GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
MICHIGAN VETERANS AFFAIRS AGENCY
LANSING

TERRY SABO
DIRECTOR

MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING OF THE MICHIGAN VETERANS TRUST FUND BOARD OF TRUSTEES
July 14, 2026
Board of Trustees and Staff

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

Chairperson McIvor called the meeting to order at 11:15 a.m.

Notice of Open Meetings Act Compliance

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

Introduction of Guests

MVAA Director, Terry Sabo
Habitat for Humanity of Michigan - Veteran Initiatives Consultant, Michael DeLaRosa

Accounting Reports

Presented

Approval of Minutes

A MOTION (Jerry Gorski/Gregory Spight) to approve the Public Minutes of June 9, 2026, passed and carried.

A total of 24 appeals/reviews were reviewed in a closed case discussion for July 14, 2026.

Case TFGA 2521

- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved your application in the amount of $25,500.00.

Case TFGA 2588

- The MVTF Board of Trustees partially approved your application in the amount of $12,790.20.

Case TFGA 2630 – Appeal

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application in the amount of $6,842.49.

Case TFGA 2648

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application in the amount of $8,190.00.

Case TFGA 2674

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application in the amount of $9,845.00.

Case TFGA 2685

- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved your application in the amount of $6,359.09.

Case TFGA 2694 - Appeal

- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved your application in the amount of $9,786.00.

Case TFGA 2700

- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved of your application in the amount of $4,609.99

Case TFGA 2702

- The MVTF Board of Trustees partially approved your application in the amount of $8,656.39.

Case TFGA 2703

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application in the amount of $16,833.93.

Case TFGA 2720

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

Case TFGA 2731 – Appeal

- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved your application in the amount of $3,500.00.

Case TFGA 2732

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application in the amount of $6,000.00.

Case TFGA 2735

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application in the amount of $6,068.00.

Case TFGA 2736

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application in the amount of $24,500.00.

Case TFGA 2744

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application in the amount of $4,922.00.

Case TFGA 2746

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application in the amount of $21,985.00.

Case TFGA 2763

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application in the amount of $24,000.00.

Case TFGA 2774

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

Case TFGA 2775

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

Case TFGA 2786

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application in the amount of $10,249.00.

Case TFGA 2791

- The MVTF Board of Trustees partially approved your application in the amount of $21,000.00.

Case TFGA 2801

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

Case TFGA 2828

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application in the amount of $6,766.61.

The total number/amount of emergency grants approved/partially approved: was eighteen for **$223,648.62.**
The total number/amount of emergency grants approved/partially approved for 65+ Peacetime was zero.

A MOTION (Rodney Loonsfoot/Ray Lopez) to accept the emergency grant approvals presented during July 14, 2026, case discussion, passed and carried in the amount of **$223,648.62.**

County & District Committees--Committee Appointments

A MOTION (Rodney Loonsfoot/John Gardner) to approve the County/District Committees appointments and re-appointments with changes, passed and carried

Ineligibles/Administrative Errors

None.

Unfinished Business

MVTF Director Holm provided an update on his meeting with VFW National Home and discussed the Board's commitment to continue to support the RAVE program for at least two more years of approximately $150,000 per year. A brief discussion followed. Holm also discussed the potential idea to purchase a tractor, adding that the VFW Home is exploring options for other grants, leases, or donations from other farm brands such as Kubota. Holm requested that the Board consider holding the September 15th board meeting at the VFW Home in Eaton Rapids. Director Holm reported that as of July 13, 2026, the VFW National Home named Jared Johnson their new Director. Holm reported that he is intending to meet with the new director in the upcoming weeks. Holm reported that Treasury will attend our August board meeting to give the FY27 treasury report. Director Holm gave an update on the status of the Attorney General's letter regarding clarification of the MVTF Boards's constitutional authority stating that it is still in review status.

