Bunch presented in support of the current application for the Macomb Township Nature Park Acquisition project. They have submitted revisions to the application; they increased the amount requested from \$1.2 million to \$1.8 million.

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

Mr. Chown presented in support of the Holiday Woods Acquisition project. He also thanked the staff for their transparency during the supplemental period, allowing applicants to receive extra points toward their projects. Mr. Chown stated that the local and regional land conservancy groups are in full support of ballot initiative Senate Joint Resolution O (SJRO). In closing, he thanked the Board for making this a "trail state". The continuing efforts of the Iron Belle Trail (IBT) are comprehensive for the entire state. Finding the key gaps and investments from public and private money could not be done without the outstanding initiative that the DNR has put forth.

## Mr. Rich Bowman, The Nature Conservancy

Mr. Bowman stated that in June of 2017, The Nature Conservancy (TNC) received a letter from State Representative Gary Howell, on behalf of the Natural Resources Committee, asking TNC if they would conduct state-wide polling of how voters related to the MNRTF and the potential changes to the MNRTF. Surveys were conducted in August of 2017. The results of this contributed to both houses of the legislature unanimously passing SJRO in December of 2018. This will now be on the voting ballot for November 2020. SJRO would amend both the MNRTF and the State Park Endowment Fund.

To recap, this amendment would:

- Change the language that currently reads that no more than twenty-five percent of the expended dollars can be used for recreational development projects, to read no less than twenty-five percent. This would give the MNRTF more flexibility between development and acquisition projects.
- Remove the \$500 million cap on the MNRTF.
- Amend the State Park Endowment Fund adding language that at least twenty percent of the expenditures from this fund need to be used for capital purposes, as opposed to operations and maintenance.
- Revise the language for recreational projects to include renovations of current infrastructure.

Representatives from Michigan United Conservation Clubs, The Michigan Environmental Council, Michigan Recreation Parks Association, Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance, Heart of the Lakes, Center for Greenway Conservation and Center for Outdoor Alliance and Policy recently met at the TNC office to begin to organize an educational campaign related to the MNRTF and SJRO. When the original polling was conducted, they found that likely voters love what the MNRTF purchases, but most do not know what the MNRTF is. This is the opportunity to educate the public about the importance of the MNRTF and SJRO.

The following DNR Applications were presented to the Board by DNR Staff:

Ms. Jessica Mistak, Fisheries Division; Mr. Matt Lincoln, Parks and Recreation Division; Ms. Kerry Wieber, Forest Resources Division; Ms. Kristin Wildman, Wildlife Division; Ms. Lori Burford, Finance and Operations Division; and Ms. Sandra Clark, Michigan History Center; gave a PowerPoint presentation that outlined the applications submitted by the DNR.

### Development Applications:

- TF19-0050, Belle Isle Park Iron Belle Trail Development Phase 2, Requesting \$300,000  
– Presented by Mr. Matt Lincoln
- TF19-0055, Bond Falls Scenic Site Trail and Overlook Rehabilitation, Requesting \$300,000 – Presented by Mr. Matt Lincoln

- TF19-0066, Van Riper State Park Overlook Trail Rehabilitation, Requesting \$50,000 – Presented by Mr. Matt Lincoln
- TF19-0072, Pigeon River Country Discovery Center, Requesting \$254,900 – Presented by Ms. Sandra Clark
- TF19-0080, Holland State Park Channel Access Pathway, Requesting \$300,000 – Presented by Mr. Matt Lincoln
- TF19-0090, Pinckney Recreation Area Potawatomi Trail Rehabilitation, Requesting \$300,000 – Presented by Mr. Matt Lincoln
- TF19-0138, Pinckney Recreation Area Border to Border – Iron Belle Trail, Requesting \$200,000 – Presented by Mr. Matt Lincoln
- TF19-0144, Gourdneck State Game Area Parking Lot & Accessible Trail, Requesting \$113,000 – Presented by Ms. Kristin Wildman
- TF19-0150, Platte River State Fish Hatchery Accessibility & Interpretation, Requesting \$300,000 – Presented by Ms. Jessica Mistak
- TF19-0171, Hartwick Pines State Park Visitor Center Exhibit Renovations, Requesting \$300,000 – Presented by Ms. Sandra Clark
- TF19-0184, Western Upper Peninsula Shooting Range, Requesting \$300,000 – Presented by Ms. Lori Burford
- TF19-0205, Barry State Game Area Shooting Range, Requesting \$200,000 – Presented by Ms. Lori Burford
- TF19-0206, Roscommon County Shooting Range, Requesting \$300,000 – Presented by Ms. Lori Burford

Acquisition Applications:

- TF19-0098, Iron Belle Trail May Creek Greenway, Requesting \$2,700,000 – Presented by Mr. Matt Lincoln
- TF19-0140, Waterloo Recreation Area Land Consolidation, Requesting \$440,000 – Presented by Mr. Matt Lincoln
- TF19-0141, Oak Grove State Game Area Addition, Requesting \$2,024,200 – Presented by Ms. Kristin Wildman

- TF19-0143, Stanton State Game Area Addition, Requesting \$550,000 – Presented by Ms. Kristin Wildman
- TF19-0151, Proposed Garden Bay Water Access Site, Requesting \$289,000 – Presented by Ms. Jessica Mistak
- TF19-0159, Proposed Pipestone Creek Access Site, Requesting \$94,000 – Presented by Ms. Jessica Mistak
- TF19-0177, Rattlesnake Creek Property, Requesting \$225,000 – Presented by Ms. Kerry Wieber
- TF19-0178, Tea Creek Property, Requesting \$650,000 – Presented by Ms. Kerry Wieber

## VI. NEW BUSINESS.

Vice-chairman Rustem announced that Chairman Steve Hamp has been reappointed to the MNRTF Board. His term now extends until 2023.

### Update on MNRTF Staff Activities

Mr. Lord outlined various MNRTF staff activities:

- Ms. Tamara Jorkasky, Grant Coordinator for regions 2 & 4, has taken a position in the Executive Office. She will be supporting Deputy Director Shannon Hanna, focusing on employee engagement. There were 90 applicants that applied to fill the open coordinator position. That was narrowed down to 9 candidates and interviews begin next week.
- Final Scoring is taking place on the 2019 applicants, as the supplemental period has closed. Final scores should be posted online within 30 days.
- Workshop planning has begun for the January 2020 Recreation Grant Workshops. There are 8 workshops held throughout the state. There will also be two webinars that will focus on the scoring criteria changes and the changes to the online application platform.
- Proposed 2020 MNRTF Board Meeting Dates
  - February 19 – Lansing Area
  - April 22 – Lansing Area
  - June 17 – TBD
  - August 19 – TBD
  - October 14 – Lansing Area
  - December 2 – Lansing Area
- Ms. Rachel Schumaker is working to consolidate the vendor contracts to streamline the process and have consistency with the plaques that are required for the MNRTF, RP and LWCF programs.

## Project Withdrawals

- TF18-0032, Negaunee Trailhead Acquisition. The property owners are no longer willing to sell.

Mr. Rustem called for a motion to accept the withdrawal of Negaunee Trailhead Acquisition (TF18-0032).

**MOVED BY MR. CUMMINGS, SUPPORTED BY MS. McDONOUGH, TO ADOPT THE WITHDRAWAL OF NEGAUNEE TRAILHEAD ACQUISITION (TF18-0032). MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.**

## Mr. Craig Brunet, Legislative Liaison, Legislative and Legal Affairs Office

Mr. Brunet stated that there will be a convening of the Governor, or his or her designee, the state treasurer, or his or her designee, the senate majority leader, or his or her designee, the speaker of the house, or his or her designee, and one member of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board. By law, this must happen before December 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. They are waiting on information from Treasury and then this meeting will be scheduled.

There was a bill introduced by Representative O'Malley that would change the makeup of the MNRTF. This bill would require one board member to be from the upper peninsula and one from the lower peninsula north of the Mason-Arenac line. The Administration has not taken a position and the bill has not been given a hearing.

Mr. Brunet handed out the statute that covers the PILT issue, particularly subsections 3 & 4. He does not feel that the Board should be concerned at this time at how they are looking at projects for recommendation. This may be something to consider next year, if the issue is not resolved.

## VII. STATUS REPORTS.

### DNR Real Estate Report

No Discussion

### MNRTF Open Projects Status Report

No discussion.

### MNRTF Completed Projects Report

No discussion.

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

None.

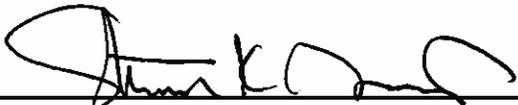
## IX. ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The next meeting of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Board is scheduled for 9:00 AM, Wednesday, December 11, 2019, Lansing Community College West Campus, 5708 Cornerstone, Lansing, Michigan.

X. ADJOURNMENT.

**MOVED BY VICE-CHAIRMAN RUSTEM, SUPPORTED BY MS. McDONOUGH TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MOTION PASSED WITHOUT DISSENTING VOTE.**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:11 AM.

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

  
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Dan Lord, Manager  
Grants Management Section  
Finance and Operations Division

12-11-19  
DATE