

## Notes

Northern Lake Michigan Islands Collaborative meeting August 17, 2017  
St. James Township Hall, Beaver Island

Attendees: Jennifer Kleitch, Alvin Lafreniere, Lee Boisvert, Shaun Howard, Kitty McNamara, Pam Grassmick, Keith Kintigh, Matt Preisser, Denny Jason, Doug Tilly, Don Tritsch, Bob Anderson, Jim Flanagan, Bill Kohls, Lori Taylor-Blitz, Ed Salveter, Phil Becker, Pat Lederle, Erin Victory, Laurie Abel, Seamus Norgaard, Beth Leuck, Ed Leuck, Louis Post, Bobbi Welke, Ross Maxwell, Bill McDonough, Archie Kiogima, Jr., Bill Parsons.

- Review of agenda and notes from last meeting – Pat Lederle
  - Pat opened the meeting with a brief comment about making sure people sign in and include their email address so that they are included in communications from the DNR.
  - Wildlife Division is the responsible division for state owned lands on the islands.
  - Why are we doing this? We should be trying to do more of this collaborative effort on other lands around the state the same as we are here on the islands. Thank you for all of your time and effort.
  - There is a question about the Wildlife Research Designation. When the legislature designated wildlife research areas around the state Beaver Island was included in that specifically in the 1960's. There was a lot of wildlife research that was done on the island historically; searching on the DNR website research library for “wildlife research” will show some of this historic research.
  - Review of the notes will take place after lunch.
  - Conservation officers attended the last meeting, one of the things that came to fruition in the last few months is that LED received additional general funds for focus on the Great Lakes and 10 additional officers are budgeted. To get to an officer contact RAP at 800-292-7800. Jen will get with LED and put together a paragraph for how to contact Cos. See below:

If residents or visitors to Beaver Island see illegal activity related to the state's natural resources, they should immediately contact the RAP hotline either via voice or text at 1-800-292-7800. This is a 24 hour, 7 days a week hotline that can reach local law enforcement officers. Officer Baldwin, Officer Erratt, and Sgt. Feagan are the DNR Law enforcement Division staff assigned to Charlevoix County.

- Cultural Resources Subcommittee update
  - The Smithsonian WaterWays exhibit will travel to Beaver Island June 23 Aug 5. Beaver Island will be the first site in Michigan to host the exhibit. The WaterWays narrative is a broad narrative about water. The narrative discusses ecological, recreation, sustainment, coastal building zones, cultural connections, and health. The exhibit is interactive and includes participatory aspects to collect input from

visitors. The exhibit will be accompanied by a six-paneled display produced by the Office of Great Lakes. This component will tell Michigan's story of water. Beaver Island is a great choice for this exhibit because of our community resources and the Historical Society invites the local groups to join programming planning and activities to showcase Island causes for advocacy (i.e. Island Fellow, CMU Biological Station, Waterways Trail, and organization members of the NLMIC).

- The exhibit will be staged at the St. James Township Hall and a Keynote address will be given by the State Scholar on June 22 or 23 to kick off the opening event. More details to follow at the next meeting.
  - Lori Taylor-Blitz is the Beaver Island participant for the Leadership Charlevoix series this year.
  - Pam has had to step back from the committee; Lee presented her with a gift for her participation.
  - Definition of cultural resources was presented by Lee as defined by the subcommittee. "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 and resources. 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 uses, places where ceremonies were or are performed, burial locations, and places where significant events occurred."
  - They also have a new mission statement "Preserve and Protect the past, present and future Cultural Resources of the Beaver Island Archipelago".
  - In the process of reaching out and doing things that are in the management plan.
  - There are sites on High and Garden Islands that they are hoping to get assistance from the Tribal Biologists on locating these and setting them aside.
  - Q: defining specific areas on Beaver Island? Yes, Wes and the tribal GIS person have identified several of these. This is a work in progress. When LIAA helped designate the stopover and camping sites for the water trail, they took these cultural resource concerns into review and determined that the trail would not interfere with them. Some of these will not be public.
- Landscape Planning Subcommittee update
    - Bill Parsons discussed map and process that was presented at the last meeting. The subcommittee is trying to create corridors in the map connecting the natural communities. They are waiting to complete the map until MiFi (forest type inventory) is completed by Michigan Natural Features Inventory. Funding for MNFI Surveys are through both the Little Traverse Bay Band and DNR. The subcommittee will resume this process in October.

