

MINUTES

Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee

Wednesday, June 9, 2021
2:00 p.m.

Microsoft Teams Meeting / (248) 509-0316 | ID: 626 385 177#

PRESENT FOR THE MSPAC

Attending remotely:

Ann Conklin; Canton Township, Wayne County, Michigan
Shaun McKeon; Lansing Twp., Ingham, County, Michigan
Bob Hoffmeyer; Lansing, Ingham County, Michigan
Mike MacDonald; Okemos, Meridian Twp., Michigan
Mary Pitcher; Lake Township, Benzie County, Michigan
Chris Graham; Ann Arbor, Washtenaw County, Michigan

ABSENT

Jim Bradley
Julie Clark
Mike Foote

OTHERS PRESENT

Ron Olson, Chief, PRD
Jacklin Blodgett, PRD
Scott Pratt, PRD
Karis Floyd, PRD
Amanda Treadwell, PRD
Michael Desnoyer, PRD
Vicki McGhee, PRD
Griselda Trevino, PRD
Barbara Graves, PRD

OPENING COMMENTS

Committee member Conklin called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. and asked for a roll call.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Ann Conklin motioned for approval of the April 14, 2021 meeting minutes. The motion was moved by **Mike McDonald**, supported by **Chris Graham**, and passed unanimously.

GENERAL UPDATES

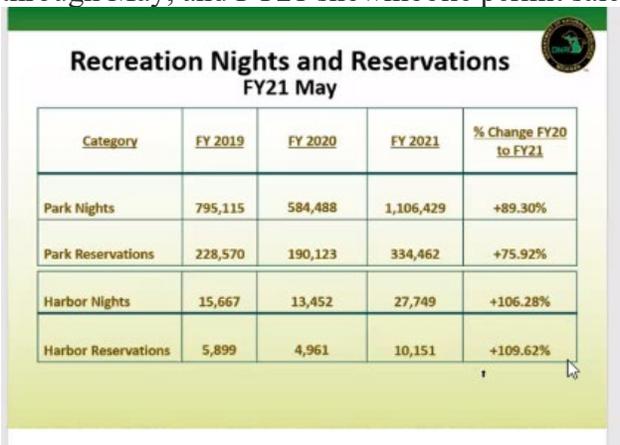
Ron Olson, Chief, PRD

The fiscal year 2022 budget process continues, and our budget remains intact except for the removal of the Summer Youth Employment Program; core cities include Pontiac, Saginaw, and Flint and groups are letting it be known that this is a valued activity. Still waiting on word of federal funds and if they will be allotted for shovel ready projects. Numbers are trending upwards in all categories and because of the heavy visitation and staffing issues, challenges remain. He has talked to five other state park systems who are having the same problem with hiring. There will be a special MSPAC meeting soon to review a new fee structure plan. There will also be future discussion on the restructuring of MSPAC, detaching it from the NRC.

Jacklin Blodgett, Assistant Chief, PRD

Have hired 89% SW4s to date. There have been challenges with hiring and retaining seasonal staff, and because of 95% occupancy at the parks, this has caused additional challenges. Roughly 60 career staff vacancies. Adding capacity in the HR unit to help, including staff moving to additional hours or taking full time employment.

Revenue is up 22.7% through April. FY21 ORV license sales at 28.7%, trail use sales at 32.5% through May, and FY21 snowmobile permit sales at 10.4% through May.



Category	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	% Change FY20 to FY21
Park Nights	795,115	584,488	1,106,429	+89.30%
Park Reservations	228,570	190,123	334,462	+75.92%
Harbor Nights	15,667	13,452	27,749	+106.28%
Harbor Reservations	5,899	4,961	10,151	+109.62%

Employee engagement – department is reviewing 2020 survey data and setting overall department goals. Division is working on a plan with goals and action steps.

Incident Management Team continues weekly guidance updates. Staff are still adhering to safety protocols, masks, and social distancing. July 12 is the target date to start transitioning from telework status.

Return to work – Working as a division to provide consistency in customer service to our visitors and support to division staff. Remote work will be based on operational need. Those providing direct services for campers and visitors may align with the use season.

Michael Desnoyer, Administrative Services, PRD

Unreserved fund balance for FY21 is about \$13.4M. Camping revenue collected through May of FY21 is \$39.9M, with a trend of more customers booking earlier than in the past. Based on

increases, the change in 2021 projection has increased by \$5.4M, at \$45.8M, since the last revenue projection in September. Motor vehicle permits 2021 projected change is at \$55.6K, Recreation Passport permits at \$766.6K. Total fund balance is projected at \$5.9M at the end of the fiscal year. With increased camping comes increased costs, including an increase in utility expenditures and staffing. Also, additional expenditures include an infrastructure backlog of \$258M, increasing construction costs, projected increase in wages, as well as having to cover operating expenditures more and more with the Park Improvement Fund alone versus the Park Endowment Fund.

Vicki McGhee, Planning and Infrastructure, PRD

Vicki gave a presentation and update on the LARA heating issues. In late 2019 BCC began to add new requirements about heating those facilities that are intended for seasonal use, citing code requirements. PRD's restroom inventory currently includes 167 unheated and unconditioned restroom buildings and 66 heated restroom buildings.

DNR-PRD has two current initiatives: a long-term exemption effort – Code Change (possible relief by early 2022) and a short-term strategy with two designs. In the meantime, we have to comply. Immediately affected buildings include: 2 at Straights State Park, 3 Brimley SP, 2 Ludington State Park, 1 Mitchell State Park, 2 Van Buren State Park, 1 Holland State Park, 1 Indian Lakes State Park, and more for a total of 14. Considerations: Floor vs. ceiling heat options, costs include insulation and HV system, additional cost is \$72,500 + x14 buildings = \$1M. Discussions are ongoing at the director level to seek exemptions of our seasonal buildings.

Pampers Diapers of Proctor & Gamble approached Parks in March with a dad-focused campaign partnership to provide diaper changing stations for men's restrooms. 186 surveyed PRD units were requested, and deliveries are in progress or completed.

Griselda Trevino, Equity, Inclusion and Diversity, PRD

She is currently serving on interview panels to find solutions to barriers we may experience with hiring. A survey was sent to PRD to develop a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice Team, of which 30 responses were received. They have had about 5 bi-weekly meetings so far to brainstorm opportunities, including diversifying partnerships and reaching new audiences; all efforts geared towards pieces of the department's strategic plan.

Committee member Conklin reminded everyone that the next regular MSPAC meeting will be August 11, 2021.

With no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:43 p.m.