

Appendix C—Planning Team Summary

Over the duration of the General Management Planning process, the Planning Team held three on-site team meetings and three virtual meetings. These meetings were critical to the development of the General Management Plan and particularly the creation of the 20-Year Management Zones and the 10-Year Action Goals. Additionally, the meetings were an opportunity to review input received from stakeholders and the public.

Overview of Planning Team Meetings

Team Meeting #1 Muskallonge Lake State Park (August 20, 2015) – The Planning Team’s kick-off meeting was an opportunity for Planning Team members to introduce themselves to one another, review the General Management Plan schedule, receive an overview and tour of Muskallonge Lake, discuss the park and its significance features, review the resource maps, and review the Supporting Analysis.

Team Meeting #2 Muskallonge Lake State Park (September 22, 2015) –The Planning Team met and began discussion with the supporting analysis and potential stakeholders to include for the future open house. They also suggested questions for the public input survey. The Planning Team worked together in drafting the park’s Management Zones and began brainstorming 10-year action goals for the park.

Team Meeting #3 Muskallonge Lake State Park (October 21, 2015) – The Planning Team met and reviewed the Draft Statements of Significance, Draft Management Zone Map, and Draft Action Goals, and offered revisions. The Planning Team also finalized revisions to the online survey and the stakeholder list.

Team Meeting #4, Go-To-Meeting (January 19, 2016) – The Planning Team reviewed the input received from the stakeholder meeting and the online survey. The Team refined and made additions to the Draft Action Goals, taking into account the stakeholder and public input received. Discussion of the upcoming Public Open House occurred, including date and location options.

Team Meeting #5, Go-To-Meeting (March 3, 2016) – The Planning Team met and reviewed updates the maps, action goals, and GMP. The Management Zone and Amenities maps were discussed with revisions. The Action Goals were reviewed and confirmed project input and responsible parties. The Team discussed the internal review process and the format for the upcoming Open House.

Team Meeting #6, Go-To-Meeting (June 14, 2016) –The Planning Team met and discussed the input received from the Public Input Open House, and how those topics could be reflected in the plan. Minor revisions to the Action Goals and maps were made. The Team received an overview of the final steps in the process, as well as projected timeline.

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Muskallonge Lake State Park General Management Planning

Planning Meeting #1 (Kick Off Meeting)
Thursday, August 20th from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Muskallonge Lake State Park Headquarters
30042 County Road 407
Newberry, MI 49868

SUMMARY

Attendees: Debbie Jensen (Management Plan Administrator), Jim Dzelak (Unit Supervisor), Keith Cheli (Regional Planner), Amy Douglass (FRD), Peter Rose (Geologist), Lisa Gamero (Cultural Resource Analyst), Paul Gaberdiel (Trail Specialist), Dave Birchler and Mardy Stirling (Clearzoning).

1. Introductions and Review of Agenda. The Team introduced themselves and verified contact information on the roster.
2. Muskallonge Lake State Park General Management Plan Schedule was presented by D. Birchler.
3. Overview of the Management Plan Process was presented by D. Jensen. The Team reviewed the process and management zone descriptions. She encouraged the Team to provide input in their area of expertise on the Supporting Analysis.
4. Muskallonge Lake State Park Overview was presented by J. Dzelak. Following is the information presented during the slide show:

History:

- Muskallonge Lake State Park encompasses the previous settlement Deer Park, a late 1800s lumbering town. The lake was a sawmill pond for white pine logs. The mill was in operation for only 20 years when the area's timber was depleted. The only remnants are sawdust piles and submerged logs. There was once an attempt to lower the lake in order to clear the deadhead logs.
- Muskallonge Lake was home to one of the first lifesaving stations, established in 1876.

Park Facilities:

- The park contains 217 acres of mixed hardwoods and two miles of shoreline. Trout Creek feeds into the lake.
- There are 159 campsites open from April to November, equipped with modern amenities. In 2014, the park received 46,140 campers, with an average of 10,000 camp nights per year.
- Other facilities include a boat launch, picnic area, hiking trail, swimming beach, stairs and boardwalk to Lake Superior.
- Peak use is from July – mid September.