- Michigan Natural Features Inventory (MNFI) state forest inventory and natural community surveys update
  - Inventory has been conducted by MNFI and they are close to complete. Some areas were in need of further consideration. Josh will be submitting a report and coming in February to present his findings.
  - Bill presented a map of bald eagle nesting sites. He would like any information on nests that might be missing from the map. He showed a productivity flight path map of the eagles that have tracking transmitters. They also checked the nests for chicks, aged them and put transmitters on them. He presented flight information from the tracking devices.
  - Piping plover were not observed in the nesting places from last year.
  - Talked about putting signage reminding people that terns and plovers are nesting in the area.
  - Habitat Grant to work on spotted knap weed on High Island.
  - BIA endangered Species Grant for piping plover monitoring on High Island
  - Submitted a proposal with MNFI to monitor bats.
  - Q: what information will be available in October? What work remains? MNFI provided a summary of what they have accomplished so far. There is a handout available at this meeting. There is some inventory work yet to be completed this year, the entirety of state land on Beaver Island will have been surveyed by October of 2018. Meanwhile the subcommittee wants to move forward with the mapping and implementation planning process without waiting on completed information.
  
- Invasive species survey and treatment update
  - As part of The Nature Conservancy's and our Michigan Dune Alliance partners 2015-2017 Sustain Our Great Lakes grant project, the CAKE CISMA contracted GEI (ecological restoration consultant) to carry out the following:
    - Survey of all Beaver Island shoreline and the parabolic dune features of McCauley's and McFadden's Points for 16+ terrestrial invasive plant species
    - Treatment of all invasives identified on the parabolic dunes above
    - Treatment of five species found in population numbers <50 along all Beaver Island shoreline (autumn olive, bush honeysuckles, crown vetch, false baby's-breath, and multiflora rose), effectively eliminating those species from the coastal areas
  - As a major compliment to the shoreline management, the CAKE CISMA also carried out survey of the inland portions of Barneys Lake Nature Preserve, George & Althea Petritz Nature Preserve, and Little Sand Bay Nature Preserve along with the State land north of Little Sand Bay Nature Preserve.
  - In total that is over 1,475 acres of surveying in 2017, helping build the most up-to-date dataset of invasive distribution and density, and improving our prioritized management moving forward
  - Additionally, CAKE treated the Japanese knotweed that is on the south side of the island on a private property and along a road in both 2016 and 2017 and will likely be eradicated after two more years of treatment. This is arguably the most dangerous invasive species on the island, as JK is very difficult to control. Eradication of this population is a huge priority, as well as continuing to monitor for it in the future.

- Overall, we are delighted to have found no new species in the GEI survey work. This indicates both the current health of the island's coastal ecology, as well as the efforts being made to limit new species introduction and spread.
  - Q: invasive species closet (supply cache) at transfer station, Boot cleaning stations, EAB traps are up and coming down next week, uptick on redswamp crawfish in the southern part of the state which should not threaten fishery here but just FYI. HWA is a species of concern in other parts of the state, this is a species to keep an eye on and although a survey was done a few years ago and nothing was found there is a risk to the hemlocks if it were to come to the islands. HWA can move on birds and fog so there is a higher risk than with EAB.
  - MNFI - All Great Lakes Islands in MI – research and information gathering on invasive species starting. Matt is excited about this project and the potential of getting future assistance.
  - Additional wood borers are expected to come to Michigan every couple of years in addition to EAB.
  - Terrestrial Invasive Species Coordinator for Wildlife Division DNR.
  - Q: as the designation for the Islands is a Wildlife Research Area would the DNR use the islands as a focal point for management and research in developing techniques for the rest of the state.
  - Potential for training on what should be restricted for coming onto the island on the ferry.
- Lunch break
- Beaver Island Archipelago Trails Association update
    - There was a meeting last week, getting involved with a lot of different agencies, working on a 501C3
      - Work days: 3-4 hours, training and safety meeting first, volunteer agreement
      - Aug 26 9:00 – Seven Bridges, lunch provided
      - Sept 7 9:00 – Buffalo Camp Trail
      - Could you also get someone to identify invasive species first (Tom Cemet, Ed, Beth, were suggested)
      - Looking to have work days every couple of weeks and by next spring being trail friendly.
- Water Trail update
    - Identified T & E sites (kayakers and canoers are transporters of invasive species)
    - Legal description
    - Amenities
    - Meeting Sept 5 or 18
    - 501C3 being discussed
    - Signage – interpretive language
    - Paddlers guide content

