

# Appendix C – Planning Team Meeting Summary

Over the duration of the General Management Planning process, the Planning Team held four meetings at or near F.J. McLain State Park and two 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 (April 15, 2014)** – Located at the Department of Natural Resources, Marquette Field Office, the kick-off meeting was an opportunity for Planning Team members to introduce themselves to one another, review the General Management Plan schedule, discuss the park, review the resource maps, and discuss the issues with shoreline erosion. In addition, the Planning Team reviewed the supporting analysis, discussed possible stakeholders, public survey questions and participated in a significance statements exercise.

**Team Meeting #2 (May 21, 2014)** – Located at the F.J. McLain State Park Office, Unit Supervisor, Leland VerBerkmoes led the team on a tour of McLain State Park. The Planning Team reviewed the statements of significance, supporting analysis and, stakeholder list. Additionally, the Planning Team began development of the Management Zone Map and 10-Year Action Goals.

**Team Meeting #3 (June 25, 2014)** – Located at the F.J. McLain State Park Office, the Planning Team reviewed the Management Zones, Statements of Significance, and Draft Action Goals.

**Team Meeting #4 (August 14, 2014)** – The Planning Team, through a virtual meeting, reviewed the Bluff Erosion and Geophysical Survey Reports. Eric Cadeau, Regional Planner, presented a summary of the information. The Planning Team also revised the Statements of Significance, stakeholder list, and reviewed the Management Zones and Draft Action Goals.

**Team Meeting #5 (September 10, 2014)** – Immediately following the Stakeholder Input Open House held at the Portage Lake District Library, the Planning Team discussed the input received from the attendees. Additionally, the team discussed the survey results. The Planning Team used the input to inform and revise the 10-Year Action Goals as deemed necessary.

**Team Meeting #6 (December 1, 2014)** – The Planning Team, through a virtual meeting, discussed the input received at the Public Open House held on October 29, 2014 at the Keweenaw National Historical Park. The Planning Team used the input to inform and revise the 10-Year Action Goals as deemed necessary.

# F.J. McLain State Park

## Planning Team Meeting #1

F.J. McLain State Park

April 15, 2014

9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Marquette Field Office

Attendees – Leland VerBerkmoes (Unit Supervisor), Eric Cadeau (Regional Planner), Bill Doan (District Supervisor), Matthew Eberly (Conservation Officer), Sherry MacKinnon (Wildlife Ecologist), Lt. Peter Wright (W. UP Supervisor), Matt Lincoln (PRD Planning Analyst), Debbie Jensen (Management Plan Administrator), Susie Roble (Clearzoning). Dave Birchler and Jill Bahm (Clearzoning) participated via web conference.

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Debbie Jensen provided an overview of the General Management Planning Process (powerpoint presentation)
  - a. Debbie asked if we have the ability to track the number of hits on the project website
3. Dave Birchler reviewed the GMP schedule and work program for the park
  - a. This is a CZM-funded project and therefore the General Management Plan must be complete by March 31, 2015
4. Leland VerBerkmoes provide an overview of the park (powerpoint presentation)
  - a. Discussion regarding the coast guard station. The Planning Team should determine if acquiring the coast guard station property is still an opportunity? Eric pointed out that in the past, the DNR was reluctant to acquire the property due to hazardous material on the site. There is an old barracks and officer quarters building at the coast station (as well as a pole barn). Matt Eberly suggested keeping the boat house for conservation officer use, but removing the other buildings. The site is currently in the process of an environmental clean-up.
  - b. Hunting is allowed on the south side of M-203.
  - c. Bear Lake water level is low. There was a dam but it has been breached and there is free flowing water. Bear Lake is not a good location for fishing.
  - d. Lily Pond boat landing and pier (which is on Army Corps of Engineers property) is a really good fishing area.
  - e. The popularity of the beach area has decreased over the years due to the stamp sand, which can get very hot and is not aesthetically pleasant.
  - f. The shoreline is very shallow. Swimmers must walk out 100-150 feet in order to swim.
  - g. Popular park activities include camping, biking, sunset and scenic views, wind surfing,
  - h. Events at the park include K-Day, fall festival, school picnics, St. John's Day
  - i. The cabins are open year-round