Activities:

- Popular park activities include rock and agate collecting, fishing, astronomy, ORV riding, swimming, boating, paddling, geocaching, recreational gold panning, hiking, biking, and hunting.
- There is a Rock On! Event, which is a display, workshop and educational show for agate collectors. An estimated 2,000 people attend this event annually.
- Tahquamenon Country Sled Dog Race is an annual event that draws over 60 teams from across the continent.

Outside (satellite) Facilities:

- Neighboring recreation facilities include a number of rustic State Forest Campgrounds, the Pine Ridge/Two Hearted Trailhead (multi-use), and boat access sites (3 improved, 2 unimproved).

Facility and Development Needs:

- Muskallonge Lake State Park has been affected by erosion along the bluff. Approximately ½ a mile of Lake Superior shoreline has been affected with the loss of 50 feet since 2010. This has also impacted the North Country Trail, which has been lost in certain areas and re-routed inland. A physical stabilization solution to address this problem, with uncertain results, would cost millions. The DEQ has not yet designated the area as a High Risk Erosion Zone.
 - Because of the erosion, the park headquarters has been forced to relocate. An archeological review was done to select an appropriate location for the new headquarters.
 - Muskallonge Lake State Park has experienced a few destructive storms in recent years. In 2010, a wind storm forced the evacuation of campers and caused 122 trees to fall. Another wind storm in 2013 was responsible for the destruction of 60 trees. The park is particularly vulnerable to such events because of its sandy soil.
 - Piping plover habitat can be found along the shoreline.
 - Invasive species within the park are garlic mustard, spotted knapweed, and phragmites.
 - Muskallonge Lake State Park needs to upgrade its campground electrical service, make road improvements, construct a shelter in the picnic area, improve visitor accessibility, upgrade the boat launch, build camper cabins and yurts, and perform waste system upgrades. The park would also like to expand its interpretive program to highlight the natural, cultural, and historic features.
5. Park Tour.
 6. Lunch and Tour Debrief.
 7. Significant Features Exercise. The team was asked to write down features that they believe make Muskallonge Lake State Park unique and significant. These features were then categorized into topic areas.
 8. Discussion regarding the Supporting Analysis and Resource Maps.
 - A.3 History of Muskallonge Lake State Park
 - T. Neal / K. Zarowny - Include information on tribes connected to the park.*

- A.4 Land Ownership
D. Jensen - Address land changes due to the shoreline erosion.
 - A.5 Legal Mandates
D. Jensen - Include gold prospecting and rock collecting land use orders.
K. Zarowny - Include County regulations on ORVs.
 - A.6 Regional Recreation Resources
D. Jensen / K. Zarowny - Check to see if there is an ORV trail map to add.
 - A.8 Natural Resources
P. Rose – Geology and mineral resources information (received via e-mail).
R. Fahlsing / S. MacKinnon – Threatened and Endangered Species information.
 - A.9 Historic and Cultural Resources
D. Anderson / L. Gamero - Include railroad pilings, Cyprus Shipwreck, deadhead logs, garbage dumps.
 - A.10 Educational and Interpretation
J. Dzelak / K. Zarowny - Add Sled Dog Race.
9. Schedule Team Meetings #2 and #3. The Team discussed the proposed meeting schedule. The next meeting are tentatively scheduled from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM on September 23, 2015 and October 21, 2015. There was a brief discussion on holding the stakeholder focus group on October 22, following Team Meeting #3.

Muskallonge Lake State Park General Management Planning

Planning Meeting #2

Wednesday, September 22nd from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Newberry Customer Service Center
5100 State Highway M-123 Newberry, MI 49868

SUMMARY

Attendees: Debbie Jensen (Management Plan Administrator), Jim Dzelak (Unit Supervisor), Tom Paquin (District Supervisor), Keith Cheli (Regional Planner), Ray Fahlsing (Stewardship Unit Manager), Lisa Gamero (Cultural Resource Analyst), Paul Gaberdiel (Trail Specialist), Cory Kovacs (Fisheries Biologist), Sgt. Mike Hammill (Area Supervisor), Amy Douglass (Forester), Dave Birchler, Mardy Stirling, and Karen Zarowny (Clearzoning).

