

# Antrim Creek Natural Area

*Robert McLeod, Chairman*

*Gale Murphy*

*Reg Bird*

*Gary Strange*

*Carl Veenstra*

*Gary Strange*

## Minutes

**February 11, 2002 7:00 p.m.**  
Banks Township Hall

Members Present: Robert McLeod, Carl Veenstra , and Gale Murphy  
Members Absent: Reg Bird and Gary Strange  
Staff Present: Howard Yamaguchi  
Others Present: Herb Reiley, Evan Proudfoot, and Traver Wood

### **1. Call to Order**

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Robert McLeod.

### **2. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion by Carl Veenstra, supported by Gale Murphy, to approve the Minutes of the October 1, 2001 meeting. Motion carried – Unanimous.**

### **3. Meeting Dates for 2002**

The consensus of the commission was that monthly meetings are not necessary. Timing the bid schedule for ACNA Phase II construction to obtain Board of Commissioners (BOC) approval at the March 14 meeting did not appear feasible. An ACNA meeting is set for April 8 to select a contractor for BOC approval at their April 11 meeting. ACNA meetings are also tentatively set for May, July, and September, and/or as needed.

### **4. Archeological Study**

Chuck Clelland was not available to update the Commission on the archeological study. Staff will request his presence for an update at the April 8 meeting.

### **5. Endowment fund update**

Carl Veenstra and Bob McLeod expressed concern about the state of the spendable reserve as shown in the September 30 report from the Community Foundation. ACNA has an annual payment due to the County in late April. Other concerns expressed included the current lack of a separate account for income from the fund despite ACNA motions to that effect, and the asset allocation strategy currently being followed by the Community Foundation. ACNA will invite Jean Snow of the Community Foundation to the next ACNA meeting to brief the commission on the investment strategies and other matters for the Endowment Fund.

## **6. Phase II update and Phase III briefing (Traver Wood)**

Phase II Traver displayed the bid drawings for Phase II of Antrim Creek work. Most of the work is in the North Access area. Features include work on no-access barrier-free gravel loop, pavement of steep slope segment descending the bluff, addition of parking at base of slope, relocation of vehicular turnaround loop through a small portion of a wetland patch due to archeological site (DEQ permit process complete, Corps of Engineers also claims jurisdiction), signage changes, road drainage, miscellaneous facilities, and boulder relocation. Discussion ensued on boulder relocation because of concerns about potentially limiting boat trailer access and parking at the designated launch site on the beach. Boulders will be moved further north than shown on drawings, and fire rings moved north of the new boulder locations. This will be implemented as a field change. Traver hopes to have bids in for the work by mid- to late March.

Phase III Phase III will comprise mostly work on information arbor and interpretive displays (display contents need to be set by ACNA commission). The cost estimate is still tentatively at \$50,000. Bob McLeod directed Howard to check into tribal education grant availability for Phase III work.

## **7. Old Business – none**

## **8. New Business**

Carl commented on how clean the South Access area tends to be. Bob noted that the staff from Barnes Park goes to clean periodically. He will discuss with Parks Committee on how this arrangement could continue. Bob asked whether any action needs to be taken to induce new visitors to come to the Natural Area. Howard noted that web page space will be available for ACNA on the county web site, and requested material for web page content. Howard directed to use material from existing publications and master plan.

## **9. Communications**

Howard distributed a mailing containing the most recent financial report from the Community Foundation. Concerns about the fund's investment strategy still remain.

Meeting adjourned at 8 p.m.