- j. Attendance peaked from late-1970's to late-1990's with a high of 245,000 annual visitors in 1999.
  - k. The primary issue at the park is the shoreline erosion. During winter 1982-1983 five feet of shoreline was lost due to the winter storms. A gabion wall was built in 1986 to control erosion. The wall has worked for the most part, but there is continued erosion west of the wall. There are signs located near the erosion areas notifying visitors. The shoreline erosion has resulted in a re-route of the road, which led to the removal of additional campsites.
5. Review of the Resource Maps
- a. Lily Canal should be changed to Portage Canal
  - b. The 2004 dedicated boundary west of the canal (including the Township park) should be recommended for removal
  - c. The small parcel shown as park land on the west side of the canal should be removed
  - d. On the east side of the canal, the proposed boundary should only extend to the road abutting the coast guard station
  - e. Show the team's proposed boundary as well as the 2004 boundary on Aerial Map
  - f. On the Location Map, zoom out to show City of Hancock and highlight the cities
  - g. Recreation Resources Map – the team determined that the Unit Map should be used
  - h. Trails Map – refer to the Unit Map (note: all Michigan roads are open for biking, but M-203 is not a designated bike trail)
  - i. Recreation Opportunities Map – show the BAS access sites, the Township Park on the west side of the canal. Zoom out to shows the Calumet Waterworks Park and the City of Hancock. Highlight in color the Hancock-Calumet (Jack Stevens) ORV Trail.
6. Shoreline Erosion Discussion – presented by Eric Cadeau
- a. 2001 Erosion Study called for more research
  - b. Current efforts focus on understanding where the key erosion occurs
  - c. A geological survey is underway; funded by CZ. The task of the survey is to identify bedrock and high/low risk erosion areas. The study will begin between the first and second week of May and will be completed by August 15, 2014.
    - i. Consult with state geologist and DEQ (Matt Warner)
    - ii. Seismic data to reveal depth of bedrock (structures are more appropriate on areas that are deepest)
    - iii. Michigan Tech's geophysics class performed same type of test but on a smaller scale (1/4 mile). They produced a cross-sectional model of what the bedrock looks like.
    - iv. The DNR is proposing a grid (multiple lines) for all of McLain State Park (to east and west of M-203). The priority is headland where the bedrock is visible at the surface.
  - d. Matt Lincoln commented that he reached out to the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) and hopes to identify an opportunity for the ACOE to assist with planning/structural development and/or funding.

7. Review of the Supporting Analysis
  - a. Revise the Setting section (and include in the GMP) to show how the park fits into the community
  - b. Eric would like to see demographics provided beginning in the 1960s.
  - c. Western U.P. Planning and Development has community recreation plans
  - d. Reverse order of funding section
  - e. Debbie will try to break-down the Funding Source Map by parcel and include dates
  
8. Stakeholder List – the Planning Team recommended various stakeholders that should be invited to the Stakeholder Input Workshop.
  
9. Public Input Survey Exercise. The Planning Team discussed what info they would find helpful in developing the General Management Plan.
  - a. Are people using the park for wildlife purposes?
  - b. How many people do/would bring boats (with trailers)?
  - c. Biking-related questions
    - i. Do you bring a bike?
    - ii. Where do you park?
    - iii. Interested in paved or mountain bike trails?
  - d. Why do you camp here?
    - i. Lake Superior
    - ii. Beach access
    - iii. Regional attractions (a second question should ask respondent to list specific regional attractions)
  - e. Improvements (prioritize future improvements)
    - i. Toilet building
    - ii. Toilet shower
    - iii. Wi-fi
    - iv. Upgrade electrical system
    - v. Accessible beach access
    - vi. Playground equipment upgrade
    - vii. Paved vs. mountain biking trails
    - viii. ORV trail connections (designate trailhead)
    - ix. Additional day-use parking
    - x. Dog park
    - xi. Disc golf
    - xii. Upgrade rustic cabin
  - f. Typical type of camping
    - i. Tent
    - ii. Cabin
    - iii. Modern campground
    - iv. RV
    - v. Rustic
    - vi. Semi-Modern
    - vii. Modern
    - viii. Are you interested in an organizational campground?

