



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

June 10, 2025

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
Vacancy
Lindell Holm, Director, present
Carolyn Harden, Departmental Supervisor, present

Chairperson Dempsey called the meeting to order at 10:37 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

Brian Love, Director of the Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency
Stephanie Muirhead, Chief of Staff to Director Love, Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency
Michael Wilson, Executive Director, VFW National Home
Rick Stiver, Facilities Director, VFW National Home
William Jaquinde, Resource Specialist, Bureau of Environment and Sustainability, Michigan Dept. of Agriculture and Rural Development

Accounting Reports

Presented

Approval of Minutes

A MOTION (Paul McIvor/John Gardner) to approve the Public Minutes of May 13, 2025, passed and carried.

A total of 16 appeals/reviews were reviewed in a closed case discussion for June 10, 2025.

Case TFGA 1446

- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved your application in the amount of \$13,000.73.

Case TFGA 1578- Appeal

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

MVTF Board Meeting
June 10, 2025

Case TFGA 1581 – Appeal

- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved your application in the amount of \$3,536.41.

Case TFGA 1582

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application in the amount of \$1,445.00.

Case TFGA 1594

- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved your application in the amount of \$2,064.29.

Case TFGA 1624

- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved your application in the amount of \$10,995.00.

Case TFGA 1629

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application in the amount of \$11,111.00.

Case TFGA 1632

- The MVTF Board of Trustees partially approved your application in the amount of \$13,334.05.

Case TFGA 1648

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application in the amount of \$2,067.00.

Case TFGA 1675 – Appeal

- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved your application in the amount of \$13,159.53.

Case TFGA 1685

- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved your application in the amount of \$10,206.00.

Case TFGA 1690

- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved your application in the amount of \$15,150.00.

Case TFGA 1710

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application in the amount of \$14,055.00.

Case TFGA 1714

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application in the amount of \$9,765.00.

Case TFGA 1729

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application in the amount of \$16,950.00.

Case TFGA 1764

- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved your application in the amount of \$7,490.00.

The total number/amount of emergency grants approved/partially approved: was seven for **\$68,727.05**.
The total number/amount of emergency grants approved/partially approved for 65+ Peacetime was zero.

A MOTION (Paul McIvor/John Gardner) to accept the emergency grant approvals presented during the May 13, 2025, case discussion, passed and carried in the amount of **\$68,727.05**.

MVTF Board Meeting
June 10, 2025

County & District Committees--Committee Appointments

None.

Ineligibles/Administrative Errors – Reconsideration

None.

Unfinished Business

Director Holm discussed the possibility of holding the MVTF October 14, 2025, board meeting in Traverse City with United we Smile which is also in Traverse City. Director Holm reported that a meeting is scheduled with Texas to further discuss their loan program and will be gathering more information from MSHDA and Treasury. MVAA Director Brian Love reported that he is working with Director Holm and the legislative team at DMVA in discussions with the legislature about the MVTF. A brief discussion followed. MVAA Director Love gave a brief update of the MVAA statistics regarding veteran assistance programs and connections. Chairperson Dempsey discussed the proposal given to the MVTF Board two and half months ago regarding the 2026 Congressional Medal of Honor donation, adding his support and asking for the Board to support the event in the amount of \$100,000.00 (Gold Sponsor Level), handout provided. Director Holm discussed the possibility of potentially combining funds from MVAA and the MVTF. The Board has deferred the decision to gather more input. MVAA Director Love, thanked the board for their continued support and attendance. Director Holm reminded the board that Zero Day is providing lunch today through their food truck veteran training program made possible by the support of the MVTF.

A MOTION (Paul McIvor/Rodney Loonsfoot) to approve the level of donation for the 2026 Congressional Medal of Honor Convention, gold sponsor level, in the amount of \$100,000.00, contingent upon meeting strategic goals approval, passed and carried.

New Business

None.

Strategic Programs Sub-Committee Reports

None.

MVTF Board Activities

Chairperson Dempsey reported that he was unable to attend the DAV State Convention. Trustee Loonsfoot reported that he attended the DAV State Convention which was held in Mt. Pleasant. Vice Chairperson McIvor reported that he attended the VFW State Convention. Trustees Lopez, Loonsfoot, Gardner, and Chairperson Dempsey reported that they attended the MVAA Leadership Summit which was held in Marquette. A brief discussion followed.

MVTF Staff Activities

Director Holm reported that Outreach Analyst Erik Napieralski attended the VFW convention for two days, seeking committee members as well as doing outreach. Napieralski reported that he is working with Habitat for Humanity to develop new processes and initiatives to collaborate on helping veterans with emergency home repairs.

MVTF Board Meeting
June 10, 2025

Director Holm reported that he is in contact with DTMB to schedule a review of the MVTF strategic plan. A meeting will be scheduled in the beginning of 2026.

Good of the Order

None.

Public Comments

VFW National Home Director Michael Wilson reported on the Mission of the VFW National Home, which is "The VFW National Home assists military veterans, and their families with children, by creating a foundation of services and resources to achieve their personal and family goal in order to move forward in a positive, safe and healthy environment". Wilson reported that the VFW is 100 years old in June and will be celebrating with a party at the VFWNH on June 28. VFWNH Director Wilson provided an update about a recent \$1.5 million grant from the legislature for infrastructure upgrades and introduced Facilities Director Rick Stiver. Stiver gave an overview of his time at the Home adding that he finds his work at the VFW National Home rewarding, particularly the farming aspect as well as helping veterans find their way. William Jaquinde, Resource Specialist, Bureau of Environment and Sustainability, Michigan Dept. of Agriculture and Rural Development thanked the Home and the MVTF Board for their roles to make the Veterans Regenerative Agriculture Demonstration (VRAD) Farm program possible and gave a presentation on the VRAD program. Jaquinde reported on the many aspects of the VRAD program, how it is maintained and the many financial, entrepreneurial and career benefits that come with the VRAD program.

Executive Session

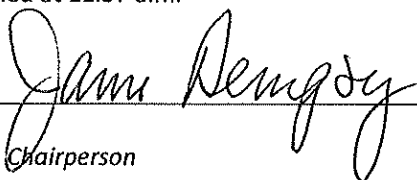
None

Adjourn

A MOTION (Paul McIvor/Rodney Loonsfoot) to adjourn, passed and carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:57 a.m.

Approved:


James Dempsey, Chairperson

Date