A MOTION (Ray Lopez/Jerry Gorski) to move the location of the September 15, 2026, Board meeting from MVTF Lansing headquarters to the VFW National Home, in Eaton Rapids, passed and carried.

New Business

Director Holm reported that there is a need to create a long-term solution to review and vote on applications in counties where the county VSO office is not taking emergency grant applications or where no local county committee is available. It was proposed that the Board of Trustees appoint a Wolverine Sub-Committee of current and former board members to receive these county-level cases virtually on a weekly basis to review and provide a

vote using Microsoft Forms voting process that is currently being used for Board interim cases and for Regional Committee voting. Director Holm proposed to the Board to permanently place Ingham County into Region 9. A brief discussion followed. MVTF Director Holm reported on the Veterans Land Loan and Peacetime Veterans Emergency Grant Act proposal (handout provided), to establish a self-sustaining land loan program for Michigan veterans that will enable eligible veterans to purchase unimproved land. The proposal would include that a portion of the positive revenue (after expenses) from loan repayments would be used to fund a new emergency grant program for all peace-time era veterans and other initiatives that support veterans. Holm suggested that this proposal be submitted to DMVA for consideration to be included in the FY28 budget. Holm reported that if passed, the MVTF would require the addition of three full-time equivalent (FTE) positions within the MVTF to accommodate the extra workload created. A discussion followed.

A MOTION (Jerry Gorski/Gregory Spight) to approve a Wolverine Sub-Committee, passed and carried.

A MOTION (Gregory Spight/Rodney Loonsfoot) to add Ingham County into Region 9 category, passed and carried.

A MOTION (Jerry Gorski/Gregory Spight) to approve submission of the Veterans Land Loan and Peacetime Veterans Emergency Grant Act proposal to DMVA for inclusion, passed and carried.

Strategic Programs Sub-Committee Reports

None.

MVTF Board Activities

Trustee Gorski reported that he attended the Lawson 4th of July parade and that his son ran a mile race on the 4th of July and led the parade on the VFW float during the celebrations. Trustees Gorski also attended the opening of the VSO office for Clare County in Harrison, adding the office is scheduled to be open three days a week. Vice Chairperson Loonsfoot attended Tribal training in Reno, NV where he received accreditation and served as the first Michigan Tribal Veteran Navigator. Loonsfoot also attended and spoke to the St. Paul Suicide Prevention Program as a subject matter expert on tribal cultural veterans.

MVTF Staff Activities

MVTF Director Holm reported on the committee training which was held in Cadillac, Mio, Grand Rapids and Midland adding that he, Outreach Analyst Erik Napieralski, and Departmental Supervisor Carolyn Harden conducted the well-attended training. They will be traveling to Manistique and Marquette July 21st and 22nd for the conclusion of scheduled county committee training. Director Holm reported that the MVTF staff will be attending a team building exercise which will be held at Pear Tree Farm in Haslett, Michigan on July 16, 2026. Director Holm proposed the MVTF Board consider a $200.00 contribution toward the team building event to the Peer Tree Farm for hosting the team building event. Director Holm praised the efforts of Lonnie Riley and Carolyn Harden for assisting a veteran in need after a letter of gratitude was sent to the MVTF.

A MOTION (Ray Lopez/Jerry Gorski) to approve a $200.00 contribution for the MVTV team building event held at the Peer Tree Farm in Haslett, Michigan, passed and carried.

Good of the Order

MVAA Director Terry Sabo thanked the MVTF Board of Trustees and the MVTF staff for their commitment to serving veterans and their families. Director Sabo expressed his gratitude to the MVTF board and staff.

Habitat for Humanity of Michigan - Veteran Initiatives Consultant, Michael DeLaRosa gave an update on the collaboration of MVTF and H4H and thanked all for their time and commitment for this collaboration.

Public Comments

None.

Executive Session

None.

Adjourn

A MOTION (Gerald Gorski/Gregory Spight) to adjourn passed and carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:16 p.m.

Approved: Paul McIvor

Paul McIvor, Chairperson

8/11/2026

Date