10. Significance Statements Exercise – what makes F.J. McLain State Park significant?

- a. Erosion Issue
  - i. Change in use of land
  - ii. Loss of infrastructure
  - iii. Loss of acreage
  - iv. High risk erosion areas
  - v. Partnership opportunities
  - vi. Research opportunities
  - vii. Education/interpretation opportunities
  - viii. Lake access
- b. Location
  - i. Sunsets
  - ii. Northern gateway to Keweenaw water system
  - iii. Camp on shoreline
  - iv. Along the M-route
  - v. Attracts U.P. tourists
  - vi. Base for Keweenaw exploration
  - vii. Proximity to surrounding communities
  - viii. Quiet and isolated area of the county
  - ix. 2 miles of Lake Superior shoreline
- c. Recreation Opportunities
  - i. Beach walks
  - ii. Picnicking
  - iii. Hunting/trapping (agate hunting)
  - iv. Hiking and walking
  - v. Biking
  - vi. Kayaking
  - vii. Wildlife viewing
  - viii. Wind surfing
  - ix. Lighthouse viewing
  - x. Shoreline camping
  - xi. Swimming/wading
  - xii. Sunset viewing
- d. Scenic
  - i. Sandy bluff
  - ii. Accessible scenery (roads provide access which isn't true of all parks in the area)
  - iii. Named as "Best spot on the lake" for 2013 from Lake Superior Magazine
  - iv. Views of the lakeshore
  - v. Amenities near lakeshore

11. Meeting Adjourned – Planning Team Meeting #2 scheduled for May 21, 2014; Planning Team Meeting #3 scheduled for June 25, 2014

# F.J. McLain State Park

## Planning Team Meeting #2

### FJ McLain State Park

May 21, 2014 - 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

FJ McLain State Park Office

Attendees – Leland VerBerkmoes (Unit Supervisor), John Codere (Park Ranger), Eric Cadeau (Regional Planner), Bill Doan (District Supervisor), Matthew Eberly (Conservation Officer), Debbie Jensen (Management Plan Administrator), Jill Bahm (Clearzoning)

1. Welcome and review of Kick-off meeting minutes. A few minor changes were discussed and the minutes will be updated.
2. Park Tour. Lee provided a park tour. Notes of the tour are attached.
3. Finalize Statements of Significance. The team discussed the draft statements of significance and a few changes have been made.
4. Review Supporting Analysis & Stakeholder list. Supporting analysis – DNR staff to refine analysis; Stakeholder list – additional groups/representatives were discussed by the team; Review of the Resource Maps – a few changes were suggested.
5. Management Zone Map Development. The team discussed management needs and priorities in the context of the statements of significance and the park tour. The map will be assembled for discussion at the next meeting.
6. 10-year Action Needs/Wants. The following list was generated by the team and will be discussed and refined at future meetings:
  - a. Boat house for conservation officer use at Coast Guard site
  - b. Transition campground towards day use area if shown to be better site from erosion perspective
  - c. Retain lake view campsites
  - d. New office/HQ/Service at old Coast Guard site
  - e. Potential for organizational campground and OR campground south of Bear Lake Road
  - f. ORV Trail connection
  - g. Add/improve non-motorized multi-use trails within park (trail could be groomed in the future for cross-country skiing if desired)
  - h. New toilet buildings and new shower buildings
  - i. Accessible fishing pier on canal
  - j. Day use boat mooring on canal
  - k. Accessible canoe/kayak launch (look to see if there are any others in the area and/or if this is a good site)
  - l. Accessible lake viewing
  - m. Accessible beach access near west break-wall or at west day use area that includes access to water (See Wells SP)
  - n. 50 amp service and pull-through sites
  - o. Wi-fi service
  - p. Accessible campsites
  - q. Cabins with water/sewer

- r. Modern lodging
  - s. Interpretive kiosks for local and regional features, geological processes, history, etc.
  - t. New playground equipment
7. Public Input Survey Review. The team reviewed and refined the draft survey.

