



Beaver Island
Michigan

Supervisor's Lens

Notes to Township Board Members from Supervisor Kathleen McNamara

JUNE 2021

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 5

SJTGC = St James
Township
Governmental
Center

SJTH = St James
Township Hall

PTH = Peaine
Township Hall



Tuesday May 4 @
6:00PM @ SJTH

**Planning
Commission
Meeting**



Wednesday May 5
@ 5:30PM @ SJTH

**Regular Board
Meeting**

**St James
Township
Board**

THE JUNE BOARD MEETING WILL BE HELD IN PERSON AT THE TOWNSHIP HALL

Finance

Early next week I will send you the draft monthly finance report. The clerk will send the monthly **Standard Budget Report** which shows adopted budget revenue and expenditure categories compared to what has been received and spent each month. This month's report will be in a slightly new format because the clerk is using the new accounting software. She will also forward a copy of the bills for payment – please contact her if you have questions about the bills.

Public Works Committee

- Marina North & South – As everyone has seen, the improvement projects at the Marina North are well underway, the bathhouse is nearing completion and work will continue on interior upgrades and the addition of 2 public restrooms street-side. Work on the fuel pier is back on track and Oscar Larson Co is scheduled to be on this island in June to install the new fuel dispensing equipment. The new office building is on site and awaiting finishing. Off road parking on the north side of the road will be completed as the last component.
- Recreation Passport Grant Campground Project – Now that the board has approved the Notice of Award as recommended by Engineer Aaron Nordman with sole bidder Kevin McDonough, the revised project and budget get returned to the state's grant office for approval.
- Street and Road Projects Update – The CCRC contract has been signed granting the work to Gillespie Enterprises, Inc. The CCRC will oversee the following projects on behalf of the township: Maple Street Project and Road Shoulder Parking near Font Lake and Donegal Bay. The CCRC bids the projects out and oversees the work; gravel for the project comes from the township's stock which was amassed two years ago.

Beaver Island Telecommunications Committee

At the meeting I will give an update of the work of this committee and also speak to the need for further funding to get the pools of service project off the ground. Also pending is decision-making regarding a more complete feasibility study for long-term fiber capabilities on the island.

Tuesday May 4 @
Noon @ BITA **BI**
Transportation
Authority Meeting



Wednesday May
19 @ 11:00AM @
SJTC
Public Works
Committee

PWC

Thursday May 20
@ 4:30PM @ BI
Community Center
Telecommunications
Committee



Monday May 24
@ 1:00PM @
SJGC
Finance
Committee
Meeting



Beaver Island Airport Commission

The Airport Commission (made up of members from both townships) will be meeting soon to approve a resolution supporting a 'Declaration of Taking' in the ongoing property and avigation easement acquisition project. If the commission meets prior to our board meeting, I will bring the information to the board for decision making. Both townships have previously approved moving forward with the condemnation process in regard to this property.

Font Lake No-Wake Proposal

Peaine Township is also in favor of pursuing this designation. Deputy Supervisor, Cynthia Pryor, will move this project forward.

Approve Maintenance Employee Summer 2021 Schedule

In recognition of the implementation of the Scrap Metal Plan, I am working on an agreement for to support our full-time long-term employee, Darrell Butler, who has provided the township with quality work and dedication; he consistently juggles the mechanical and maintenance work of St James Township, the BI Airport, Transfer Station, Marinas, Sewer System and BIESA needs. The agreement is aimed at providing a combination of township work hours and unpaid leave of absence to allow the employee time to implement the townships' adopted plan for the removal of scrap metal from Beaver Island. I sent you a copy of this agreement several weeks ago and I will ask that it be approved at the June meeting.

Invasive Species Update

*This information is from our newly hired Terrestrial Invasive Species Administrator, **Shelby Harris** – She is settling right in!*

"This month has been pretty busy and productive- finally getting out in the field and getting our hands dirty.

I have passed all my necessary exams and currently for the next 3 years, certified in pesticide applications for the islands through MDARD. Liz and Hunter, our new DNR interns staying at CMU are also both fully certified now.

Was able to meet more of the TIS Advisory Council, including Ed and Beth Leuck at the last meeting. Clare Collins was not yet available but we have talked over email. Next month's meeting has yet to be determined but will let you know as soon as it has been set.

