

Meeting Notes  
Northern Lake Michigan Islands Collaborative  
Thursday, 3 May 2018  
Beaver Island Community Center

Attendees: Jennifer Kleitch, Pat Lederle, Kitty McNamara, Beth and Ed Leuck, Carol Rose, Doug Tilly, Shaun Howard, Kaldis Grant, Pam Grassmick, Mark Engelsman, Noah Jansen, Bobbi Welke, Lori Taylor-Blitz, Seamus Norgaard, Kevin Boyle, Bill McDonough, Phil Wyckoff, Don Tritsch, Phil Becker, Andy and Sally Stebbins. By telephone: John Bedford, Matt Preisser, Dusty Jordan, Lee Boisvert, and Melissa Wiatrolik.

**Opening comments – Lederle, Wildlife Division, MDNR**

Pat Lederle called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m. Introductions were made. Assisted migration presentation by Noah Jansen was added to the agenda.

**Cultural Resources Committee- Boisvert**

Lee reported on the committee's April 10<sup>th</sup> meeting in which the name change from Women's [Squaw] Island to Eagle Island was discussed. Terry Bussey was thanked for her previous work with the Cultural Resources Committee. Wes Andrews is working with state forms to waive the permitting for 2018 to allow trail work to proceed on Garden and Beaver Island. LTTB's LiDar program for Charlevoix County, including the archipelago, was presented. The group will be reviewing the Beaver Island Master Plan to assist in protecting cultural resources. The committee is also developing guidelines for private property owners which will assist with protection of cultural resources and be available via multiple formats.

**Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA)-Howard, TNC/MI Dune Alliance**

Hemlock is considered a foundational species supplying the ecological service of shading to cold water streams that are important to recreational fishing. Shaun discussed the location of HWA in western lower Michigan. The MI Dune Alliance is participating in the HWA Coordinating Committee that will provide data management and field deployment on how best to survey and prioritize areas. Survey 123 is a mobile app suggested for data collection. Best time to survey for HWA is December-April when it is most visible. HWA is a slow infestation that kills an infected tree within a decade. There is an effective pesticide treatment for HWA. Shaun has included Beaver Island in the MI Dune Alliance funding and survey project. In addition to HWA, Elongated Hemlock Scale has been observed as a secondary infection in stressed trees. Vectors of transmission include recreational vehicles and clothing. Using hot dryers is an appropriate method to stop HWA spread on clothing.

**Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Quarantine-Bedford, MDARD**

John Bedford presented, via PowerPoint, the history of EAB infestation, regulated materials, and the re-evaluation of the firewood quarantine in Michigan and Wisconsin. No further trapping will occur in the UP. The state EAB quarantine will be rescinded across Michigan, including the islands of Beaver Island, Charity Island, Manitowish, and Isle Royale. John discussed how a local ordinance prohibiting the transportation of all untreated wood to Beaver Island would provide additional forest protection that the current quarantine did not cover. The BI Boat Company and both airlines have been very helpful in providing surveillance. John offered assistance in the development of the language for an ordinance. At this date, no local firewood ordinances have been identified. A unanimous show of hands indicated support for the island working toward adopting a local firewood ordinance. EAB traps will be placed this year by volunteers working with Jane Winkler from the MDARD with lures changed every 6 weeks.

**Invasive Species (IS) work planned for 2018-Jordan, CAKE CISMA**

Dusty described the work plan for Beaver, Garden, Hog, and High Islands. The highest priority species based on the MNFI surveys will be treated. Wild parsnip, invasive Phragmites, and glossy buckthorn will be addressed. Dusty plans to work with an IS crew within CAKE vs. hiring outside companies. He would also like to schedule a training event with the Trails Association. Shaun Howard pointed out the 2012 TNC IS surveys on Beaver Island and will forward those reports to Dusty. A decontamination procedure for equipment was discussed and Matt Preisser suggested looking at the state guidelines which were developed for IS decontamination. A boat

washing station blitz is scheduled to occur throughout the state from June 30 to July 8. This program is supported by the MDEQ and will include additional messaging to control the spread of aquatic IS.

Noah Jansen updated the group on the 2-yr. USFWS grant to treat spotted knapweed on the High Island spit. The spit has critical habitat for Piping Plover (PIPL) nesting. Jennifer will follow up on who last checked the known PIPL nesting sites on South Fox and when that area was last checked. Dusty was asked to communicate with islanders prior to arrival to allow for dissemination of information and treatment times.

### **Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD)-Kleitch**

Jennifer described the DNR's role in controlling the spread of CWD which is 100% fatal to cervids. A handout was provided. While the movement of deer carcasses is restricted in known infected areas, the prions that cause CWD can stay in the soil and can be moved via plant material such as hay. Revised management plans are being developed and should be available in July or August. Completion of an existing online CWD survey was encouraged. There is no evidence of CWD jumping to other species but the CDC suggests that humans not consume meat from CWD positive deer, elk, or moose.

Break

The meeting reconvened at 1:05 p.m.