Next meeting on April 8, 2002 at 7 p.m.  
Banks Township Hall, Ellsworth

# Antrim Creek Natural Area

*Robert McLeod, Chairman*

Gale Murphy

Reg Bird

Gary Strange

Carl Veenstra

## ACNA Endowment Committee (Joint Meeting)

April 8, 2002

### Minutes

Banks Township Hall

ACNA Commission Members Present: Robert McLeod, Carl Veenstra, Gary Strange, Gale Murphy

Members Absent: Reg Bird

ACNA Endowment Members Present: Mark Randolph, Carl Veenstra, Mark Stone, Jacob Veenstra

Staff Present: Pete Garwood

Others Present: Traver Wood, Ronald Freed, Al Veenstra, Elizabeth Hoffman, Marion Williams, Jean Snow

#### **1. Call to Order**

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman, Robert McLeod.

#### **2. Approval of Minutes – ACNA Commission Action**

**Motion by Carl Veenstra, supported by Gary Strange, to approve the Minutes of the February 11, 2002 meeting. Motion carried – unanimous.**

#### **3. Archeological Study Update**

Chuck Clelland was not present to update the Commission on the archeological study. Chairman, Bob McLeod informed the group that an anonymous donation was made to MSU for \$20,000 to continue the archeological study. An additional \$500 has been donated for carbon dating the artifacts that have previously been collected at the site.

#### **4. Annual Installment Repayment to Antrim County**

Mr. Pete Garwood informed the Commission that the Endowment has made another \$5,500 payment to the County for the loan used for matching funds to do the Phase I improvements at the ACNA.

**5. Phase II – Bid Opening – ACNA Commission Action**

<u>3 Bids</u>	<u>Bid Bond</u>	<u>Amount</u>
H & D Inc	yes	\$279,519.50
Drenth Brothers	yes	\$221,365.00
Robert T. Cole, Inc	yes	\$168,776.64

- Funds available - \$191,565

**Motion by Gary Strange, supported by Carl Veenstra, to recommend the Board of Commissioners hire Robert T. Cole, Inc to complete the work for Phase II at the Antrim Creek Natural Area contingent on a good reference check and report by Site Planning. Motion carried – unanimous.**

**6. Endowment Fund Update – ACNA Endowment Committee Action**

The Committee reviewed the Endowment Financial Statement.

Jean Snow, Director of the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation joined the meeting at 7:23 p.m.

Ms. Snow reviewed the performance of the ACNA Endowment fund since inception. Ms. Snow also reviewed foundation spending policy for the funds managed by the foundation.

Ms. Snow indicated the spendable reserve could be moved into a temporary fund where it would be safe from the fluctuation of the market.

**Motion by Mark Randolph, supported by Carl Veenstra, to make a recommendation to move the entire spendable reserve into the temporary fund. Motion carried – unanimous.**

**Motion by Mark Randolph, supported by Carl Veenstra, to recommend the Community Foundation Board agree to a decrease in the Endowment Committee membership from 7 to 5. Motion carried – unanimous.**

**7. Old Business – ACNA Commission**

Commission reviewed/made changes to the sign that will have rules for use.

Commission reviewed the draft trail plan.

Commission gave Mr. Pete Garwood direction on placement of handicap porta johns during construction.

**8. New Business - None.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

**Next meeting of the ACNA Commission on May 6, 2002 at 7 p.m.  
Banks Township Hall, Ellsworth**

# Antrim Creek Natural Area

*Robert McLeod, Chairman*

**Gale Murphy**

**Reg Bird**

**Gary Strange**

**Carl Veenstra**

**June 3, 2002**

**Minutes**

Banks Township Hall

ACNA Commission Members Present: Robert McLeod, Reg Bird, Gale Murphy

Members Absent: Gary Strange, Carl Veenstra

Staff Present: Howard Yamaguchi

Others Present: Traver Wood, Betty Hoffman, Mary Kay and Ed McDuffie

## **1. Call to Order**

The Meeting was called to order by Chairman Robert McLeod at 7:28 pm. upon attainment of a quorum.

