

Meeting notes
Northern Lake Michigan Islands Collaborative
Thursday, February 8, 2018
Charlevoix Public Library, Charlevoix

Attendees: Jennifer Kleitch, Kitty McNamara, Pamela Grassmick, Melissa Wiatrolik, Mark Engelsman, Alvin Lafraniere, Dusty Jordan, Thomas Clement, Cynthia Pryor, Denny Jason, Joshua Cohen, Noah Jansen, Archie Kiogima, Bill Parsons, Tom Callison, Wes Andrews, Bobbi Welke, Lee Boisvert, Bill McDonough, Phil Wyckoff, Phil Becker, Shaun Howard, Erin Victory, Brad Frederick, Lindsey Henski. By telephone Phyllis Higman, Heather Hettinger, Matt Preisser and Daria Hyde.

Opening comments – Kleitch

- Jennifer Kleitch called the meeting to order at 10:36 a.m. Introductions were made.

Cultural Resources Committee – Boisvert

- The Cultural Resources Committee has been looking at needs and assessing projects. The Beaver Island Master Plan lists cultural resources as very important. Beaver Island Archipelago is an amazing resource for cultures that lived there before.
- Lee Boisvert noted that Terry Bussy resigned and gave thanks for her hard work. Cynthia Prior has joined the committee in Terry's absence.
- The Cultural Resources Committee added one sentence to their Natural Resources Definition. The definition reads:
 - Sites or objects that have important historical and social significance, including meeting places, documents, objects, stone structures and stone works, archaeological sites and historic places. Cultural resources can also include natural features, natural resources, and people, past and present.

From a tribal perspective, cultural resources are places where the lifestyle and culture of the Anishinaabek, past and present, has created some type of importance to the site. These include, but are not limited to, fishing and hunting sites, places where spirits inhabit or use, places where specific plants, minerals and rocks are obtained for traditional use, places where ceremonies were or are performed, burial locations, and places where significant events occurred.

- The name Squaw Island is derogatory towards women. The island is under new ownership and the owners are supportive to changing the name to Eagle Island. The owners have begun the Federal process to change the name. Board of Geographic Names will contact local residents and local governments, to allow comment on the potential name change.
 - **Lee motioned for the NLMIC agreement to change the name of Squaw Island to Eagle Island. Wes Andrews seconded the motion. All in support to change the name of Squaw Island to Eagle Island. Motion passes.**
- The Cultural Resources Committee has had discussions on the value and dangers of clearing trails. They would like to be informed of what has been cleared so far, what steps are being taken to avoid spreading invasives, and any plans to clear additional trails.
- Wes Andrews detailed tribal plans to use LiDAR (light detection and ranging) mapping over Charlevoix County. LiDAR is used by archeologists to identify very low resolution features,

detecting differences of 5 to 6 centimeters. Tribal GIS will be the main group utilizing and interpreting data.

- The Cultural Resources Committee and Little Traverse Bay Bands (LTBB) are working with the state to preserve cultural resources. They would like no new trails or clearing completed without an investigation. Their request includes Garden Island and High Island. We would like this committee to put a process in place. When trail maintenance is proposed it should be sent to LTBB along with a detailed map for review. LTBB will check data against their database for any known cultural resources. The proposed process will have a 15-20 day turnaround time.

Historical Society updates – Taylor-Blitz

- Lori Taylor-Blitz provided an overview of properties, exhibits, events, and partners. The Historical Society operates two museums and two historical properties on Beaver Island.
- A calendar of events will soon be finalized and published on the Historical Society website at <https://www.beaverislandhistory.org/>.
- The Historical Society is currently working to find sponsors for the historical walking trail with 14 signs and a walking booklet, and sponsors for publishing a new book by local author and native American, George Anthony.

Beaver Island Archipelago Trails Association – Engelsman

- The Beaver Island Archipelago Trails Association is responsible for maintaining and expanding trails; walking, hiking, bicycling, and water (mainly on Beaver Island). The main goal this year was low hanging fruit; maintenance and clean up. The association is developing a website, maps, and signage.

Garden Island Trails – McDonough

- Bill McDonough discussed clearing trails on Beaver Island and Garden Island. People have been walking off trail due to lack of maintenance. His goal was to clear downed trees and clean up brush to keep people on the trail and off sensitive areas.
- Bill has invested over 90 hours of clean up on Beaver Island and over 20 hours on Garden Island.
- Trails on Garden Island have not been cleared in 30 years.
- Bill McDonough will share maps with Wes Andrews detailing which trails have been cleared.
- Jennifer Kleitch detailed the Department's requirements for a Use Permit before work can be completed on State land. The permit would specify who, what, where, and when.
- The committee discussed items that need to be addressed in a Use Permit:
 - Migratory Bird Act – breeding season
 - State and Tribal Historical Preservation Office reviews
 - Other islands like Hat and Whiskey
 - Deviation and damage off trails
- Lee Boisvert shared a statement from Miniss Kitigan Drum, Inc. (MKD) regarding trails:
 - The MKD, Inc. finds that at this time it is not able to support the clearing of any additional trails on Garden or High Islands. We also do not agree to the creation of any new trails on these two islands.Both Garden and High Island contain many Euro American and Native American cultural resources that need to be surveyed, assessed and preserved before anything more is done that might endanger them. More people means more threat, especially for the Indian Cemetery on Garden Island.