**Seamus Norgaard began the afternoon portion of the meeting with a statement of appreciation for the DNR's involvement in the management of Beaver Island Archipelago's natural resources. A round of applause took place for the dedicated service of Pat Lederle and Jennifer Kleitch to the NLMIC.**

### **Landscape Level Subcommittee Report-Kleitch**

Jennifer reminded the group present of the work to categorize state land based on MNFI assessments and DNR Compartment Reviews. The categories are based on three criteria: habitat enhancement and restoration, selective management, and special conservation areas. The map of state-owned lands on Beaver Island is being revised to reflect those areas. The Wildlife Club asked for a walk-through of areas when the map is completed. Discussion of a shoreline to shoreline corridor as an ecotourism enhancement ensued. One half of the island's state-owned lands were inventoried by MNFI using techniques similar to those used in southern Michigan's game areas. The remaining 6,000 acres will be inventoried in 2018. These inventories provide added value over standard compartment reviews because MNFI also documents natural heritage sites, invasive species, natural community boundaries, and browsing pressure of the deer herd. Jennifer will send out a doodle poll to schedule the next meeting of the subcommittee.

### **Digital Signage-Boyle**

Kevin Boyle gave an overview of the digital signage system being produced by the Beaver Island Community Center. He discussed partnerships with businesses, the public marina, BIBCO, and the airlines to provide up-to-date public service announcements and other information to islanders and visitors. The DNR will be participating as a way to advertise their presence on the island and share their management objectives with the community.

### **Recreation Site Leases-Kleitch**

Jennifer explained the delay in leases between the state and Peaine Township for five sites held by the state. Those five sites are Wagner Campground, Martin's Bluff, Greene's Lake, Lake Geneserath, and Fox Lake. A Phase One environmental assessment may need to be completed on all sites. The leases on the property will be for 30 years.

### **St. James Township Update-McNamara**

Kitty outlined several items of interest to the NLMIC. 1) The proposal for the acquisition and recreational development of Anderson Marina was discussed. A June public meeting is being scheduled for input. Lederle complimented the synergy of partnerships when approaching major projects. 2) The acquisition of 58 acres of Indian Harbor on Garden Island by the DNR using the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund was supported by St. James Township. The NLMIC members also expressed their desire to see the private property held in public trust. **A Motion was made by Tilly and seconded by McDonough for the NLMIC to support the MDNR**

**acquisition of 58 acres on Indian Harbor, Garden Island, through the MNRTF application. Passed unanimously.** 3) At the May board meeting St. James Township supported the name change of Squaw Island to Eagle Island as requested by the owners of the USGS. 4) Kitty announced that a Recreation Passport grant had been submitted for multiple enhancement projects for the St. James Campground, including showers and electrical hook-ups.

#### **Water Trail-Grassmick**

A Water Trail signage update was presented via PowerPoint. Pam explained that in addition to GPS coordinates at each water trail site, signage will indicate where the paddler is located on Beaver Island. The signs are awaiting pickup in Grand Rapids. The *Beaver Island Paddling Guide* is completed and 500 copies on waterproof paper will be purchased under an agreement between the DNR and the Preservation Association of Beaver Island. The island acknowledged the generous financial support of the Office of the Great Lakes to complete the guide and water trail plan. The paddling guide is now available at <http://www.michiganwatertrails.org>. Two emergency call towers will be installed this month at the Bill Wagner Campground and Iron Ore Bay. Individuals interested in working on a dedication event for the first part of September should contact Pam Grassmick.

#### **Beaver Island Archipelago Trails Association-Engelsman/Kleitch**

Mark explained the land use permit for ORV use during trail work on Garden and Beaver Island. The organization held a meeting several weeks ago with interested individuals. Waivers regarding clarification of bonds, volunteer agreements, and liability insurance are being researched by Jennifer. Wes Andrews (LTBB) will provide SHPO clearance for 2018 to cover cultural resources to expedite trail work. Jennifer explained that signage will be posted on trails that are closed to ORV use. Prioritization of trail work needs to be scheduled. Some trails may need work, to be moved, or to be abandoned. These need to be identified and prioritized. Doug Tilly explained that some trails were never intended for ORV use but were only used during the winter months. A question was raised whether a winter trail designation was needed. Andy Stebbins remarked that the Donegal Bay Bike Trail should be a priority because it is heavily used and should therefore be extended to reach Donegal Bay. The Trails Association will review the draft of terms for the special use permit and return those suggested changes to Jennifer.

#### **Beaver Island Wildlife Club (BIWC)-Wyckoff**

Phil outlined the various projects undertaken by the BIWC. A June 16<sup>th</sup> -17<sup>th</sup> fishing tournament is being planned. Private property owners are encouraged to contact Jacque LaFreniere if interested in planting Dunstan chestnuts. Thirty white oaks will be planted and protected with fencing on state property. A 10-acre habitat cut occurred off Johnny Martin's Trail last winter with a remaining 20 acres to complete. The club is discontinuing the walleye rearing pond and will directly plant walleye into Lake Geneserath. Phil also commented that there may be a hold on cormorant control for the archipelago.

#### **Assisted Migration-Jansen**

Noah discussed the LTBB forest program to mitigate climate change and improve disease resistance and species resilience. The tribe is using the North Institute of Applied Climate Science forecasts for temperature and precipitation modeling. Noah listed "winner" and "loser" tree species related to climate change. The LTBB tree planting objectives involve wildlife habitat improvement and species of cultural significance. To date approximately 900 trees have been planted on 300 acres. The tribe is not clearing land but filling in gaps and using old fields. The target is to use species from areas or seed sources not more than 200 miles to the south of the planned project.

#### **Next Meeting Date and Adjourn:**

Save the date: An August 1 meeting is being planned. Meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pam Grassmick and Beth Leuck  
5/5/2018