

Landscape Planning Subcommittee Meeting
March 16, 2017

Jennifer Kleitch, Archie Kiogima, Phil Wyckoff, Bill Parsons, Seamus Norgaard, Pam Grassmick, Wes Andrews, Jim Keiser, Noah Jansen, Don Tritsch (on the phone)

Minutes from previous meeting passed with an edit defining “in scope”

Discussion of what to accomplish today:

Phil: The Wildlife Club has the position that there are procedures and specifications in place within MDNR that we should be using here. If there are other procedures from elsewhere we could also use those as needed.

What is the purpose of this subcommittee? What were we tasked with doing? Need to define our purpose. Is it covered in the Master Plan? In the NLMIC plan? NRESC documents?

Managed Public Land Strategy (MPLS) from DNR

Our work fits into this strategy, which addresses three main points:

Goal 1: Provide Quality Outdoor Public Recreation Opportunities

Goal 2: Foster Regional Economic Prosperity

Goal 3: Protect Natural and Cultural Resources

Cite the MPLS, and use the goals to support our efforts

Draw from existing guiding principles and recognize that this is a special area (Great Lakes Island)

NLMIC goals are being implemented by going through this mapping process, and we can cite the MPLS

This is a living work and things can change, knowledge can change, this needs to be recognized. Discussions have not been captured regarding where will this be held, and what is the product?

Wes- has the NLMIC plan been shared with other tribal entities? Does it need to mention treaty rights? It does mention the Consent Decree.

Some updates to the plan have been made by the LTBB Natural Resources Commission

Did Wes get response on his comments?

Wes – DRAFT copy of NLMIC should be provided to the LTBB legal department

Concerned about statutes regarding cultural and natural resources

In the past 6 years a statute created tribal historic preservation office

It states that the THPO has jurisdiction over cultural resources on Garden and High Islands

Wes spoke with Dean Anderson regarding the statute and he takes it very seriously.

Work on definitions of areas to map

Jim will present his exercise to the group to save him time

Gave a handout – “Ranking System for Proposed Model – Conservation Corridors”

Maps on the wall show this ranking system and what can be produced with input from the group.

Handout outlines the example model, what variables were put in to it and what weights were used on the variables

Alan Proctor (LTBB GIS) took a stab at creating a model with all variables

A model takes the human element out of the equation by using data that exists

It's a weighted overlay

Technique for providing an analysis of multiple layers in concert

A shapefile is turned into a pixelated layer and the model adds up all the values assigned to each pixel and comes up with a map.

The handout shows the ranking/values system which adds up to 100%

Potential means there is potential value as a corridor

Limitation is where there are limitations to conservation corridors.

Values in the example model (on handout)

- Parcel acreage – larger parcels have more potential and less limitation

- Roads and trails – smaller trails have “

- Land cover –

- Proximity to surface water

- Endangered species

- Natural communities

- Areas of significance

- Proposed Management areas

- Public lands vs private

Bring in the BI Historical Society to comment on early European influence as well as Wes for tribal

How to prioritize significance of cultural areas

How to determine usage by people and should be also taken into account.

Develop predictive models for cultural locations that could be used to create maps more quickly

What role does the circle society have? Bussy and Alvin are part of the cultural subcommittee and play a part

If interested in plants of cultural significance Scott Hicks USFWS predictability modeling could be a resource

Does GIS have information that they need? They need cultural, etc. there are other things to add.

This was GIS's first stab this is showing what is possible.

Need structure and good framework to the process, plan to plan.

Potential Changes/additions to the model

- Add stand info

- Element occurrences

- Proximity to natural communities

- Proximity to stand treatments that are prescribed

- Cultural areas needs to be added from a holistic standpoint (tribal and other values)

- Change the weight and change the map

- Use state land as a whole large parcel where possible – this would change the look of the map quite a bit

- Could you do a model for recreation?

- Could you add a layer for land acquisition?

Useful as an example and a tool that can be used to guide our mapping process
The group is impressed at how quickly the model was developed
This is a large scale – it's for all the islands currently can be used

Recommend land acquisition model

Previous management layer – what would be the purpose? If it's been managed, you may not want to use it as a representative area, may want to know where aspen has been managed
People are looking for virgin areas and there aren't many – potential restoration areas

Openings layer

Old Aerial photos can be used to see what was present – at the historical society

Presettlement layer from MNFI

Elevation should be part of the layer

Slope

Soil types

Layer for around the island – 5 mile radius with cultural significance

Shoreline areas are high priorities

The more layers the better the model

Dunes – captured in natural communities

Keith's map as a layer?

Can add other variables

Action item: Send ideas for layers and categories to Alan by April 1. Suggestions on values can be sent and can be adjusted in the next meeting

Action item: meet again mid-April. Send doodle poll for second week of April - Jennifer

Public land – do we want to include all conservancy lands, townships, etc.? Yes, but LTC land is considered private currently but can be categorized differently.

Can run the model on all then have an overlay of ownership

Predictive models – can GIS be used to query e.g., if you want to know where elevation corresponds to something else? Yes you can query out the information.

Stand information and how that's used – look at categories of stand types

How does the model relate to the model Keith sent out?

Can you get a map too busy? Yes, but the model takes all the layers together into account at once and makes a map based on values that underlay each layer.

Phil - What would you do on May 5 that you wouldn't do on May 4 if the map was adopted then?

Restoration and invasive species work, move on projects like airport restoration (work with MDOT to restore the area). But it would be nice to document areas with potential for restoration. Funding can get put in place and promotion of certain areas for certain uses.

ID things we could do right now, there's nothing magical about May 4. And compartment reviews.
For Seamus it means that we have come to a place of agreement and can see eye to eye.

Agenda for the afternoon:

Document our purpose

Need to define our product and what it will look like

Need to define how to ask for input from the NLMIC

Timeline to get feedback and have an adoption by that date

Set schedule for when and how often to update

Definitions

Wes – Trip to Lansing

Seamus asked if Compartment Review process was necessary for us to designate SCAs. Seamus points out that we were told that we in the NLMIC were to be the public input stakeholder forum for formulating land management strategies on State Forest Lands. Having to sideline this process, and go through a whole duplicate compartment review process in order to designate SCAs and make other management decisions would not be well-received. **Seamus** and **Pam** also point out limitations of conventional compartments reviews.

Phil asked can we streamline the compartment review process to take advantage of the work done by the NLMIC and Landscape subcommittee? We want to streamline the process so we are not duplicating efforts.

Jennifer thought that we could use this process. 4/12: Erin – may need to check on this.

List of priorities will come from this map and definitions, and funding can be gathered through a collaborative process.

Do we need to go to the townships with the product? Good idea, needs to be approved by the townships, invite them to the May 4 meeting, encourage them to show up? Collaborative should have input first.

Motion by Bill: Make the product an appendix to the NLMIC Plan so it is incorporated. Seconded by Seamus. All in favor.

Prioritize having Keith and Erin being at the next meeting

Motion to have the draft NLMIC plan draft revision to the LTBB legal department for review and comment and returned to this committee – Wes. Bill second all in favor

Action item: Add an agenda item for May 4 - Timeline to update the NLMI plan

Action item: April 10-13 for doodle poll - Jennifer

Discussion and documentation of purpose, goals, product, and timeline (see attachment)

PA 247 passed last year: two parts

Waterways

Creation of a cultural resources and historical preservation and management plan. Includes many entities

How can the state assist tribes in developing the plan? Put money behind it. Time now to put the requests into the state budgets for 2018.

Bill will get Wes Dennis Knapp's contact information (DNR Tribal liaison)

No meeting date or place set yet.

Adjourn