

Notes

Northern Lake Michigan Islands Collaborative

August 1, 2018

10:30 AM – 2:30 PM

Beaver Island Community School

Call in number: 888-273-3658

Conference Code: 8610671

(Host Code 3922)

Attendees: Brad Frederick, Cynthia Pryor, Patrick Lederle, Jennifer Kleitch, Eli Baker, Lori Taylor-Blitz, Macy Doster, Tom Sell, Melissa Wiatrolik, Dusty Jordan, Bobbi Welke, Noah Hansen, Alvin LaFreniere, Clint Boulton, Don Tritsch, Bill Parsons, Lee Boisvert, Shaun Howard, Bill Kohls, Ed Leuck, Beth Leuck, Seamus Norgaard, Carol Rose, Pam Grassmick, Laurie Abel

Via phone: Tom Callison, Anne Flemming

10:30 – 10:45 Opening comments, agenda edits, meeting minutes – Lederle

- Pat opened with explaining the collaborative and the direction for this group as it pertains to the islands.
- There are handouts available for the group, included in this is an agenda, he requested any changes to the agenda, there were none.
- 11:30 field trip to the St. James Twp. hall where the Smithsonian Waterways exhibit is on display, lunch is at the hall and the lighthouse is open for tours as well.
- Notes from previous meetings are also available. Notes were approved from the previous meetings.

10:45 – 11:00 Cultural Resources Committee – Boisvert (Information)

- Update from Lee Boisvert, Cultural Resources Committee will be meeting soon, more to come.
- Lidar data will be available in October, this is remote sense data indicating structures that used to be on the landscape. It is likely that some data will be quite sensitive and may not be made available to the public.
- Are we expecting a cultural resource overlay on the landscape map? This has not been discussed and there is not a determination yet.

11:00 – 11:05 Recreation Sites leases update – Kleitch/Kohls (Information)

- Jennifer Kleitch gave an update last time about doing a phase 1 environmental assessment of the recreation sites that will be leased to Peaine Twp. This assessment has been completed and the language is being reviewed to go forward with the leases on the 5 sites. There were no previous leases in place historically. The conclusion of the assessment was that there were not any

environmental issues. The leases should be signed in September. The costs for the assessment were shared between the township and DNR.

- What is the outcome/expectation of the leases, business as usual? Bill Kohls stated that there may be an application for grants for improvements on these sites once the lease is in place.

11:05 – 11:30 Landscape Level Planning Subcommittee Map and Area definitions discussion – Subcommittee reps (Information and input)

- This was a lengthy effort not without controversy coming to this product.
- Jennifer Kleitch prepared a summary of the project's process. The Landscape Level Planning Subcommittee was formed in Oct 2015 and was compiled of members of the islands collaborative all representing a different viewpoints. The goal was to develop a map for different areas of land conservation and levels of management. There was a lot of discussion on the different values, these were defined and broken into 3 categories.
 - Special conservation areas (Pink) 4248 acres includes rare communities
 - Selective management areas (Yellow) 3668 acres
 - Habitat maintenance and management areas (Green) 4449 acres
- Rare and special features were identified by Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI) – looking for rare community types as well as completing a forest inventory. The DNR partners with MNFI each year for about a million dollars of work. Little Traverse Bay Bands also contracted MNFI to inventory rare natural communities. They have done the forest inventory work on Beaver Island and rare community work on Beaver and the outer islands.
- Using the information from MNFI as well as cover type information from the DNR Forest Resources Division the map was started. Working with GIS from LTTB a model was built based on the values of different cover types. At the same time MNFI did another more intense inventory split between 2017 & 2018. Jennifer Kleitch & Noah Jansen assessed each stand that was inventoried in 2017, gave eco-scores to all the inventories stands, and the result became the map handed out at this meeting.
- The dark spots on the map are the rare communities and are complementary for their type.
- This map is ½ complete because MNFI is completing the second ½ of their inventory this year.
- Was there a difference in historic inventories and the current ones being done? Not really, other than expansion of a known rare community and one area added as a rare community. In general, the old inventory and new inventory were similar, though there is more detail in the new inventory.

- Will the level of what a rare community contains be in a report? It is in a report created by Josh Cohen of MNFI which was presented in February 2018 and is also available online in different locations.
- This represents an incredible amount of work, lots of patience, and an amazing effort (Lee).
- Are there actions to take on the first half of the map which is complete? The charge of the subcommittee was to develop this map, while it may change a little in the future, the group is pretty well done with their process.
- **Motion** to accept this map as presented with the understanding that there may be slight changes based on MNFIs completed inventory (Grassmick) and any changes based on the Lidar data (Boisvert) effecting cultural resources. Seconded by Beth Leuck and **unanimously accepted** after the lunch break.
- Questions and discussions on prioritizing when determining what type of work is to be done.

