

**North Lake Michigan Islands Collaborative
Cultural Resources Subcommittee Meeting Minutes
April 10, 2018: 7:00 PM
Conference Call
Toll-free access number [1-800-941-0912](tel:1-800-941-0912)
Pin number [552826](tel:552826)**

Mission Statement: Preserve and protect the past, present, and future cultural resources of the Beaver Island Archipelago.

1. Call to Order/Additions or corrections to the Agenda
 - a. Attending: Lee Boisvert, Wes Andrews, Alvin LaFreniere, Mark Engelsman, Bobbi Welke, Cynthia Pryor
 - i. Not present: Lori Taylor-Blitz, Melissa Wiatrolik, Kitty McNamara
2. Meeting Minutes from January 15, 2018 meetings were approved via e-mail for sharing with NLMI Coordinator for February 8, 2018 meeting processing.
3. Management Plan References (provided for New Business Discussion Item):
 - NLMI's "Management Plan for State-owned Lands on Northern Lake Michigan Islands," MDNR, May 2016 (page 5)
 - Goal 3, Cultural Resources: Collaborate with partners to promote respect and understanding of important cultural resources.
 1. Identify and document important cultural characteristics
 - a. Create a suite of cultural objectives, either narrative or numeric, for short-term and long-term horizons
 - b. Monitor success of prioritized management strategies
 2. Identify key stressors or threats facing those cultural elements
 - a. Characterize severity, scope, irreversibility of stressors/threats
 - b. Identify gaps in knowledge
 3. Identify and prioritize protection efforts needed to address stressors and achieve the cultural objectives
 - a. Implement priority cultural strategies
 - i. Protect prioritized cultural resources
 1. Create cultural education program including signage and other educational materials
 - ii. Restore prioritized cultural resources
 - b. Monitor success of prioritized cultural strategies
 4. Develop educational materials that focus on promoting respect and understanding of important cultural resources
 - Beaver Island Master Plan, June 12, 2017 (page 133)
 - Action Plan Ideas for Community Action: Cultural Resources

- Secure cultural easements for ceremonies in sacred spaces. A cultural easement is a voluntary legal agreement that preserves culturally or historically significant sites on privately-owned land.
- Review the state-documented cultural resources on the Island and add to the list as needed.
- Inventory historic structures in disrepair and identify priorities for reuse and preservations including the Beaver Head Lighthouse and fog signal building located at the south end of the Island.
- Protect and preserve the lighthouse at the south end of the Island.
- Honor the Island's use by Native Americans and other groups through interpretative, bilingual signage along paths and trails.
- Develop a management plan for the Island's cultural resources.

Old Business

4. Report on progress in renaming Women's Island, including reports of Beaver Island resistance to name change. Wes: The property owners would be returning to Harbor Springs in April and meet with Bill Parsons, who offered to build Eagle Platform, and meet with Wes; sent a reminder e-mail two weeks ago and haven't yet heard back. It is believed that not everyone on Beaver Island agrees with this change. It is believed that the owner's support along with Native American support should result in the desired result. Alvin suggested a supporting letter to the Northern Islander. Cynthia suggested waiting until the tribe and owners meet. USBGN has yet to contact Wes. It is believed the owners initiated the process change. It would be better received if it did not come from the Tribe. Getting the support of non-natives, such as BIHS and other entities (BIA and the townships). Agreed to await until the meeting is successfully concluded. What does it mean to the names on Beaver Island using this name (road name using this name changes)? No, this is not part of this change; it needs to have another process. Reference that the owner is interested in this change. **ACTION:** Wes to notify Committee members of the meeting result.
5. Thank you letter for Terri Bussey: Review of Draft – changes with “Amik” and one punctuation; all Committee members will be recognized and included in a Card that will be sent to Terri. **ACTION:** Lee will finalize the letter and arrange for this Card.
6. Trail status: Beaver and Garden: Wes reviewed the State forms for use of trails on state land for protecting the environment and cultural resources; but four things need improved focus: 1) location; 2) purpose of the work; 3) method; and 4) reporting (feedback).

Why not the need for a Permit for each one – like an expiration date – like for one year? Need to have discussion on this issue.