**Next Meeting: June 25<sup>th</sup>**

# F.J. McLain State Park

**Planning Team Meeting #3**  
**F.J. McLain State Park**  
**June 25, 2014 - 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.**  
**F.J. McLain State Park Office**

Attendees – Leland VerBerkmoes (Unit Supervisor), John Codere (Park Ranger), Eric Cadeau (Regional Planner), Lisa Gamero (Cultural Stewardship Specialist), Bill Doan (District Supervisor), Debbie Jensen (Management Plan Administrator), David Birchler and Sheila Sparks (Clearzoning)

1. Review of Meeting #2 summary
2. Review of Statements of Significance – several revisions were recommended by the Planning Team. The team revised the significance statements pertaining to Shoreline Erosion.
3. Management Zone Review
  - a. Extend zones to proposed boundary
  - b. Extend cultural overlay
  - c. Match shoreline to existing
  - d. Need DNR/DEQ detail for the depth of the High Risk Erosion area (by year)
  - e. Text needs to note that access to high risk shoreline, within the Developed Recreation Zone, needs to be controlled access to protect the shoreline and limit the speed of erosion
  - f. Text needs to reflect the scenic quality of the shoreline and needs to control access to protect that scenic quality.
  - g. Visitor Services is incorporated within Developed Recreation Zone (cover this in the text)
  - h. Text should cover reasoning for proposed boundaries:
    - i. Management west of canal is impractical
    - ii. Incorporating Bear Lake is consistent with protecting natural community
    - iii. Coast Guard Station would provide connection to Portage Waterway (there is still land owned by USACE around base of breakwall)
4. Draft Action Goals Review
  - a. Clearzoning presented sample draft action goals (General and zone-specific)
  - b. Additional General Action Goals:
    - i. Develop Master Plan for relocation of park infrastructure
    - ii. Develop Transition Plan for relocation of park infrastructure
    - iii. Continue to support Keweenaw Water Trail
    - iv. Relocate or maintain park facilities and infrastructure consistent with Master Plan and Transition Plan

- c. High Risk Erosion Zone – Debbie will provide revisions for zone description
    - i. Lake viewing, swimming, beach walking, and the bike, consistent with the zone (Recreation Opportunities)
    - ii. Control access to beach in a way that protects the resources and minimizes further shoreline erosion (Management Focus)
    - iii. Continue to implement management strategies that minimize erosion, such as no-mow zones and the like (Management Focus)
    - iv. Building structures designed to minimize shoreline erosion, while balancing the public's access to Lake Superior and the shoreline (Management Focus)
  - d. Backcountry Zone – the Team recommended revisions to the zone description
    - i. Perform Phase 1 archeological survey (History/Cultural Resources)
  - e. Developed Recreation Zone – revisions were made to the Recreation Opportunities goals, including the addition of a goal regarding pursuing acquisition of Coast Guard Property. Keep the Development action goals as goals that are high on list of desirable improvements that are dependent upon the Master Plan and Transition Plan or acquisition of Coast Guard site. They should go in the GMP as a bulleted list.
  - f. Cultural Landscape Overlay Zone – if PRD acquires the Coast Guard Station, a maritime interpretation of the life-saving station would be an appropriate action (add to desirable improvements bulleted list)
5. Planning Team Meeting #4 (which is a Go-To-Meeting) was scheduled for July 30<sup>th</sup> from 9 a.m. – 12 p.m
6. The Stakeholder Input Open House will be on September 10<sup>th</sup>

# F.J. McLain State Park

## Planning Team Meeting #4

August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2014

9:00-12:00 AM

Go-To-Meeting

Attendees: Debbie Jensen (Management Plan Administrator), Eric Cadeau (Regional Planner), Leland VerBerkmoes (Unit Supervisor), Bill Doan (District Supervisor), Lisa Gamero (Cultural Resource Analyst), David Birchler and Mardy Stirling (Clearzoning)

