

## MINUTES

### *Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee*

Tuesday, December 8, 2020

2:00 p.m.

Microsoft Teams Meeting / (248) 509-0316 | ID: 160 994 971#

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

Attending remotely:

Commissioner Louise Klarr; Jackson, Jackson County, Michigan  
Chuck Hoover; Saginaw Township, Saginaw County, Michigan  
Mike Foote; Ada, Kent County, Michigan  
Ann Conklin; Canton, Wayne County, Michigan  
Mike MacDonald; Meridian Township, Ingham County, Michigan  
Chris Graham; Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan  
Julie Clark; Traverse City, Grand Traverse County, Michigan  
Mary Pitcher; Beulah, Benzie County, Michigan  
Ron Olson – DNR-PRD Representative

#### **ABSENT**

Commissioner Dave Nyberg  
Jim Bradley  
Bob Hoffmeyer

#### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Jacklin Blodgett, PRD  
Michael Desnoyer, PRD  
Vicki McGhee, PRD  
Matt Lincoln, PRD  
Scott Pratt, PRD  
Griselda, Trevino, PRD  
Barbara Graves, PRD

#### **OPENING COMMENTS**

**Commissioner Klarr** called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. and asked for a roll call.

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Commissioner Klarr** motioned for approval of the August 25, 2020 meeting minutes. The motion was moved by **Foote**, supported by **Hoover**, and passed unanimously.

**Commissioner Klarr** motioned for approval of the October 28, 2020 meeting minutes. The motion was moved by **MacDonald**, supported by **Foote**, and passed unanimously.

## **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

## **ACTION**

**Commissioner Klarr** motioned for approval of the 2021 meeting dates. The motion was moved by **MacDonald**, supported by **Pitcher**, and passed unanimously.

## **INFORMATION ONLY**

**Matt Lincoln, Land Specialist and Grants Coordinator, PRD** gave a brief overview of the Phase 2 General Management Plan for Holland State Park. The main goals for the park are improving traffic and pedestrian safety, improving water safety, and replacing the beach pavilion and toilet/shower building. **Chief Olson** and **Scott Pratt** gave an update on the steps they are taking to improve water safety, including the staff meeting monthly with local emergency management and city officials, the purchase of a digital (wi-fi capable) messaging board, an intercom system installed on each post along the beach, and ramping up efforts to distribute water safety pamphlets in local tourism spots.

## **GENERAL UPDATES**

**Chief Olson, PRD** reported that the DHHS orders were extended so they are still in a holding pattern. Visitation, camping, and lodging numbers continued strong, with an average of 25% up from 2019. ORV trail usage is up over 20%. Park staff in the Upper Peninsula have never seen visitation numbers this high before. There were a record number of rescues in the Porkies due to novice hikers who came unprepared. Teleworking continues and return to work plans remain in a holding pattern until March 1.

The passage of Proposal 1 allows the Trust Fund Board to have some flexibility on the alignment of the funding towards projects. A minimum of 25% funds yielded from the corpus balance must be used for park improvements and a minimum of 25% for land acquisition. The other 50% can be maneuvered and adjusted by the Board to align the funding with some of the demands. Financial adjustments will have to be addressed. Also, the proposal required that 20% of the Park Endowment annual funding yield to be used for State Park infrastructure.

### Financial Overview Year-End 2020

**Michael Desnoyer, Chief, Administrative Services, PRD** walked through the Recreation Passport revenue, camping and lodging numbers, and Park Improvement Fund numbers for FY2020, and projections for FY2021.

### Capital Outlay Project Highlights

**Vicki McGhee, Chief, Planning and Infrastructure, PRD** updated the committee on the capital outlay projects including the Silver Lake up ramp, Interlochen State Park and Maybury State Park FEMA headquarter buildings, the new FEMA toilet and shower buildings, the relocation plans of the historic building at Orchard Beach State Park, and the Belle Isle portable coffer dam.

### Approved Land and Water Conservation Grants and Approved MNRTF Grants

**Matt Lincoln, Land Specialist and Grants Coordinator, PRD** went over the list of approved grants that were awarded last week, which include the Torch River Bridge boating access site redevelopment, Mike Levine Lakelands Trail development phase 3, Little Presque Isle trail development and renovation, Lake Linden Trail reconstruction, and the Belle Isle Park Iron Belle Trail Loop development.

### COVID-19 Operation Update

**Assistant Chief Jacklin Blodgett, PRD** updated the group on operations. Operation guidance goes out weekly to staff and is aligned with the DHHS orders and how to implement them in the field. The last few weeks there have been more positive COVID cases in the parks with staff bringing the virus in from the outside. It is now required that staff take a COVID training and fill out a COVID screening form before they can go to their workstations. Only essential travel is reviewed for approval. Most staff continue to telework.

**Jacklin Blodgett** introduced **Griselda Trevino**, the recently hired Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Coordinator for PRD. Her efforts will include and be geared towards diversifying staff and visitors, working with youth outreach efforts and community engagement, and employee engagement. Griselda came to PRD from the Department of Labor, Economic and Opportunity. She studied at MSU and her major was Sustainable Parks, Recreation and Tourism. She also studied abroad, working with different families and students, helping them acclimate to being college students and assisting them interculturally. She hopes to share her experiences and contribute the most to this team. The committee welcomed her.

**Commissioner Klarr** resigned her seat on the committee and said it has been a great eight years serving and working with the DNR and staff, and everyone on the committee who have done stellar work. She hopes to see everyone in the future.

The committee thanked **Commissioner Klarr** for her service and wished her luck in her new adventures.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:23 p.m.