Kirk Acharya, Executive Director of CAKE-CISMA made it over this last week along with Hunter and Liz and we were able to meet, discuss and get a lot done with a big help from Pam Grassmick and the Leuck's. I think we're going to have a great and passionate team this year dedicated to the islands. Was able to do a few field visits to high concern areas and give the interns a tour of the island as well.

Tuesday May 25
@ 1:00PM @ PTH

**Waste
Management
Committee
Meeting**



A zoom meeting between myself, Pam, Kirk and the interns was held with Jennifer Kleitch of MDNR and Noah Jansen of LTB discussing our priorities and upcoming plans/events. We are all on the same page currently and looking forward to working together and having Jennifer and Noah island bound in July for a week or two.

A Meet & Greet was held by us all (myself, Hunter, Liz, Kirk, Pam, Ed and Beth) at Little Sand Bay Nature Preserve this last Thursday after announcing the event over a few communication resources (radio, Facebook, word of mouth). Was very successful with a handful of attendees where we showed a few invasive species found throughout the island, demonstrated some management actions for them and answered questions and concerns. Will be posting a video of the event soon on multiple public news outlets.

In order to best work with logging and sharing invasive species and management procedures with CISMA along with MISIN, the MDNR and LTB a terrestrial species database is being utilized which requires a tablet. I have found a Samsung Galaxy Tablet (like that of CISMA) for \$149.99 (before taxes and S&H). I have made an Amazon purchase of necessary equipment and supplies of \$318 this last week on the township card so plan to wait a little bit before this purchase. I believe BIA will also be looking into making the same purchase. As of now the interns have possession of one of CISMA's tablets and we are sharing the device. All of this will fall under the provided and available budget offered currently.

Web page is still in development and will improve. Plan to work more with Kryz and provide information concerning our biggest invasive species concerns and ways to contact our team.

Have been joining webinars of species and management education through EGLE, MDNR and other organizations.

Purchased business cards for the TIS position and also working on an updated invasive species pamphlet and powerpoint to provide to the community and show at the Sustainability Fair June 26th of this year.

Have a consent form created, thanks to CAKE-CISMA and the BIA which I will be using with my public notice letter to property owners throughout the island. Currently still gathering needed information to reach said property owners but progressing nicely.

Currently have email consent given from the Johnsons of Eastside and Ed Wojan of certain sale properties (will be getting written consents ASAP) for invasive species found this spring on said properties. The Johnsons and both sides of Eastside Road near their property are still battling an invasion of Japanese Knotweed. This location is previously known to have a J. Knotweed problem but the new owners are very concerned and reached out to our team. We have flagged and logged into the MISIN database the location of the plants, placed signs along with roadside and contacted the BI Road Commission to have them aware of the dire, yet hopefully manageable invasive species issue. We ask that the said area not be mowed or disturbed due to the plants aggressive ability to spread via cut foliage and fast growing root systems. Effective and efficient management options are currently being discussed with CAKE-CISMA, the property owners and plant specialists like Ed Leuck.

A lakeshore land plot, currently for sale under Ed Wojan Realty on Indian Point was infested with garlic mustard, but yesterday was logged into the MISIN database and the mechanical management of pulling was conducted successfully for the season. Will be returning later in the week to reassess and perhaps aid a neighbor of the property in their possible invasion of garlic mustard as well.

Plan on having the interns and I cleaning up and updating our pesticide cabinet and equipment area located at the Transfer Station to make it more safe and accessible.

Reached out to CLMP (Cooperative Lakes Management Program) of MiCORPS with mostly concerns over inland shorelines. Did not purchase any equipment but did sign the inland lakes of Beaver Island and Lake Marie of High Island up for monitoring. Currently getting in contact with Lisa Borre who has been working with CMU and other organizations over inland lake health here and plan on coordinating with her. This will help in our management of non native phragmites and narrow leaf cattails. Will update you as more develops.

This week the interns and I have been tackling garlic mustard throughout the island at known locations. These include the South Lighthouse, Indian Point and Keubler Trial around Eagle Hill Road. Have informed the public via Facebook page This & That, the radio station, News on the Net, and the newspaper of our intentions and information of the plant and where to seek help or how to do it effectively themselves.

This next month will be busy as well. Working on webpage and educating/reaching out to the public, which includes the Sustainability Fair. Conducting field work with DNR interns and cleaning up the transfer station area. Continuing making and strengthening the working relationships with the multiple groups, organizations and people involved with the islands.”



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