1. Bluff Erosion and Geophysical Survey Reports (Eric Cadeau)
  - A. Bluff Recession Rate Analysis (DEQ)
    - a) Reports used a combination of GPS, known control points and historical aerials (1938-2014). Established 17 control points and measures from the bluff line to shoreline
    - b) Authors recommend we use bluff recession rates for planning because shorelines change with lake levels
    - c) Reports suggest using 60-year rate, with a conservative buffer for planning purposes
    - d) Anticipate the final report on or about September 6, 2014
  - B. Geophysical Survey Report
    - a) Electric resistivity testing and 75' soil borings
    - b) Michigan Tech and Geophysical report both identified a bedrock peak under the point where day use area is located
  - C. Need to add a graphic representation of the recession rates (need DEQ input on how the study will inform their high risk erosion zone line)
  - D. D. Jensen wants Management Zone map to use narrow boundary line, 100 ft. buffer parallel to shore unless we can get a detailed shape file from the DEQ

## 2. Team Meeting Summary of June 25, 2014

Corrections or additions were noted:

Add Lisa Gamero to the list of attendees

2. Change team to Planning Team

3a. Changed NRC to Proposed Boundary

4.c.iv. Add "while balancing the public's access to Lake Superior and the shoreline"

## 3. Significance statements revised during meeting

## 4. Stakeholder Review

a) Try to get email addresses

b) Send out invitation next week (Portage district Library)

- c) Prepare “poster” invite
- 5. Management Zone Map
  - a) Discussed whether proposed boundary should exclude homes and private properties. Discussed whether they should be removed or added to stakeholders
  - b) L. VerBerkmoes will email plat book
  - c) Requested that the map be similar in style to the Brighton Recreation Area Map (“existing”, “NRC approved” and “Team – recommended”)
- 6. Action Goals revised during meeting
- 7. Public Input Survey: M. Stirling reported 289 responses to date. She highlighted the survey results.
- 8. Discuss Stakeholder Input Open House scheduled for September 10, 2014 from 2:00-4:00 PM and the Planning Team Meeting – Debriefing from 4:00-5:00 PM. D. Jensen will forward information about the room. Requested that the reservation details be handled through her office.

(Revised per 9/10)

# F.J. McLain State Park

## Stakeholder Input Review Meeting #5

Wednesday, September 10, 2014

4:00 PM

Portage Lake District Library

Attendees – Debbie Jensen (Management Plan Administrator), Eric Cadeau (Regional Planner), Leland VerBerkmoes (Park Supervisor), John Codere (Park Ranger), Bill Doan (District Supervisor), Lisa Gamero (Cultural Resource Specialist), Dave Birchler and Mardy Stirling (Clearzoning)

1. Review Draft 10-Year Action Goal Comments and Priority Activity. The Planning Team revised specific goals based on their priority ranking and recommendations/input from stakeholders.

### **General Action Goals:**

- a. Revised Management Focus #1 and #2 by combining the development of the Master Plan and Transition Plan for relocation of infrastructure into one goal. Modified the target completion date for the revised goal from 3-5 Years to **1-3 Years**.
- b. Incorporate comment that the DNR should work with the National Park Service to coordinate efforts in the region. Revised Education/Interpretation Opportunities #2 by adding “in conjunction with regional partners.”

### **Developed Recreation Zone:**

- a. Revised Recreation Opportunities #1 by adding “and support facilities at the park.”
- b. Modified the target completion date under Development #1 to relocate or maintain park facilities and infrastructure from 5-10 Years to **3-10 Years**.

### **Cultural Overlay Zone:**

- a. Comments were received regarding the cultural significance of the Coast Guard property and how it would interface with the plan and what protection measures would be instituted. There was additional discussion regarding the condition of the buildings and future use in the brainstorming session (Agenda Item #3). A general comment was added under General Action Goals to consider the regional partners.
- b. High Risk Erosion Zone designation – discussion regarding the extent of the zone and the recent analysis completed by the DEQ. E. Cadeau described the information obtained from the DEQ and how it informs the extent of the High Risk Erosion Zone. Discussed the use of a buffer along the shoreline versus trying to replicate one of the study zones. It was determined that D. Jensen and E. Cadeau would review the information and provide Clearzoning with a final determination for displaying/mapping the zone.

