GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN VETERANS AFFAIRS AGENCY
LANSING

BRIAN LOVE
DIRECTOR

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING OF THE MICHIGAN VETERANS TRUST FUND BOARD OF TRUSTEES
March 10, 2026
Board of Trustees and Staff

Chairperson James Dempsey, present
Vice Chairperson Paul McIvor, present
Trustee Ray Lopez, present
Trustee John Gardner, present
Trustee Rodney Loonsfoot, present
Trustee Gregory Spight, present
Trustee Kimberly Napoleon, present
Lindell Holm, Director, present
Carolyn Harden, Departmental Supervisor, present

Chairperson Dempsey called the meeting to order at 10:42 a.m.

Notice of Open Meetings Act Compliance

Chairperson Dempsey received confirmation that the meeting notices were posted pursuant to Public Act 267 of 1976, the Open Meetings Act

Introduction of Guests

Russell Schomberger, CMOHS, Detroit Congressional Medal of Honor Committee
Adrian Kozakov, Partnership Chair, Detroit Congressional Medal of Honor Committee
Michael DeLaRosa, Director, Habitat for Humanity of Michigan

Mr. Schomberger and Mr. Kozakov provided an update on the Congressional Medal of Honor Society Convention to be held in Detroit in October, thanking MVTF for being one of the first major sponsors of the convention. Russell Schomberger asked the MVTF Board of Trustees to spread the word and educate the public when opportunities arise in their daily travels, especially during veteran visits through Veteran Service Organizations and their networks, adding a key goal is educating people about the Medal of Honor and what it represents. Handouts provided and a brief discussion followed.

Accounting Reports (presented)

Approval of Minutes

A MOTION (Rodney Loonsfoot/Paul McIvor) to approve the Public Minutes of February 10, 2026, passed and carried.

A total of 19 appeals/reviews were reviewed in a closed case discussion for March 10, 2026.

Case TFGA 2018 - Appeal

- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved your application in the amount of $24,987.00.

MVTF Board Meeting
March 10, 2026

Case TFGA 2240

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application in the amount of $7,386.40.

Case TFGA 2241

- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved your application in the amount of $17,910.00.

Case TFGA 2281

- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved your application in the amount of $24,610.00.

Case TFGA 2304

- The MVTF Board of Trustees partially approved your application in the amount of $8,483.77.

Case TFGA 2313 – Appeal

- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved your application in the amount of $25,000.00.

Case TFGA 2325 – Appeal

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved of your application in the amount of $5,000.00.

Case TFGA 2344

- The MVTF Board of Trustee approved your application in the amount of $5,200.00.

Case TFGA 2349

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application in the amount of $13,955.22.

Case TFGA 2362

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application in the amount of $8,085.00.

Case TFGA 2366

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved of your application in the amount of $6,100.00.

Case TFGA 2368

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application in the amount of $5,912.48.

Case TFGA 2375

- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved your application in the amount of $13,812.58.

Case TFGA 2381

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application in the amount of $13,700.00.

Case TFGA 2394

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application in the amount of $9,800.00.

Case TFGA 2405

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application in the amount of $4,456.00.

Case TFGA 2414

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application in the amount of $19,007.38.

Case TFGA 2425

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application in the amount of $9,777.85.

Case TFGA 2427

- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved your application in the amount of $3,968.46.

The total number/amount of emergency grants approved/partially approved: was thirteen for **$116,864.10.**
The total number/amount of emergency grants approved/partially approved for 65+ Peacetime was zero.

A MOTION (Paul McIvor/Gregory Spight) to accept the emergency grant approvals presented during March 10, 2026, case discussion, passed and carried in the amount of **$116,864.10.**

County & District Committees--Committee Appointments

A MOTION (Rodney Loonsfoot/Paul McIvor) to approve county & district committee appointments, passed and carried.

Ineligibles/Administrative Errors – Reconsideration

None.

Unfinished Business

MVTF director Holm provided an update on the MVTF Board approved SalesForce online application project, stating that funding challenges should be resolved this week. Holm reported that a contract software developer may be hired to work on it soon. Holm reported that he is anticipating that the Governor will make the MVTF board appointments next week. Director Holm reported that he discovered another program related to the veterans' land loan program through MDARD and plans to collaborate with MDARD to utilize or connect to their program which is designed to preserve Michigan's agriculture acreage. A brief discussion followed.

New Business

MVTF Director Holm reported on the upcoming 5th MVAA Leadership Summit (May 11-13), scheduled to be held at the Sheraton Airport Hotel, in Grand Rapids, will conflict with the MVTF Board Meeting, which is scheduled to be held May 12, 2026. Director Holm suggested changing the MVTF Board Meeting date from May 12, 2026, to May 11, 2026. Holm reported that he was invited by Representative William Bruck to be recognized and to be witness to the commemoration of the Michigan Veterans Trust Fund 80th Anniversary which is scheduled to be held on the House Floor today. Holm extended the invitation to the MVFT board members.

A MOTION (Paul McIvor/Rodney Loonsfoot) to change the MVTF Board meeting from May 12, 2026, to May 11, 2026 (same location), passed and carried.

Strategic Programs Sub-Committee Reports

None.

MVTF Board Activities

Chairperson James Dempsey attended the NASDVA Conference last week along with MVTF Director Holm and MVAA Director Sabo. Chairperson Dempsey reported that conference attendees were updated on the VA classification on service-connected disabilities, specifically that VA had approved a potential reevaluation of service-connected disabilities due to improvements in individuals' conditions from medication but due to VSO

feedback the Secretary of the VA rescinded the decision. A brief discussion followed. Trustees Lopez and Napoleon reported that they attended the VFW Conference, which was held in Washington, DC last week, adding that they met with several state legislators. Trustee Loonsfoot gave a tribal veteran update, stating that he has been recruited to serve as the Vice Commander of Tribal Veteran Initiatives. Trustee Loonsfoot reported that there is a vital need for chartered veteran service officers to serve over 2500 tribal veterans on and off reservations. Loonsfoot also reported that Mid-Michigan Honor Flight with its first tribal veteran honor flight on June 27th with 75 other veterans. Trustee Loonsfoot also reported that Company K Sharpshooter Bill is close to being finalized. The bill designates a portion of highway near Traverse City which will honor a group of tribal veterans from the Civil War era. Trustee Loonsfoot also reported that a tribal liaison has been brought on board through the Governor's office to assist with tribal legislative matters.

MVTF Staff Activities

Director Holm reported that he and MVTF Outreach Analyst, Erik Napieralski attended the Resource Fair at the War Memorial in Grosse Pointe which was held February 12, 2026. Holm reported that planning for summer training has begun and dates for those trainings will be sent out soon. Holm encouraged the MVTF board members to attend when feasible. Holm reported that MVTF Analyst Dawn Shinaver has extended her FMLA leave for another month with an anticipated date of return of April 6, 2026. MVTF Outreach Analyst Naperialski reported that he continues to meet with Habitat For Humanity and the VFW National Home to finalize processes and review potential cases. Naperialski reported that he attended the VFW National Home for the RAVE program, stating that last year five participants lived at the VFW Home, three returned for the second year and enrolled in a bachelor's program through Cleary University for farming education, this year there are six. Naperialski reported that permanent structures are being added for the entrepreneurial flower project and egg business. A brief discussion followed.

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None.

Public Comments

None.

Adjourn

A MOTION (Paul McIvor/Ray Lopez) to adjourn, passed and carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:39 a.m.

Approved: James Dempsey

James Dempsey, Chairperson

4/7/2026

Date