

MINUTES

NATURAL RESOURCE COMMISSION

Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee

January 11, 2018

9:00 – 11:00 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

PRESENT FOR THE MSPAC

Ann Conklin
Bob Hoffmeyer – Conference in
Mike McDonald
Chuck Hoover
Chris Graham – Conference in
Jim Hendricks
Jim Bradley – Conference in
Tom Bailey – Conference in
Mary Pitcher
Mike Foote
Jacklin Blodgett for Ron Olson

ABSENT

Julie Clark
Jefferson Gray
Christine Crumbaugh
Ron Olson

OTHERS PRESENT

Vicki McGhee
Jason Fleming
DNR Management and Staff

MICHIGAN STATES PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MSPAC)

OPENING COMMENTS

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by **Commissioner Klarr**. Commissioner Klarr welcomed everyone to today's meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes were approved for the October 12, 2017 meeting. Commissioner Klarr motioned for approval of the minutes with Mike Foote and Chuck Hoover seconding that motion. Motion to accept minutes passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF 2018 COMMITTEE MEETING DATES

The 2018 meeting dates were approved by committee members with the following notes. Committee member Mike Foote should be added to the Stewardship subcommittee meeting distribution list. It was further suggested that the February 2018 meeting be cancelled and a meeting be held in September 2018. Upon follow up more information will be distributed to the committee members.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Committee member Chuck Hoover noted he recently received a letter regarding the winter trail developed over the season in the Leelanau State Park area which doesn't seem to be included in master plan. Letter expressed concerns about what is going on, and procedures not followed this time as trails put in place. Chuck Hoover indicated there is a blog on the internet about this trail.

Jason Fleming, PRD Resource Management Chief, addressed this trail use. Indicating this is not a new trail; this is a onetime use permit as a test period. This trail run, if it works out, will go through a public process. Further stating that some Masterplans are as old as 1986, we are now redoing all these old master plans and this will be reviewed and will include public comment.

PRESENTATION

PRD AmeriCorps – Summer Youth Employment Program:

Murdock Jemerson and Alexis Horton gave an overview of the Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP). The SYEP was developed to work with at-risk youth primarily from four cities that have high crime rates; Detroit, Flint, Pontiac and Saginaw.

Youth are then involved in a variety of different types of projects at state parks. The youth learn skills such as painting, woodworking, floor installation etc. **Ms. Horton** noted that although there has been a decrease in funding for this program; there has been a successful increase in use. This program has employed an average of 642 youth every year. Further noting that many college-eligible youth in the program go to college and approximately 32% of all participants either go to college or obtain employment.

Michigan Rehabilitative Services Program

Ms. Horton reviewed the Michigan Rehabilitative Services Program and how the program started and expanded. This program provides employment and job skill training to students with disabilities. The students in the program are typically from the local area and help complete various projects in state parks. There were a total of 289 students who participated in 2017 at 44 state parks. Many students work with lead Rangers and go on to work as STW's in the summer. Funding for this program is received from the DNR, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and from federal matching grants.

ACTION ITEMS

Cheboygan State Park General Management Plan:

Deb Jensen, DNR Parks Management Plan Administrator, reviewed details of the Cheboygan State Park General Management Plan. The plan has the support of the MSPAC Stewardship subcommittee who reviewed the plan on November 29, 2017 with minor revisions suggested.

Cheboygan State Park is approximately 1,345 acres and includes a day-use area, camping, and a modern lodge. The park has an expansive scenic view with 4 miles of Lake Huron shoreline. This park sits along the U.S. 23 Heritage Route where there is hunting and fishing as well as wildlife and shipwreck viewing off the shoreline. Rustic cabins along the shoreline are in use all winter at this park.

The plan suggests further evaluation of park and campground roads, upgrades to the campground, electrical improvements and construction of a new toilet and shower building. Public input further noted that improvements to beach access and water, additional cabins, playground updates, and modern restrooms were wanted.

Upon completion of the presentation a resolution of support from the subcommittee meeting held previously was presented:

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF: **Commissioner Louise Klarr** asked for a motion of support for approval of Resolution No: 01-2018-01. The motion was seconded by **Committee Member Mike McDonald**.

The Stewardship subcommittee has previously recommended approval with minor modifications at a meeting held on November 29, 2018. Resolution No. 01-2018-01 was approved unanimously.

GENERAL UPDATES

Marketing and Promotions Summary (v) (w)

Maia Turek, Parks and Recreation, and Ami VanAntwerp, Marketing and Outreach recapped new things going on with marketing and programming. The “Park Here” marketing brand was launched last spring. The brand is used to promote the recreation passport, camping, trails, waterways and many others. Various brochures have been revamped with the new logo; with shared templates that can be used in-house for flyers by our parks.

Maia noted that centennial planning is now underway; as Michigan state parks turn 100 in 2019. Committee members offered to volunteer to assist with this event.

Financial Update (v)

Jacklin Blodgett, PRD Administrative Services, provided an update on recreation passport sales; that are up 3%. Jackie further noted that sales in Detroit and statewide continue to grow. ORV sales had a slight decline; however there has been a 20% increase in snowmobile sales due to the weather this season. An increase in camping fees and a new fee charged that will be charged at state parks for the recreation passport will create additional funds for parks this year. This increase is expected to generate approximately 2.2 million in additional revenue.

Jackie will be working on the Finance Subcommittee schedule for 2018 for future recreation passport discussion.

Major Projects Update (v)

Vicki McGhee, PRD Planning Section Chief, provided an update on the needed repairs and significant erosion issue for County Road 107; the primary access road to the Porkies and Lake of the Clouds. This has been a concern for several years; however with the number and intensity of storms the last couple years the erosion has become much worse creating very hazardous driving conditions in this area.

The DNR is currently working with the County Road Commission and MDOT to identify both short and long term solutions. The department is also working to identify possible sources of funding for these critical repairs. Repair costs are estimated at between 3.3-5 million to correct current problem.

OTHER

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:16 a.m.