## **2. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion by Reg Bird, supported by Gale Murphy, to approve the Minutes of the April 8, 2002 meeting. Motion carried – unanimous.**

## **3. Grant Application Update**

Chairman McLeod informed the group that Janet Person of Antrim Conservation District had asked to be excused from attending the meeting. She did provide, however, a handout outlining grant possibilities for ACNA interpretive centers. Mr. McLeod distributed the handouts and instructed the commission to read and digest the document for discussion and possible action next month. Reg Bird noted that DNR and Trust Fund grants are not completely unlikely in the future, and should not be written off.

Howard informed the group that a Tribal grant application is also being contemplated. The Antrim Creek Natural Area Commission must recommend that the county Board of Commissioners support such a grant application.

**Motion by Reg Bird, supported by Gale Murphy, to recommend that the County Board of Commissioners support a tribal education grant application to help fund the ACNA interpretive displays. Motion carried – unanimous.**

## **4. Phase II Update**

Mr. McLeod noted to the group that the Phase II construction contract was awarded to Robert T. Cole, Inc. Some work has started in their shop, and that the Commissioners have authorized the closing of the North entrance as needed.

Traver Wood informed the commission that he met with the Corps of Engineers wetland agent, who at first suggested rerouting the circle drive. As a result of further talks, there is now no change in plans for the alignment of the circle drive. Work may begin earlier than the projected start date of July 4. A site kickoff meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 5, at the north entry area with Robert T. Cole, Inc. Mr. McLeod requested that a representative of the Conservation District be present at that meeting as well. Traver briefed the commission further on the scope of the work.

Discussion then moved to the issue of cost over-runs in the Consultant (engineering) contract. Traver explained to the group the additional work items that were performed outside the scope of the original understanding of the project: redesign due to archeological reasons, additional permitting, delays, usage rules, etc. Only recently has true Phase II work started. Commission member Reg Bird noted the difficulty of making decisions in the absence of the Coordinator/Planner and original invoices.

Chairman McLeod instructed Traver Wood to set up a meeting soon involving Traver Wood, Pete Garwood, and Bob McLeod, with all documents made available, to discuss this issue further. The group will report to the ACNA Commission at the July meeting.

## **5. Old Business**

The McDuffies reported that Charles Cleland is still working on his archeological report, and that he is currently searching for a party to do additional studies that will be performed using the anonymously donated funds.

Additional discussion ensued on the temporary fund set up by the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation. Alternatives to the temporary fund and the general fund include: donating to the Land Conservancy and earmark the funds for ACNA, and starting our own account with appropriate controls. Reg Bird will check with Mark Stone on tax advantages to using the Foundation for depositing additional donations.

## **6. New Business** - None.

## **7. Communication**

Chairman McLeod introduced a letter from the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation announcing the creation of the temporary fund where income from the general fund is sheltered from market fluctuations, and available for use.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

**Next meeting of the ACNA Commission will be on July 8, 2002 at 7 p.m.  
Banks Township Hall, Ellsworth**

# Antrim Creek Natural Area

*Robert McLeod, Chairman*

Gale Murphy

Reg Bird

Gary Strange

Carl Veenstra

**July 8, 2002**

## **Minutes**

Banks Township Hall

ACNA Commission

Members Present: Robert McLeod, Reg Bird, Gale Murphy, Gary Strange

Members Absent: Carl Veenstra

Staff Present: Pete Garwood

Others Present: Jack White, Traver Wood, Mary Kay McDuffie, Barbara White, Marion Williams, Ron Freed, Janet Person

### **1. Call to Order**

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman, Robert McLeod.

### **2. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion by Gale Murphy, supported by Reg Bird, to approve the minutes of the June 3, 2002 meeting. Motion carried – unanimous.**

### **3. Grant Application Update**

Ms. Janet Person of Antrim Conservation District, presented grant opportunities to the Committee.

**Motion by Reg Bird, supported by Gale Murphy, to recommend to the Board of Commissioners that the Conservation District be authorized (in behalf of the County) to apply for grants to the Ford Motor Company for \$50,000 and the Norcross foundation for \$7,000 for the interpretive display for the Antrim Creek Natural Area. Motion carried – unanimous.**

Mr. Peter Garwood, Coordinator/Planner updated the committee on a grant application submitted to the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians.