For decades we of MKD have personally observed the plundering of Scandinavian homesteads and Native American sites on Garden Island. Nearly everything portable has been taken, whether a spoon from a homestead or the sole of a child's shoe from the Indian village. Some people arrive with metal detectors. We have no idea of what was once on these islands because these artifacts have disappeared, including funerary items from the Indian Cemetery. Taking the time to do this right will not necessarily be quick, but we are confident that the results will be well worth the wait. The next step would include professional comprehensive archeological and environmental work on both islands. When this stage is finished, we will have the information needed to make appropriate decisions supported by the vision and goals of the Northern Lake Michigan Islands Collaborative.

Finally, we remind everyone that the Native American cemetery on Garden Island is sacred ground. It is not a tourist destination.

Sincerely,

The Officers of the Miniss Kitigan Drum, Inc.

- North Fox Island (Brad Fredericks) requested to clear trails through this group last year. Approval from the DNR and this group was obtained. They flew over the trails marking them with GPS. Clearing was done with mowers. GPSing trails is a good idea, and should be considered on Beaver Island and Garden Island trails.
 - Bill McDonough motioned to proceed with a Special Use Permit for maintenance of trails on Garden Island. Mark Engelsman suggested the motion be modified to include Beaver Island and Garden Island.
 - **Bill McDonough motioned the Department of Natural Resources to work with the BIATA, Tribes, and others to develop Special Use Permits to maintain existing trails, though vegetation clearing at appropriate times with appropriate tools, on Beaver Island and Garden Island. Kitty McManara seconded the motion. All ayes, motion passes.**
- Jennifer noted the Use Permits will be issued to the BIATA, and this is an annual permit that requires renewal each year.

Office of Great Lakes update – Preisser

- Office of the Great Lakes had an organizational change at the end of 2017. They have been moved from the Department of Environmental Quality, to the Department of Natural Resources. There was no structural change.
- This past September was the first ever convention of islanders, called the Great Lakes Islands Summit. 12 island communities across the Great Lakes and Canada attended. Topics covered at the summit included challenges of living and working on islands, and environmental, economic and cultural concerns.
- This island collaborative is a unique group. We are learning from each other from Lake Erie to Beaver Island and beyond.
- The next meeting is October 1 and 2 at Madeline Island.

MNFI project: Gathering Baseline Data to Guide invasive species planning and action on Michigan's Great Lakes islands – Hyde or Preisser (via phone)

- Phyllis Higman commented that invasive species will impact every Great Lakes island at some point, and potential impacts could be devastating. Therefore, we need to learn as much as we can about island values to minimize those potential impacts. This project was initiated to gather data and

values. These data will be a query-able GIS layer. A Steering Committee and Project Team are working on this.

- 80 different data categories are being collected. It needs to be reined in. Based on the NLMIC's expertise, what is the information you think is important to make good decisions on invasives?
 - **Phyllis will share the data collected with Jennifer Kleitch, who will distribute to the collaborative.**

Invasives/Hemlock Woolly Adelgid/Emerald Ash Borer – Clement/Howard/Grassmick

- Shaun Howard discussed a new invasive pest in west Michigan, the Hemlock Woolly Adelgid. Known populations in 2014 included Grand Haven, Holland, and Fernville. In 2015, there were six additional sites. There is an Inter-County Quarantine on hemlock, but this invasive also moves by birds and RV's brushing along trees. Treatment is effective and management is in place, but what the extent of this species will be is still unknown. You can visit www.savemihemlocks.org for more information.
- The Nature Conservancy received a 5 year grant from the DNR and has surveyed Beaver Island for invasive species in its entirety (1,000 acres).
- CAKE CISMA (Charlevoix, Antrim, Kalkaska, Emmet Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area) was on the island for two weeks training to identify and treat invasives. This year, the goal is to treat Phragmites on Garden Island and invasive tree species on Hog Island. A cabinet of supplies and specialized equipment is available at the transfer station.
- Kitty McNamara will contact the Cisma to include island tribal students and high school students with field training.
- Pam Grassmick discussed the presence of an Emerald Ash Borer found on Beaver Island when traps were taken down. It was a single newly hatched female. Working with Department of Agriculture to extend the trapping period on Beaver Island.
- Pam Grassmick also noted the presence of Glossy Buckthorn on Garden Island was picked up during a survey by MNFI. Some buckthorn was removed by volunteers last summer. A stand of invasive Phragmites was also noted on Lake Marie, High Island. It was treated only once in the past decade, so both sites need treatment next year.
- Noah Jansen and LTBB received a grant from the Fish & Wildlife Service to treat spotted knapweed on High Island spit and surrounding area over next two years. Also have additional Bureau of Indian Affairs grant funds to treat other species on Garden and Hog Island in 2018 and 2019.