2. Review of comments received at Stakeholder Input Meeting  
The Planning Team discussed the following comments which were noted during discussion/brainstorming session at the Stakeholder’s Public Input Open House. There were three general categories: Campsites, Coast Guard Station structures, and private property surrounding Bear Lake.

3. Review of Survey Results

- a. Dave commented that the survey results were provided to the team members by email. The survey will officially close to participants on 9/15/14.
- b. Discussion regarding the various uses within the park and the survey results.

# F.J. McLain State Park

## Stakeholder Input Review Meeting #6

Monday, December 1, 2014

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Go-To-Meeting

Attendees – Debbie Jensen (Management Plan Administrator), Eric Cadeau (Regional Planner), Jamie Metheringham (Park Supervisor), John Codere (Park Ranger), Ray Fahlsing ( Stewardship Unit Manager), Matt Lincoln (Planning Assistant), Lisa Gamero (Cultural Resource Specialist), Dave Birchler and Mardy Stirling (Clearzoning)

1. Review of Planning Team meeting #5, Summary of September 10, 2014. The Planning Team had no revisions to the Summary. M. Stirling noted that the team had not reviewed Planning Team meeting #4 Summary and will send that following the meeting with recommended changes submitted by December 3, 2014.
2. Review comments received at the October 29, 2014 Public Input Open House. In addition comments received by email and through the website were reviewed. The Planning Team reviewed the public's prioritization and comments.
  - a. D. Jensen commented that she had received several responses from a single user group with interest in the Swedetown trail system. The general sentiment was in opposition to allowing motorized/ORV use on the trail system and the support of maintaining the non-motorized trails.
  - b. E. Cadeau commented that many of the comments received in the emails were directed toward existing conditions in the park such as erosion concerns and the natural setting. He noted that, if desired, consideration may be given to separating the non-motorized and motorized trails, e.g. locating the ORV near the Coast Guard Station.
  - c. The Planning Team discussed the existing trails and whether the current ORV trails provided enough options or if there was a need to consider additional trails. It was noted that the Twin Lake and Baraga State Parks have snowmobile camps.
  - d. R. Fahlsing noted that if an ORV trails/campground connection there are concerns about the tranquility of FJ McLain State Park and the motorized use. Segregating the uses is one option that could be considered but questioned whether there is a demand for the activity.
  - e. E. Cadeau noted that the distance to connect to other trails makes it difficult and noted that the County roads can be used by ORVs.
  - f.
3. Review of 10-Year Action Goals for General Management Plan (final version). The Planning Team made the following comments and **revisions** to the Action Goals:

**General Action**

  - a. The Planning Team discussed the Action Goals in relationship to the comments received from the public.
  - b. Under Management Focus, add the following *Action Item*: ***Continue to plan and support connections to non-motorized trail systems throughout the region by engaging with our local recreation partners – Target Completion: Ongoing – Program Input From: Park***

**Manager, Regional Planner, Local Partners – Responsible Program Position: Park Manager.**

- c. Under Development, revise *Action Item: Strive to achieve universal accessibility compatible with the character of the zone.*

**Backcountry Zone**

- a. Under Natural Resources, revise *Action Item: perform threatened and endangered species survey, on newly acquired parcels – Target Completion: Ongoing (Changed from 1-3 Years).*
- b. Under Development, revise *Action Item: Strive to achieve universal accessibility compatible with the natural character of the zone.*

**Developed Recreation**

- a. Under Recreation Opportunities, revise *Action Item: Evaluate the need and appropriateness of an ORV trail connection to Hancock/Calumet Trail and support facilities at the park appropriately separated from non-motorized activities – Program Input From (add): Local Partners.*
4. The Planning Team will provide comments and suggested changes to the Draft General Management Plan to D. Jensen by December, 3, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. Clearzoning will provide all revisions by December 8, 2014.
  5. D. Jensen reviewed the next steps to the process.