10. Welcome. The meeting started with introductions from team members and roster updates.
11. Review of the Kick-off Meeting Summary. The Team reviewed and made minor clarifications to the summary from the kick off meeting.
12. Statements of Significance. The Team reviewed the first draft of the Significance Statements, which was created from the input provided during the brainstorming session at the kick off meeting. The Planning Team discussed the statements and made revisions to better describe the park. The Team also decided to add a statement regarding the importance of fishing at the park. C. Kovacs offered to draft the language for the statement.
13. Draft Management Zone Activity. The Planning Team, using an aerial map of the park, identified zones based on the Parks and Recreation Management Zone descriptions. The Team discussed areas in need of protection, where administrative services are located, and historically significant areas. Popular activities in certain areas were also accounted for in drafting the zones.
14. Review Resource Maps. The Planning Team reviewed the resource maps and recommended revisions to better represent the current park. This included making additions of other recreational resources to the maps, clarifications of roads and trails, and showing a regional area that better represents the State Park.
15. Review Stakeholders List and Focus Group. The Team provided input on what community members should be added to the master stakeholder list, which included municipalities, nature groups, and recreational associations among others. Clearzoning walked the Team through the process of a typical focus group session, including what questions are asked to stakeholders.
16. Action Goals. The Team brainstormed on what they would like to see or address at the Park, including both short term and long-term goals.
17. Public Input Survey. The Planning Team was asked to consider what questions may be unique to the park when drafting the public input survey. Examples of previous park surveys were shown. Team members provided input on feedback they would like to receive from visitors to help in the park planning process. Some recommendations included:

- Would visitors support park policies to protect the park from invasive species?
 - How secure do campers feel in the park?
 - Pets in the park
 - Reservation system
 - What other nearby parks do visitors also see?
 - Are visitors aware that ORV camping is allowed?
 - Does the park provide sufficient accommodations to families (playground equipment)?
 - Are visitors members of any regional recreation groups?
 - How do visitors feel about current lodging options?
 - Do watertrail users find that the park provides sufficient amenities for their needs?
 - What do visitors think are priorities for park improvements?
18. Supporting Analysis. The team reviewed the Supporting Analysis. Corrections and clarifications on sections were provided and formatting recommendations were made. Additional information was provided to be incorporated.
19. The Team scheduled Team Meeting #3 for the following month. Discussion on the stakeholder meeting took place, including the potential date and venue.

Muskallonge Lake State Park General Management Planning

Planning Meeting #3

Wednesday, October 21st from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

DNR Newberry Customer Service Center
5100 State Highway M-123 Newberry, MI 49868

SUMMARY

Attendees: Amy Douglass (Forester), Jeff Freeborn (Park Ranger), Debbie Jensen (Management Plan Administrator), Cory Kovacs (Fisheries Biologist), Tom Paquin (District Supervisor), Keith Cheli (Regional Planner), Lisa Gamero (Cultural Resource Analyst), Paul Gaberdiel (Trail Specialist), Theresa Neal (Park Interpreter), Peter Rose (Geologist), Mardy Stirling, and Karen Zarowny (Clearzoning).

20. Review of the Meeting #2 Summary. The Team reviewed and accepted the summary from the second meeting.
21. Statements of Significance. The Team reviewed the second draft of the Statements of Significance. Portions of the statements were reworked to better reflect those unique qualities of the park:
 - The statement on lumbering history was modified to better describe location and historic features.
 - The statement regarding the park as a hub for diverse recreation opportunities was rephrased.
 - The statement regarding fishing at the park will be added to this document.
22. Draft Management Zone Activity. The first draft of the management zones was reviewed and a few revisions to the map were recommended, including:
 - Expanding the high risk erosion zone to better reflect erosion projections.
 - Modification to the Developed Recreation Zone to better define its boundary.
 - Modifying the Scenic Zone to better reflect the viewing area and designating the Lake Superior shoreline as scenic.
23. Review Resource Maps. The Planning Team reviewed the resource maps and requested minor revisions, including boundary verification, changes to land and mineral ownership map, and recreation resources.
24. Action Goals. The Team reviewed the first draft of the action goals, assigned them to appropriate zones, and provided goal revisions. Additional goals were also suggested, including:
 - Bringing a seasonal interpreter/explorer guide to the park.
 - Providing camper cabins for year-round use.
 - Continue public education regarding natural erosion along Lake Superior shoreline.