Michigan Natural Features Inventory Surveys – Cohen

- Josh Cohen detailed Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI) natural community inventory of Beaver, Garden and Hog Islands.
- A report of findings during natural community surveys is complete.
- Email Josh if you want a copy of the report (cohenj@michigan.gov).
- Also, the DNR hired MNFI to inventory all cover types on state land on Beaver Island. Half of the state-owned land on Beaver Island has been mapped, with the final half being finished this coming season.

Landscape Level Planning Subcommittee – Subcommittee reps

- The recent MNFI inventory of state lands gives up to date information on the forest cover types, which has been a strong component in the planning and mapping process. The LLPS worked to incorporate the updated information by coding each stand based on cover type, age, and condition

based on the MNFI data. Half of the state lands were updated and the remainder will be done this summer/fall.

- A revised model was developed to inform the mapping process with the updated data. This revised model was presented to the NLMIC.
- Next steps are to meet as a subcommittee and discuss this revised model and how it can inform the map which is being developed.

Recreation Sites leases – Kleitch/Kohls

- Peaine Township is working to get Bill Wagner Campground, Cables Creek trail, Martin's Bluff, Greene's Lake, and Lake Geneserath boat launch into compliance with a lease agreement so the Township can continue to maintain these sites legally. This process is close to complete, lease agreement language has been drafted, and is being discussed between the law departments for the DNR and Township, then the language will be brought to the Township Board for consideration.
- Some members of the collaborative asked about Division management of the state lands within the Archipelago. Would it be beneficial to transfer management from Wildlife Division to Parks and Recreation Division?
- Erin Victory replied that Beaver Island is a designated Research Area in statute. There would need to be a series of decisions made and then it would need legislative action.
- Pam Grassmick asked Jennifer Kleitch to gathering information on who should be involved and the process to transfer Beaver Island from Wildlife Division to Parks and Recreation Division. Erin Victory agreed to look into the topic and get back with Jennifer.

Water Trail – Grassmick

- In 2015 a resolution was made with Charlevoix County to recognize Beaver Island in the trail system.
- This had to go before the Natural Resources Commission to obtain a Director's Order. That Order was approved in recent months and allows camping on designated sites on state land for the purpose of water trail development.
- A paddler's guide and a water trail implementation plan was funded by the OGL's CZM office and produced by LIAA and islanders.
- A paddlers guide for Beaver Island detailing hypothermia, invasives, protecting interior lakes, safe harbors, etc., has been developed and was distributed to NLMIC members via email.
- An implementation plan is available which lists amenities at each site (fire rings, elevated platforms, etc.), signs (outline of Beaver Island with two crossed paddles), emergency telephone lines, and more. Funding for site signage has been secured. The implementation plan will be carried out by the townships and the Trails Association.

Beaver Island Wildlife Club – Wyckoff

- Phil Wyckoff provided an overview of the Beaver Island Wildlife Club. The club is exclusively for charitable, scientific and educational purposes.
- Phil detailed a 'Year in the Life of BIWC' including:
 - Two fishing tournaments, walleye stockings, and cormorant control.
 - Annual Deer Summer Driving Survey, deer check stations, Big Buck contest, and the high number of does.
 - Turkey feeding program.
 - Habitat improvement for aspen and mast bearing trees – a project to plant white oak seedlings/saplings is in process with planting to occur in spring.

Island Fellow – Grassmick

- The Beaver Island fellow had to leave the island in the first part of December. The project to create digital signage and messaging is still ongoing. We are working with the DNR on communicating information beyond just wildlife.
- We are not applying for a fellow next year due to changes in process.

Little Traverse Bay – Parsons

- Bill Parsons shared the results from Little Traverse Bay Band fall walleye survey in Lake Geneserath. It was the highest year of young of the year walleye in recent history. The majority of surveyed walleye were marked with information indicating hatchery fish, but there was a small component of natural reproduction.
- LTBB also fitted two eagles with transmitters on High Island. One of those eagles is spending the cold winter months within a ten mile vicinity of downtown Chicago.

Next meeting date

Jennifer Kleitch will work with Pam Grassmick and Bill McDonough to select a date in late May or early June.

Adjourn 3:38 p.m.