

Draft of Meeting Minutes

Northern Lake Michigan Islands Collaborative-Landscape Level Planning Work Group Meeting

Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa-Administrative Building, Harbor Springs, MI

February 9, 2016

12:30 PM to 4:00 PM

Attendees:

Wes Andrews, Lee Boisvert, Tom Callison, Josh Cohen, Maxwell Field, James Gillingham, Khaldis Grants, Pam Grassmick, Kevin Haynes, Phyllis Higman, Noah Jansen, John Keshik, Jim Keiser, Keith Kintigh, Archie Kiogima Jr., Jennifer Kleitch, Pat Lederle, Seamus Norgaard, Mike Lynch, Bill Parsons, Alan Proctor.

Goals: Subcommittee to begin to address Goals 1, 2, 3 and 5 as outlined in the Management Plan for State-owned Lands on Northern Lake Michigan Islands.

Action Items:

LTBB GIS Department to provide landscape level planning map with associated suggested marked areas on Beaver Island map that are proposed for Core Wild Areas, areas of known Piping Plover and Eagle nesting, high ranked natural communities, important wetlands, lakes, and creeks, GL shoreline-T & E species, and potential sites of cultural significance. This map will be available for the Collaborative meeting scheduled for March 2nd, 2016.

Jennifer Kleitch to provide DNR compartment reviews in March to identify stands of alder which may be used for public-private early succession forest restoration activity.

Minutes:

Al Colby Jr., Tribal Administrator, welcomed those present to the LTBB facility and offered their assistance with the archipelago's landscape level planning initiative.

Introductions: Bill Parsons facilitated the meeting and informed those present that call-in capability will be available for the March 2nd meeting. As this was the first working group meeting, no previous minutes were in need of approval. The agenda which was circulated via email to the entire Collaborative was approved with no modifications.

Natural community surveys of Garden and High Islands were presented by Josh Cohen and Phyllis Higman from MNFI. MNFI's field work was funded through the LTBB. Their work built upon earlier survey work done in the 2001 and 2007. Prioritization of sites was based on rarity, element occurrence rank, threats to ecosystem, and global and state ranking. Community types included: GL Barrens, GL Marsh, Boreal, Coastal fens, Northern fens, Dry-Mesic, Limestone Cobble shores, Mesic Northern Forest, Open Dunes, Rich Conifer Swamps, and others. The surveys of natural communities and element occurrences are to assist with stewardship prioritization. The islands' rare species considered for protection and wildlife habitat related to waterfowl and fish spawning areas will require monitoring. Late successional dependent species were also surveyed. It was identified that additional survey efforts would be useful. These islands are difficult to access and traversing the terrain is challenging. Higman shared new species recently documented on the archipelago. Seven species of bats were also documented during their survey work. Higman stated that the biggest threat to natural communities on the islands come from invasive species. Prevention of introduction, control,

and maintenance should be one of our top priorities. Her PowerPoint reinforced which species would be impacted and lost from lack of control of non-native Phragmites. Higman reminded the group that "people protect what they know and love." And, "Keeping all the pieces provides resilience."

Alan Proctor, Director of LTBB GIS Department, gave an overview of their departmental capabilities related to the planning effort. He offered a comprehensive list of resources and available data layers including 2010 land use cover maps.

Seamus Norgaard provided handouts and discussed the concept of MUMs (Multiple land use model), Core Wild Areas, and connectivity. He presented four examples of other landscape level plans which utilize this method of planning. A short discussion took place on commercial logging viability to prevent boom bust cycles and the presence of BBD. Safety issues were noted along the West Side Road due to beech snap and the need to address mast production.

"Circles on the Beaver Island map": For the sake of planning, participants were asked to circle areas with important natural features-independent of ownership at this time. It was decided that conservation targets, threats, and the framework to provide support will occur at another meeting. Areas with highly ranked conservation targets included Dry-Mesic Forests, Boreal, and Forested Swamps. It was also suggested that coarse filters would be applied initially and fine tuned to vulnerable species over time.

Wes Andrews spoke of the need to merge the ecological, cultural, and spiritual beliefs into the planning process. He reminded those present of the relationship historically and culturally tied to the traditional landscape and the Spirits that inhabit those locations. The location of plant communities can indicate areas used for cultural events or medicinal reasons. He hopes to secure funding for a LiDAR survey (remote sensing method) of Garden and High and entering that information into the LTBB's data base.

Jennifer Kleitch commented on the proposed timeline and process for the landscape level planning document that was circulated via email with the agenda. The decision was to review and provide comment at the March 2nd meeting.

Participants began to propose significant natural features and mark up the Beaver Island map.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Grassmick 2/11/2016