

**Michigan State Historical Records
Advisory Board Meeting
April 10, 2024
Michigan Library and Historical Center
1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Call to order and welcome

Meeting called to order at 10:02 a.m. All members present: Cynthia Ghering, Annie Benefiel, Lance Werner, April Maycock, Marian Matyn, Sandra Clark, Brian Schamber, Lindsay Hiltunen, Andrea Gietzen, Mark Harvey.

Reviewed unofficial minutes from 11/29/2023.

Staff introductions

Brian Schamber: Brian Schamber introduced himself and detailed his education and professional background at Wayne State University and the Leonard Simons Archives.

Local government records advocacy

Mark Harvey reviewed several aspects of the Save Michigan History (SMH) program objectives including education and advocacy for the preservation and access to public records around the state. It is an effort to increase transparency around the disposition of public records held by various government and non-government agencies. The board also discussed members' role in future advocacy efforts.

Update on current SMH grant progress and timeline

The Archives received an extension/reset of the current grant cycle to begin on 1/1/2024 through 12/31/25. The next grant cycle deadline will be the spring of 2025.

Cynthia Ghering provided an overview of SMH work to date and detailed the increased focus on public records. The staff unveiled a new tagline: "Your Partners in Preservation" to reflect the program's goal to strengthen the partnership between the state archives, counties, and townships caring for historical public records. In this new round of the SMH program, we are specifically engaging regional records depositories and local government offices.

This important work of identifying and preserving historical public records has been ongoing for SMH and local government records program since 2017. An ongoing example of "saving" historical public records is from the Eaton County Historical Society. This small genealogy society inherited county government records due the Archives of Michigan's former policy of collecting records from only a limited number of counties. This system, called the "Core County Concept" left 76 of Michigan's 83 counties without a clear path to preserve records that had met retention.

Archives staff engaged with the society to preserve the county's historical records, including probate and circuit court records. Through multiple site visits, 14 pallets of county's most vulnerable public records have been relocated and accessioned by the Archives. Some materials remain at the courthouse. The example is important because it demonstrates the need to work with organizations to maintain public records transparency and access.

Staff also reported on progress for revising the state of Michigan's county trial court records retention and disposal schedule, General Schedule 15: Circuit Court.. The government records unit has held regular meetings with the State Court Administrator's Office during the revision process.

General and educational information will be consolidated onto the MSHRAB's michigan.gov website.

Cynthia shared some promotional materials for the Save Michigan History project used at the Michigan Association of County Clerks meeting in Clare, MI, in March 2024.

Reminded the board of the Family Search.org partnership to digitize probate and naturalization records onsite at the Archives of Michigan.

New business

Mark shared that the Archives is working with Latinx communities to learn the basics of archives and partnering with the Latino Leaders for the Enhancement of Advocacy and Development (LLEAD) organization.

Board member updates

Board members gave updates on awards, planning, and changes at their institutions.

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 2:30.