



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 11, 2025

***Board of Trustees and Staff***

Chairperson James Dempsey, present  
Vice Chairperson Paul McIvor, present  
Trustee James Wallace, 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 10:30 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**

Angela Harkins, VFW National Home Program Director  
Rick Stiver, VFW National Home Director of Facilities  
William Jaquinde, Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

**Accounting Reports**

Presented

**Approval of Minutes**

A MOTION (Jim Wallace/Paul McIvor) to approve the Public Minutes of February 11, 2025, passed and carried.

**A total of 14 appeals/reviews were reviewed in a closed case discussion for March 11, 2025.**

**Case TFGA 1191**

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application in the amount of \$9,700.00.

**Case TFGA 1336**

- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved your application in the amount of \$5,350.00.

**Case TFGA 1410**

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application in the amount of \$4,750.00.

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**Case TFGA 1414**

- The MVTF Board of Trustees partially approved your application in the amount of \$1,302.00.

**Case TFGA 1422**

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application in the amount of \$1,880.00.

**Case TFGA 1423**

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application in the amount of \$7,100.00.

**Case TFGA 1424**

- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved your application in the amount of \$1,964.00.

**Case TFGA 1437**

- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved your application in the amount of \$6,080.54.

**Case TFGA 1444**

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application in the amount of \$4,264.12.

**Case TFGA 1471**

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application in the amount of \$6,648.00.

**Case TFGA 1473**

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application in the amount of \$16,261.00.

**Case TFGA 1491**

- The MVTF Board of Trustees disapproved your application in the amount of \$16,579.00.

**Case TFGA 1498**

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application in the amount of \$4,213.00.

**Case TFGA 1530**

- The MVTF Board of Trustees approved your application in the amount of \$24,662.00.

The total number/amount of emergency grants approved/partially approved: was ten for **\$80,780.12**  
The total number/amount of emergency grants approved/partially approved for 65+ Peacetime was zero.

A MOTION (Jim Wallace/Paul McIvor) to accept the emergency grant approvals presented during the March 11, 2025, case discussion, passed and carried in the amount of **\$80,780.12**

**County & District Committees--Committee Appointments**

A MOTION (Rodney Loonsfoot/John Gardner) to approve the county and district committee appointments, passed and carried.

**Ineligibles/Administrative Errors – Reconsideration**

None.

**Unfinished Business**

## MVTF Board Meeting March 11, 2025

MVTF Director Holm reported that, to date, the gubernatorial appointments for the MVTF Board members whose terms are ending, and the vacant board spot appointment have not been released yet leaving one vacancy and two Trustee terms expiring February 24, 2025. A brief discussion followed.

### **New Business**

MVTF Director Holm reported on the upcoming MVAA Leadership Summit, which is scheduled to be held May 19-21, 2025. A brief discussion followed. Director Holm asked the MVTF Trustees if they would consider changing the June 10, 2025, board meeting location from Lansing HQ to be held at the VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids, with a tour of the facility to follow the meeting. Director Holm reported that the MVTF Board officer nominations for Chair and Vice Chair are due.

A MOTION (Paul McIvor/Rodney Loonsfoot) to hold the MVTF Board Meeting at the VFW National Home on June 10, 2025, passed and carried.

A MOTION (Jim Wallace/Gregory Spight) to nominate the current officers; namely, Chairperson James Dempsey and Vice-Chairperson Paul McIvor, to continue to serve as Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson and to make the exception to the two-year rule as stated in Article II, section 2 Membership & Officers of the MVTF by-laws, passed and carried.

### **Strategic Programs Sub-Committee Reports**

Chairperson Dempsey reported that he received a request for the MVTF to consider supporting the upcoming Congressional Medal of Honor Society National Convention in 2026 to be held in Detroit (handout provided). A brief discussion followed. Director Holm reported on the proposal from the VFWNH to fund the continued operation of the Veteran Regenerative Agriculture Demonstration (VRAD) Farm Program in the wake of their loss of the WLCC federal grant. VRAD will provide veteran with skills in regenerative farming, entrepreneurship, fostering sustainable agricultural initiatives while also creating new career pathways for veterans. The VFW National Home is committed to covering 50% of the program costs for the remainder of the year and next year. They are seeking additional funding from MVTF to cover the remaining balance (handout provided).

A MOTION (Jim Wallace/Rodney Loonsfoot) for MVTF to cover the remaining balance of the VRAD program costs to the VFW National Home in the amount of \$70,000.00, passed and carried.

### **MVTF Board Activities**

Trustee Wallace reported that he attended the American Legion Winter Conference which was held in Port Huron adding that it was well attended. Trustee Loonsfoot reported that he was asked to represent Tribal Veterans at the upcoming Leadership Conference, adding that he will be speaking the first day of the conference. Trustee Loonsfoot also reported that his Charter (National American Indian) is having their first convention in May. A brief discussion followed.

### **MVTF Staff Activities**

MVTF Director Holm reported that he attended the NASDVA Conference which was held in Washington, D.C. Holm reported that he was able to network with many vendors that attended and gave an overview of the entire conference. A brief discussion followed. MVTF Outreach Analyst Erik Napieralski met with the VFW National Home as well as attending a meeting with Wayne metropolitan veterans in Dearborn. MVTF Departmental

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Supervisor Carolyn Harden reported on the upcoming Dale Carnegie Customer Service Training in conjunction with the MVAA Resource Center. A brief discussion followed.

**Good of the Order**

None.

**Public Comments**

None.

**Executive Session**

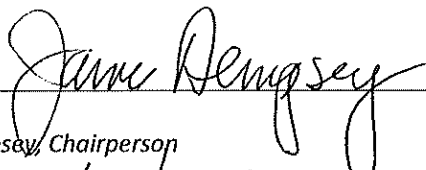
None

**Adjourn**

A MOTION (John Gardner/Paul McIvor) to adjourn, passed and carried.

Meeting Adjourned at 11:49 a.m.

Approved:

  
James Dempsey, Chairperson

Date

4/8/25