Why not yet proposing work on High Island? Mark: Per DNR at this time suggest beginning with low hanging fruit and have enough work on Beaver and Garden.

Cynthia: Do you get a sense that there will be trails that can be excluded from maintenance? Wes: State or people proposing the maintenance? Cynthia: Both. Wes:

We would need strong reason to propose excluding a trail, such as a strong cultural resource for either the State or the maintenance – such as too close to the cemetery or useful plants (a plant that needs to be undisturbed; or slope stabilization concern) and then who has the ultimate authority? The State does, as the owner, but look to this Committee and the Tribe for cultural resources. We should have the ability to deny a permit. Wes ran his ideas by Dean Anderson, the Tribe have collaborative authority with the State on State Land. Dean was not opposed; likely wants to see how it goes.

Mark is with BIHS and president of the Trails Association; open to work with everyone; works with Pam on the Birding issues; would like to send maps to Tribe; would like to be educated about plants that need to be protected. Ed Lueck reported ‘nothing’ here, perhaps these were not T&E, but there are medicinal plants near the harbor. Wes recommended Noah Jenson from the Tribe’s Natural Resources Department as a resource to identify plants.

Wes: Does not want the newer process to slow down the maintenance [presumably if the maintenance is done in good faith], so he would like to propose a one-time waiver.

Cynthia: Can a Garden Island map be modified to show the locations of the special areas of special plants and special cultural resources for the trail maintenance team to work to avoid? She proposes that this become a goal of this committee.

Wes: Agrees this should be part of the long-term planning. Cynthia: Bring this up tomorrow. Lee can show some of this on a map if her community would like this on a map. She is not sure she wants a special orchid on a map, to become public knowledge. Cynthia: Do not designate where the plant is; rather, just designate an “area to avoid due to special plants”. MKD can help with the last mile of the trail or something like this to work together on the sensitive area. We need to protect the medicinal and special plants for those that come after us.

There was support of Wes’ proposal for a one-year waiver; Tomorrow, at the Gaylord meeting, Mark will explain how his Association approaches the maintenance work. The Cultural Resources Committee voted to support this direction unanimously.

7. LiDAR Survey for cultural and natural resources fly-over: would need the snow cover off the land. Have about a foot. Funding: Tribe, County, State, Federal; each agency will use the data differently. It will take a couple of years to complete. Will need a ground truth to validate. Slow implementation. Will include all of Charlevoix Co – so all of the Archipelago will be done. The Tribe acquired its own server, ArcGIS software, and training.

Cynthia: Do we have any master list of what we have? Tribe probably has this list; but concerns about access of this list. Distributed at quarterly meeting at NLMI with general locations to quarterly locations due to concerns about looting. We need to work on the site types; we need to add to this list; it is a tentative view. Working with each type, cemetery, plants, [pottery firing pit], what level do we collect without being too protective. Repatriate ancestors from museums; have no rights to reach into the past to change the past to help us today. But the things buried with the ancestors wanted to be placed into a

museum; but this would break the original intent of physical and cultural integrity, so then the ancestors should not 'come' home. But could ask the ancestors what should they do?

Prioritization: Certain places have stronger resources and/or significance than others.

Cynthia: Management Plan – how do you get a handle – what is important to the BIHS to protect? Is it our job, or is the BIHS?

Bobbi: We should set up a Management Plan; incorporating the NLMI's and BI Master's Plan (noted in Item 3 on page 1) that includes Action Plans' that prioritizes important Cultural Resources and takes action. **ACTION:** Wes will obtain a copy of the State History Office's Management Plan – if this exists.

New Business

8. What questions can we ask about our next step(s) with our new and very comprehensive Mission Statement?

How might we prioritize carrying this work forward?

Please think over what our next steps could be and come up with some questions of your own.

See above. **ACTION:** Lee would like to draft a letter to the public about what to do when they find a something on their property. Wes volunteered to help. Scott Demel will be on the Island May 15th. Cynthia recommended a brochure that could be shared or distributed. Bobbi recommended that the Townships share or place on their Web site.

Alvin: Perhaps place in the Northern Islander.

9. Next meeting: NLMIC Meeting on Beaver Island on May 3

10. Time of adjournment: 9:00 pm

Respectively submitted,

Bobbi Welke