Chairman Bob McLeod and Mr. Garwood gave an account of the request by Site Planning Development, Inc. for additional funds due to the redesign of the north entrance road loop caused by the archeological finds at the Antrim Creek Natural Area.

**Motion by Gale Murphy, supported by Reg Bird, to recommend the Board of Commissioners approve an amendment to the Site Planning contract that will increase the contract by \$10,000 (\$8,598 from the grant budget of which \$2,669 is County match and \$1,402 from the ACNA budget). Motion carried – unanimous.**

### **4. Phase II Update**

Mr. Ron Freed from Site Planning updated the commission on the tree damage at the ACNA caused by the contractor. Mr. Freed recommended we document the damage and associate a cost to the damage. Site Planning will work with the Antrim County Forester, Mike Meriwether, to determine the value of the damaged trees. Mr. McLeod suggested we meet in August to follow-up on this issue.

North loop is cleared and looking good.

Mr. McLeod asked Site Planning to cost out a convex mirror to be placed next to the road on the hill so individuals driving vehicles up and down the hill can see each other.

Mr. Traver Wood from Site Planning informed the Commission two change orders were initiated at no additional cost.

1. The parking lot was changed from a wide parking area to a long narrow lot.
2. The boardwalk was decreased in some areas and increased in other areas.

Mr. Garwood will request the Road Commission have their engineer give us a quotation on installation of a guardrail.

## **5. Old Business**

- Temporary Fund Alternatives  
Reg Bird indicated he had talked to Mark Stone (Chairman of the ACNA Endowment Committee). Mr. Stone has indicated he will pull the Endowment Committee together to discuss alternative ways to invest new funds.
- Rules for Use (Abbreviated Version attached)  
Committee reviewed the changes on the abbreviated rules for use (in a bullet style as opposed to the full ordinance).

**Motion by Reg Bird, supported by Gale Murphy, to recommend approval of the abbreviated rules for use. Motion carried – unanimous.**

## **6. New Business**

- Trail Map  
The Commission reviewed the proposed trail map and made recommendations for changes. All agreed on the map as a final draft.
- Budget  
Commission reviewed the budget for 2003.

## **7. Communication**

Chairman McLeod informed the Commission that commission member Carl Veenstra has a conflict on the regular meeting night. Commission will ask Mr. Veenstra to suggest a day on which we can hold our regular meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

**Next meeting of the ACNA Commission will be on August 5 at 6 p.m.  
Banks Township Hall, Ellsworth**

# Antrim Creek Natural Area

*Robert McLeod, Chairman*

Gale Murphy

Reg Bird

Gary Strange

Carl Veenstra

**August 26, 2002**

## **Minutes**

Banks Township Hall

ACNA Commission

Members Present: Robert McLeod, Gary Strange and Carl Veenstra

Members Absent: Reg Bird, Gale Murphy

Staff Present: Howard Yamaguchi

Others Present: Jack and Barbara White, Traver Wood, Mary Kay McDuffie, Marion Williams, Jim Ferguson, Jacob Veenstra, Russ Blasdell, Mike Meriwether

### **1. Call to Order**

The Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairman Robert McLeod. Chairman McLeod invoked a County Board of Commissioners (BOC) ruling whereby the Chairman of the County BOC can act as a member of appointed commissions such as the ACNA Commission. With the presence and participation of BOC Chairman Jack White, a quorum was established and business could proceed.

### **2. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion by Carl Veenstra, supported by Jack White, to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2002 meeting. Motion carried – unanimous.**

### **3. Grant Application Update**

Ms. Janet Person of Antrim Conservation District updated the Commission on the progress of the grant applications to the Ford Motor Company and the Norcross Wildlife Foundation. She distributed the proposed application forms for the grants for comment.