- Q: Goal to open for business? Last year, progress has been tremendous and a lot of things are happening quite rapidly now, a land use order to allow camping at the sites will be signed in October. 16 camp sites designated. Report must be completed by December with the close of the grant. Additional funding will be needed to establish the camp sites and to make platforms and for boat ties. Hopefully the townships will be able to come up with some funds as well as funding from the DNR.
- Map has been developed; it will be attached with the notes from this meeting.
- Recreation site Peaine Township lease process update
  - Jennifer Kleitch discussed the GPSing of recreation sites that have been maintained by Peaine Township, it would be best to get all of this into compliance since there are no leases on file. Bill Wager, Lake G, Cables Creek, Greens Lake, Martins Bluff leases are needed so that work can be done at these locations. The Twp submitted the paperwork to start the lease process and we are currently in negotiations to get the lease language accurate and it is currently in the Lansing DNR office for review. Typically there are 25 year leases like this and they are reviewed after that time.
  - Bill added that Peaine Twp's rec plan will be updated in the next year so he wants to see these leases in place prior to that plan being completed.
- Great Lakes Islands Summit and Beaver Island Fellow update
  - Matt Preisser is working with the islands institute in Maine as model to use in the Great Lakes. There are 16 islands with year round populations. There will be an Island Summit next year meeting with the different island communities for the first time ever. This would be a kickoff meeting for setting up collaboration between the islands and use this group as an example for working on the rest of the 15 islands. An information sharing venue is how this is seen; they anticipate 10 island communities to participate. Maine uses an Island Fellow to assist with work on the island.
  - A Fellow to be on the island to communications for the island. She is going to produce articles on island living. She will be here for the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in September in time for the island summit. She will be living here for a minimum of 1 year, but hopefully a 2<sup>nd</sup> year will be available. Stephanie Burchill
  - Community meet and greet so that islanders can meet other islanders.
  - Northland College is involved as a collaborator in gathering information on each island community and putting it together in a meaningful manner that will be beneficial in creating the island community.
- Resilient Beaver Island (master planning) update
  - Both townships have approved the plan. Office of the Great Lakes and LEA assisted with getting this in place. This plan will assist when applying for grant monies. St. James Twp has rec, internet, blight are areas to zero in on and work on and put budget money toward.

- Round table discussion
  - Kleitch – MSU student contacted her (Scot Warner) and is getting a research permit to study climate change potential impacts to forests, using old growth trees in his research. If you see someone out there tagging trees with little metal tags, this is what those tags are for. His permit has decontaminating protocol included to prevent spread of invasive plants into the old growth areas. It was requested that he use aluminum instead of hard metal tags on trees (which he agreed to). He will be visiting sites on state land. It was commented that he be made aware of Chris Hoving's research (which occurred post-meeting via email).
  - High Island DNR cabins/pump where people could spend the night if need be? It would be good if there was a platform where people could pitch a tent and activate the pump. The well site needs to be located and identified for this to happen. A lot of the plumbing was removed. There are asbestos issues with removing these cabins. A lot of it everywhere! The logistics alone would be too significant to put resources toward this one project.
  - Bicycle trails? Mt. Biking trails specifically. Most of the trails for biking are sticking to county roads. The hiking trails are not open for biking. Is there an assessment taking place? All of the trails are marked, however they are not conducive to biking. It would be good to indicate this on the maps that are being created for trails. It may take place, currently considering the hiker. Potential for something on private property. Good ideas to delineate usage and not have a free for all, bikes are more destructive to trails than hikers. Reach out to the Land conservancy in design process and creating trails for bike use, they have extensive
  - Comment, the chamber has the best map of the island; it is large but a great map.
  - Bonner's trail goes through state and private properties. Keeblers trail needs easements, little traverse conservancy has offered to help with these.
  - Designating trails for ORV use? PA288 will take effect Jan 1. Some of the roads on BI were identified at DNR road inventory project.
  - Wondering about changing the designation of the BI group to something more appropriate? Review/understand the other designations if there was a potential for this to change – PAT – Regulation change? Matt – look at the other islands also and consider the whole picture.
  - Open dump on Garden? No, another logistical nightmare that is too challenging. The tribe may have some funding available to partner and get it taken care of. At a minimum put up a sign stating NO DUMPING.
  - All aluminum boats at all of the water sites – remove at the end of the season? Boat racks being put up by the townships. Peaine township is going to be dealing with boats left on the lakes.
  - Gravel pit used as shooting range...Shooting range...Signs would be an improvement.
  - Gold prospecting? What are the regulations on BI? Kintigh will look up and include the language with these notes unless it is too extensive and then will be an agenda item for explanation at next meeting. Information related to this topic can be found

online here: [http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10368\\_11800-216034--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr/0,4570,7-153-10368_11800-216034--,00.html)

Next meeting 1st week November. Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> on Beaver Island  
Adjourn