11:30 – 1:00 Shuttle to St. James Township Hall to view Exhibit (lunch provided)

1:00 – 1:10 Continue discussion of LLPS products (Input and Action)

- Pat again thanked everyone for their efforts.

1:10 – 1:15 New project (Oct 1, 2018 – Feb 28, 2019): “Prioritization of Three Remote Islands for Natural Community Surveys: Isle Royale, North Fox Island, South Fox Island;” MNFI/Cohen – Preisser (Information)

- Looking at 3 islands, going to be MiFI doing wall to wall mapping
- Isle Royale has nothing in the database, is federally owned and managed, this will help inform actions going forward.
- Josh Cohen will hope to present in the future
- Working with LTBB
- Cleaning up on Fox Islands

1:15 – 1:20 Status: on-going project (Oct 2017 – March 2019): “Gathering Baseline Data to Guide Invasive Species Planning and Action on Michigan’s GL Islands;” MNFI/Higman (Information)

- Matt Preisser – still working on this project actively pulling information together.
- Specifically looking at invasive species on the islands
- Preparing a questionnaire for this group, will come through Jennifer Kleitch
- Hoping to present final report in fall 2018 or spring 2019
- 85% of the existing islands have no info because of their size.

1:20 – 1:30 Beaver Island Archipelago Trails Association – Engelsman/Kleitch (Information)

- The trails association is working to maintain some of the land trails on Beaver Island
- Meetings regarding prioritization of trails work took place

- Jennifer handed out a summary of the meetings
- Working towards goal 4 of the Management Plan for State-owned Lands on Lake Michigan Islands
- In the meetings, the group identified current conditions of trails and usages
- Short term projects were identified
- Jeff Cashman developed the Beaver Island biking trail map and it was identified as a good map to use at the trail heads (need to get permission to use)
- Format all of the trail head signs the same as others (e.g., birding trail/water trail)
- Discussed long term goals as well, need to get short term work done first and continue to identify trails
- Kiosk for North Fox – standardized for quick change and information posting.
- French Bay Road route is being used by logging trucks and has disturbed the roadway. Pat Harmon – Road Commission should be contacted and the road maintained.

1:30 – 1:40

Water Trail update (Information)

- Sept 1 is the official dedication ceremony date on Beaver Island
- Signage is getting put out
- Paddle board and kayak demos in town
- 4:00 speakers
- This is another one of those items that is coming to fruition and exposes the effort that was involved.

1:40 – 1:50

LTBB Update – Bill Parsons (Information)

- Received funding from BIA for piping plover monitoring
- 15th year
- 35% of the first-year males will breed and 50% of females, by year 3 all will breed
- Took videos and photos of nesting areas and behavior
- Recommended to go from mini enclosure to medium enclosure
- Re-banded birds that were nesting
- Would like to put out signs for nesting areas to keep people out of these areas
- 2018 was a difficult year for the bald eagles

1:50 – 2:05

Invasive Species updates – Multiple (Information)

- CAKE CISMA came to the island last year and treated knotweed, currently on a work week doing a beach survey for phragmites, not treating currently as this is more of a fall work effort. May use a contractor.
- Pam Grassmick has been meeting with property owners to find areas of prevalence.

- CAKE has been going to the outer islands and found other invasives; in the process of surveying and treating them.
- Hemlock Woolly Adelgid (HWA) early detection is going on in the SW portion of the state, one of the projects is working on a survey to see if it has spread.
- HWA is easily transported, which makes it a high priority to survey the islands.
- Concentrating on highest risk areas to cover as much ground as possible.
- There is also increased surveillance of nursery stock
- EAB traps are out, they will be out later this year than they were last year. The traps this year are better identified as to location.
- Quarantine statewide is no longer in effect, would need to be a township level decision and action to limit firewood movement to the islands.
- LTBB working on a grant for spotted knapweed on High Island, working on a volunteer workday for pulling.

2:05 – 2:25 Updates from Collaborative members (Information)

- Great Lakes Islands Coalition is coming together, changed to Alliance, 50 people from 14 different islands.
- Erin Dixon is a summer Office of the Great Lakes intern working on Beaver Island and has done a great job. Erin was instrumental in the development of Great Lakes Islands Resource Directory for inhabited Great Lakes Islands.

2:25 – 2:30 Next meeting date and adjourn

- Thursday, November 1st on Beaver Island – location TBD