25. Supporting Analysis. The team reviewed the updated draft of the Supporting Analysis for accuracy and relevance. Certain areas were eliminated due to their lack of relevance to the park, while additional items are needed to better represent Muskallonge Lake State Park and its surrounding area, including:
- Clarification on Legal Mandates.
 - Clean up of the Regional Recreation Resources, including surrounding amenities, parks, trails, and attractions.
 - Revised Recreation Resource section to better reflect current amenities and activities at the park.
 - Additional contributions from team members will be provided for the next draft, including information on Historic and Cultural Resources.
26. Public Online Survey Review. The Team reviewed the draft survey and made changes to make information gathering more efficient and pertinent to topics of interest for this park. The survey will be finalized and released within the next few weeks.
27. Stakeholder Meeting Overview. Clearzoning discussed the agenda of the Stakeholder meeting which was scheduled for the following day. Some team members planned on attending the meeting to provide additional support for stakeholder inquiries.

Muskallonge Lake State Park General Management Planning

Planning Meeting #4
Tuesday, January 19th, 2016
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Go-To-Meeting

SUMMARY

Attendees: Keith Cheli (Regional Planner), Amy Douglass (Forester), Jim Dzelak (Unit Supervisor), Ray Fahlsing (Stewardship Unit Manager), Paul Gaberdiel (Trail Specialist), Lisa Gamero (Cultural Resource Analyst), Debbie Jensen (Management Plan Administrator), Cory Kovacs (Fisheries Biologist), Tom Paquin (District Supervisor), Peter Rose (Geologist), Dave Birchler, Jason Bibby, and Karen Zarowny (Clearzoning).

1. Review of the Meeting #3 Summary. The Team reviewed and accepted the summary from the third meeting.
2. Review of the Stakeholder Input Summary. The Stakeholder Focus Group summary was reviewed and accepted. The team discussed some of the stakeholder comments and general results from the meeting.
3. Review Survey Results and Summary. The Planning Team reviewed the survey results and draft Public Input Summary. Comments on the results were made, as well as discussion on why some questions had an unusually low responses and a high skip rate. The team decided that answers to these questions may be included in the summary, as long as the total number of responses is reported along with percentages.
 - *D. Jensen to provide e-mail blast numbers for the summary*
 - *Clearzoning to adjust language to recognize the small response size for certain questions*
4. Draft Statements of Significance. The third draft of the Statements of Significance was reviewed and finalized, with minor revisions. The statement regarding agates was re-titled to emphasize the park's overall role as a rock-collecting destination. The maritime history was modified to reflect the current state of remnants. The statement of the park being a hub for recreation opportunities was updated with the correct water trail reference. Finally, the fishing statement was rephrased.
5. Draft Management Zone Map Review. The Team reviewed the third draft of the Management Zone Map. Members questioned if the High Risk Erosion Zone would prevent activities occurring north of County Road 407. D. Jensen verified that the High Risk Erosion Zone would not discourage activities while land is intact, but would prevent future development of infrastructure in this area. Wording for this zone description can include this understanding. Clarification of the correct boundary between the Cultural Landscape Zone and the Developed Recreation Zone was also confirmed. The trails on the map were also discussed, as they have been rerouted due to erosion, and should be changed to reflect the current route. Ray noted that a WIP should be submitted for a permanent reroute.
 - *P. Gaberdiel to provide the GIS updates to trails based on new GPS coordinates*
 - *D. Jensen to provide language for High Risk Erosion Zone*

6. Action Goals Review. The second draft of the action goals was updated, clarifying goal language, as well as providing anticipated completion dates for each one. Additional goals were also suggested, including those that reflect the park as a dark sky destination, invasive species control, and the protection of cultural resources.
 - *Clearzoning to draft Program Input, Responsible Program Positions, and assignment of subcategories for input D. Jensen, then full team review*
7. Supporting Analysis Review. The Team reviewed the updated draft and made minor changes.
 - *R. Fahlsing to provide updated language for A.8, Threatened and Endangered Species*
 - *D. Anderson to review provide updated language for A.3 and A.9*
 - *Clearzoning to modify "Hiawatha Water Trail" to "Lake Superior East Water Trail" as needed*
8. Public Input Open House/Venue. Discussion of the next steps in the park's GMP process occurred. The public input open house is anticipated to occur in May/June. The team agreed that the venue of the stakeholder meeting, the LMAS District Health Department conference room, is a viable option for the open house. Further action will be taken as a date is finalized. The next planning team meeting date was scheduled.

