

MINUTES

NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee

Thursday, February 14, 2019

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.

Lansing Center

333 E. Michigan Avenue, Lansing, MI 48910

PRESENT FOR THE NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Commissioner Louise Klarr, Chair

Commissioner Chris Tracy

PRESENT FOR THE MSPAC

Julie Clark

Ann Conklin

Chuck Hoover

Michael McDonald

Ron Olson – DNR Representative

ABSENT

Tom Bailey

Jim Bradley

Mike Foote

Chris Graham

Jefferson Gray

Robert Hoffmeyer

Mary Pitcher

OTHERS PRESENT

Jacklin Blodgett

Jason Fleming

Ami VanAntwerp

DNR Management and Staff

MICHIGAN STATE PARKS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (MSPAC)

OPENING COMMENTS

The meeting was called to order at 8:15 a.m. by *Commissioner Klarr*. Commissioner Klarr welcomed everyone to the meeting. Committee member introductions were made around the panel.

Commissioner Klarr stated that newest MSPAC member, *Commissioner David Nyberg*, will be present at the next meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioner Klarr motioned for approval of the December 13, 2018 meeting minutes with *Committee member Julie Clark* and *Commissioner Chris Tracy* seconding that motion. Motion to accept minutes passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Commissioner Klarr reported on an e-mail the department received from Daniel Banka on the construction at Lakeport State Park. Committee member Ann Conklin asked Jacklin Blodgett to forward her response to Mr. Banka to the committee.

Chauncy Moran reported that, for several years, they have been stalled out in their natural areas program. There are several natural areas that have been identified and approved, but he hasn't been able to reach the level of executive protection that is necessary to keep them from any development going on around them. He wants the committee to know he wants to jump-start the program, and to think about what the jurisdictional responsibilities of the parks and recreation system will be going forward with additional properties being protected under natural areas. There are 80 areas in the queue.

GENERAL UPDATES

Chief Updates

Chief Olson reported that the first phase of the Sargent Sands acquisition is complete; north 100 acres which have not yet been mined, with a value at \$17M. The remaining 225 acres is still in play to acquire. The land will be mined out in the next 4 years, and this land will round out to \$3.1M. Eventually there will be a management plan for those areas. More information will be forthcoming.

Chief Olson reported on the supplemental budget. There was a \$1.5M general fund allocation to rehabilitate the historic beach house at Grand Haven State Park. There was \$5M added as matching funds for the Iron Belle Trail project. \$3M for additional paving of Fred Meijer White Pine State Park Trail. \$2.5M was allocated for the Traverse City to Charlevoix Trail effort. \$10M was allocated towards the effort to address PFOS, which affects some of the state park areas along the Huron River corridor. They put a supplemental budget request in for Fiscal Year 2019; \$2M was appropriated which can be used to improve operational needs. There is another \$8M that is pending that they hope will pass when the budget process picks up steam, and those will go into infrastructure. He will forward them the information. The Recreation Passport opt-out did not pass; they can talk about the next steps in the Finance Committee. SJO did pass and will be on the 2020 ballot to amend the Trust Fund.

Committee member McDonald asked for a parcel map of Sargent Sands to be sent along with the supplemental information.

Centennial Update

Jason Fleming and **Ami VanAntwerp** from the department gave an update on the *Michigan 100 Years State Parks* campaign. The campaign's website can be found at www.michigan.gov/stateparks100. The tagline is "Look Back, Give Forward". Some of the look-back elements of the campaign are the Memory Map, where users can submit pictures and their stories; the Historical Perspective, which includes 9 pillar stories of significance; History in the Headlines, a partnership with the Michigan Press Association; Gather 'Round the Campfire, a storytelling project and schedule of events; and Under the Radar, a partnership with an award-winning TV show that focuses on places in Michigan, which will feature 5 of our state parks.

The Give Forward portion of the campaign is encouraging people to contribute or volunteer their time. A donor platform will be launched soon, with an option to text from your phone "Michigan" to 71777, which will in turn send a link to your phone to a site for donating to the Michigan Parks. The Explore link includes a calendar of state park events and centennial events. The Videos link takes viewers on a visual tour of some of the parks to see what they have to offer. The Centennial GeoTour item is where people can go to seek treasure hunting. There is also a toolkit where people can download photos, a fact sheet, among other items.

Ami will forward the communication plan to the committee. Jason would like everyone to note that May 18 is the Interlochen State Park Centennial Summer Fun Open House at the park from noon to 4 p.m. He encourages everyone to attend.

MSPAC Finance Committee Update

Committee member Conklin said they had a phone meeting with Ron and Jacklin to talk about what their role should be. There will be a meeting on March 25 at 1:30 at the Lansing DNR office and they are hoping people interested will be involved. In preparation for the meeting DNR will put together where they are financially and what impact SJO will have and what the long-term liabilities are, including the master plans, and making sure they are addressing future funding and solutions. *Commissioner Tracy* recommended members of friends groups who would be good candidates to serve on these committees. If anyone is interested, or know someone who is, please let Ann or Ron know. Jacklin will send the committee their topics where they need input.

MSPAC 2019 Goals

Chief Olson went over the five goals that were identified for 2019:

- Parks, Waterways and Trails infrastructure – There is over \$260M needs in parks alone, with another \$50M+ immediate need for health and safety.
- Non-motorized trail funding – They will focus on different models to establish a funding system.
- Staffing and hiring in a diversified workforce – Hiring and keeping short-term workers is challenging. They have to figure out how to attract more candidates and make sure they have a staff makeup that is reflective of the population.
- Invasive species – create taskforce to control
- Relevancy – Continue to evolve; keeping up with the changing landscape. We have to be responsive, including lodging use trends.

Subcommittee Review and Appointment

Finance Committee – *Committee member Conklin* asked to let her and Ron know if there is anyone interested or if they know of anyone they should reach out to. Phone access will be made available to anyone who cannot be there in person. Their next meeting is March 25. Chuck Hoover would like to be on the Finance Committee.

Stewardship Committee – *Committee member McDonald* said Chris Graham calls the meeting when he is asked to do so. Jason Fleming said some of the goal topics could be talked about, like the invasive species goal topic, and management plan updates. Meetings are usually on the off-months of MSPAC.

INFORMATION ONLY

Chief Olson reported that *Committee member Hendricks* has resigned. Please send him any replacement possibilities for a U.P. representative. They will put something out on the way to apply.

The next meeting to be held on April 11, 2019 at MSU Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in Lansing.

Meeting adjourned at 9:37 a.m.