

# MINUTES

## NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

### *Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee*

Thursday, August 8, 2019

8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

MSU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, 4125 Beaumont Road, Lansing, MI 48910

#### **PRESENT FOR THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION**

**Commissioner Louise Klarr, Chair**

Commissioner Chris Tracy

Commissioner David Nyberg (via conference)

#### **PRESENT FOR THE MSPAC**

Chuck Hoover

Julie Clark

Bob Hoffmeyer

Chris Graham (via conference)

Ron Olson – DNR-PRD Representative

(No quorum)

#### **ABSENT**

Tom Bailey

Mary Pitcher

Mike McDonald

Jim Bradley

Ann Conklin

Mike Foote

Jefferson Gray

#### **OTHERS PRESENT**

PRD Staff:

Jacklin Blodgett

Jason Fleming

Nicole Toman

Barbara Graves

## MICHIGAN STATE PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MSPAC)

### OPENING COMMENTS

The meeting was called to order at 8:08 a.m. by **Commissioner Klarr**. Commissioner Klarr welcomed everyone and committee member introductions were made around the panel.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A quorum was not established. Vote will be taken in October.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

### ACTION

#### **Maybury State Park General Management Plan**

**Deb Jensen, DNR Parks Management Plan Administrator**, introduced Traci Sincock, Unit Supervisor of Maybury State Park. She then presented the general management plan for Maybury, a state park consisting of 944 acres in Northville Township, northwest Wayne County. The park has over half a million visitors each year with year-round use, with several trails and unique features such as a farm and riding stables. The popular park has excellent community support and stakeholder interest. It is one of the five state parks that has a track chair which allows people with disabilities to get out on the trails. Some of the action goals include constructing a new park headquarters, consolidating functions of trailhead shelter and day-camp building into one building considering year-round use, implementing the non-motorized park entrance off 7 Mile, and constructing a new playground in partnership with Kiwanis/ Twp. Firefighters. Deb provided an opinion of probable cost for the Maybury State Park capital outlay projects.

Due to no quorum, no vote taken.

#### **Wildlife Conservation Order Amendment No. 8 of 2019**

**Nicole Toman, Regulatory Unit Manager** gave an overview of the proposed introduction of the Wildlife Conservation Order that would establish hunting a trapping over a portion of Watkins Lake State Park and County Preserve. The property, acquired, developed, and dedicated as the state's 103 state park in 2016, consists of 1,122 acres. When the property was acquired, it was intended to provide hunting and trapping opportunities, however, it wasn't until they had the management plan developed and approved that they put the proposals in place to make those available. The management plan was approved on October 10, 2018. Prior to its approval it was brought before this committee and the committee provided a resolution in August 2018 supporting the approval of the management plan and with that management plan it had identified

areas to open to hunting and trapping in an area of approximately 400 acres, open for all species year-round. **Commissioner Klarr** would like this noted that it is open to all species.

Due to no quorum, no vote taken. Comments of support will be taken to the committee of the whole.

### **Recognition of Former Committee Member Jim Hendricks**

**Commissioner Klarr** read Resolution No. 8 in support to honor former committee member Jim Hendricks. Those present were in support. **Chief Olson** will invite Mr. Hendricks to the next NRC meeting to honor him there.

## **GENERAL UPDATES**

### **Chief Updates**

**Chief Ron Olson** gave an update on the partnership through Mahindra Motors, who donated two Roxor off-road utility vehicles to the state parks. The ceremony held at the new Holly Oaks ORV area in Oakland County was well received. The grand opening will be in June 2020. He has invited Dr. Chuck Nelson from MSU to present a study on *Assessing Trends in Michigan State Park Use and Users* at the October MSPAC meeting. There were two drownings at Ludington State Park at the non-designated beach area near the Sable River opening due to high water, high volume and currents. The area was closed until a search effort could be completed. There were plenty of warning signs displayed, including the flag system, but unfortunately people ignored them. The Coast Guard Festival in Grand Haven took place with thousands of people in attendance. Everything went well with the collaboration between the DNR and local law enforcement, with no incidents reported. The recent high temperatures and humidity was taxing on some of the parks' electrical systems, solidifying the need for infrastructure improvements. Four Parks employees, Zach Bierlein, Andy Lundborg, Chad Cook and Nick Sparks will be recognized at the NRC meeting for life saving awards.

### **Michigan United Conservation Clubs' (MUCC) Tribute to Parks and Recreation Division's "100 Years of Michigan State Parks"**

**Amy Trotter, Executive Director of Michigan United Conservation Clubs** presented a resolution and plaque to Chief Olson in honor of the 100-year state park centennial.

### **MSPAC Finance Subcommittee Update**

**Committee member Julie Clark** reported that the subcommittee last met in July. They are reviewing the many layers of state park funding and expenditures, with a focus on closing the gap. They went through a couple different scenarios with the proposed Recreation Passport legislation that, if passed, could close most of the gap, and they could provide for more infrastructure needs. They would like to know what level of understanding user groups have on state park funding and to educate them, if need be. This is especially important with the new

legislation being introduced. It's also an opportunity to discuss the "pay to play" structure and how to address it. Their next meeting is August 26.

### **MSPAC Stewardship Subcommittee Update**

**Jason Fleming, Resource Protection and Promotion Section Chief** reported that the subcommittee reviewed the Maybury State Park General Management Plan along with the additions about infrastructure at their last meeting. There was an update on the two positions that are currently vacant; the Stewardship Ecologists and the Stewardship Volunteer Coordinator in Southeast Michigan. An update was given on hemlock woolly adelgid. An update was also given on the boating access site survey that was done by staff in an attempt to assess what is out there for invasives (taking samples, reviewing signage, etc.). There will be more information available once the report is finalized.

The next MSPAC meeting is October 10 at LCC West Campus in Lansing. The start time is 8:00 a.m.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:28 a.m.