Muskallonge Lake State Park General Management Planning

Planning Meeting #5
Wednesday, February 17th, 2016
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM
Go-To-Meeting

SUMMARY

Attendees: Debbie Jensen (Management Plan Administrator), Keith Cheli (Regional Planner), Dean Anderson (State Archaeologist), Amy Douglass (Forester), Jim Dzelak (Unit Supervisor), Lisa Gamero (Cultural Resource Analyst), , Cory Kovacs (Fisheries Biologist), Tom Paquin (District Supervisor), Peter Rose (Geologist), Dave Birchler, Jason Bibby, and Karen Zarowny (Clearzoning).

9. Review of the Meeting #4 Summary. The Team reviewed and accepted the summary from meeting #4.
10. Draft General Management Plan Review. The Draft General Management Plan was reviewed with minor edits. The team discussed an overall issue with the low resolution of images within the provided electronic pdf version of the plan.
 - *Clearzoning to resolve maps that had low resolution quality in the pdf copy of the plan*
 - *Clearzoning to obtain picture caption dates (decade picture taken)*
 - *Jim to provide additional photographs, primarily Muskallonge Lake and camping activities*
11. Management Zone Map Review. The Planning Team reviewed the management zone map and were made aware of the updated reroute to the North Country/Iron Belle Trail.
12. Draft Action Goals Review. The draft action goals were reviewed by the planning team with minor edits.
 - *Clearzoning to re-order action items in chronological order for each category.*
 - *Clearzoning/DJ will provide introductory summary paragraph to Action Goals that reflects the recurring themes of action items and relation to guiding framework resources to the plan.*
13. Supporting Analysis Review. The Team reviewed the updated draft and made minor changes.
 - *R. Fahlsing to provide updated language for A.8, Threatened and Endangered Species*
 - *D. Anderson to review provide updated language for A.3 and A.9*
 - *D. Jensen to add meeting notes with Grand Traverse Bay Band of Tribes*
14. Public Input Open House/Venue Discussion. The team agreed that the venue of the stakeholder meeting, the LMAS District Health Department conference room, is a viable option for the open house. The dates May 18 and May 19 were selected to be held for the Muskallonge Lake and Tahquamenon Falls open house meetings.
 - *Jim will check the two dates available for May 18th and May 19th between 5-8pm.*

- *Debbie will email Craig on his available schedule for May 18th and 19th regarding Tahquamenon Falls*

Muskallonge Lake State Park General Management Planning

Planning Team Meeting #6 Summary

Tuesday, June 14, 2016

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Go-to-Meeting

SUMMARY

Attendees: Keith Cheli (Regional Planner), Amy Douglass (Forester), Jim Dzelak (Unit Supervisor), Ray Fahlsing (Stewardship Unit Manager), Debbie Jensen (Management Plan Administrator), Cory Kovacs (Fisheries Biologist), Tom Paquin (District Supervisor), and Karen Zarowny (Giffels Webster).

1. Planning Team Meeting #5 Summary from February 17, 2016. The Team reviewed and approved the meeting summary.
2. Review of the Public Input Open House Summary. The Team reviewed the comments received at the Open House, including the action goal priority activity, as well as the website and email comments. It was determined that the majority of comments received were addressed by the Planning Team's established action goals. The Team also decided to incorporate minor changes suggested by the Department of Interior regarding identifying the North Country National Scenic Trail/Iron Belle Trail.
3. Review of the Management Zone Map. The Team reviewed the map, particularly regarding the Open House inquiry of why the Administrative Zone was in the middle of the Cultural Zone. It was determined that further explanation of why this is suitable should be included in the description for the Administrative Zone. It was noted that because the scheduled archaeological survey is currently underway, it is possible that updates to the Cultural Zone may be anticipated.
4. Review of the 10-Year Action Goals. The Team made changes to the Action Goals. This included updating language to the Stewardship Plan goal and clarification on acronyms.
5. Review Draft General Management Plan. The Team made minor corrections to the GMP, including referencing the Supporting Analysis, North Country National Scenic Trail/Iron Belle Trail recognition, Administrative Zone description clarification, Dark Sky Legislation referencing, and removal of Action Goal highlights in lieu of directing readers to the appropriate section.
6. Next Steps. D. Jensen shared the expected timeline for the GMP approval process, which is slated for October 2016.