Bob McLeod noted that grant applications require support of the County Board of Commissioners before they can be submitted to the grantors. The ACNA Commission instructed Janet to proceed with completing the application forms.

### **4. Phase II Update**

Pete Garwood of the County Coordinator/Planner Office reported that the \$167,000 construction project for Phase II is fully underway, and that one progress payment has been made to date. The design/supervision contract work has been about 2/3 billed and paid out, and the project is on schedule.

Mr. Traver Wood from Site Planning reported that his inspection of the site has shown that the site was clean and neat, with no rain at the site for the last few days. He reported on his visit last Thursday with DEQ wetland agent Lori Silagy and representatives from the Antrim Conservation District. As a result of the site visit, ACNA was instructed to make minor changes at certain areas along the roadway (pull back toe of roadway that encroaches into wetlands and steepen side slopes) and to modify the parking loop. In some areas, wetland delineation flags are gone, and points of reference are hard to obtain.

Traver noted that to satisfy all parties, we will modify the road and loop as requested (two-foot pullback of the toe in areas). Responding to a question, he noted that Site Planning had originally delineated the wetland, and had walked the flagged site with Laurie Silagy to obtain her approval during the initial wetland permit application. Traver also noted that the changes will be implemented at no cost to the County.

Bob McLeod also inquired whether any trails have been started in the project area. Traver Wood and Ron Freed briefed the Commission on the trails in the northern side of the project that has been started recently.

As to whether wetlands were encroached upon, Phil Kiteley and Eric Olson, both of R.T. Cole Inc., indicated that in the absence of a variance from DEQ, and given the approximate nature of the contract drawings, and given further the fact that some delineation flags had already been pulled out at the start of the road and loop construction, the workers did the best they could under the circumstances.

Greg Reisig asked why wetlands were filled at all in a natural area. Traver Wood replied that in the initial layout for Phase II avoided wetlands completely. Results of the archeological studies necessitated re-routing of paths and facilities in a manner that would minimize encroachment on existing wetlands. Traver also indicated that he did not start work until he was assured by the Army Corps of Engineers wetland agent (Sue Bright) that the new road alignments were permissible. (The actual Corps permit form itself arrived in the mail today.)

Traver added that it was the opinion of the Corps of Engineers that fire rings are not permitted in the beach area. This opinion was confirmed by DEQ's wetland agent. This will necessitate issuing a change order to not construct the fire rings. We may still have a chance of installing fire rings if we locate them above ordinary High Water Mark, provided that there is enough distance between ordinary HWM and beach grass (may be unlikely). Bob McLeod indicated that people will always build a fire, so it would be unfortunate if fire rings are indeed not permitted.

Traver also noted that while the northern row of boulders should be moved about 60 feet northward, the Corps of Engineers and the DEQ will not allow any variance from the originally permitted location. Bob McLeod felt that this might be a problem, given that the original understanding with the fishermen during the master planning hearings was that fishermen and their equipment could park on the beach. Pete Garwood and Traver Wood did not recall agreeing to fishermen *parking* on the beach. Carl Veenstra recalled agreeing to creating facilities that would allow fishermen's vehicles to maneuver around each other.

Carl Veenstra noted that the long parking is currently too tight, and wondered if anything were to be done about it. Bob McLeod asked whether the DEQ directive to move the toe 2 feet would push the parking lot into an earth mound area. Traver replied that the gravel-topped areas are not affected.

Bob McLeod brought up the issue of tree damages at the site. Janet Person noted that many of the trees had been exposed to previous rounds of building around them, and many were already damaged and would have come down sooner or later. Jack White recalled hearing forester Mike Meriwether say that many had to come down anyway. Linda Gallagher noted that many trees were marked at the construction site, and asked whether they were all slated to be felled. Janet replied that Mike marked all trees that were inventoried, and that not all were marked for felling. Jack Norris asked what one "save" sign signified on a particular tree he saw there. Ron Freed replied that it was a sign that predates the recent tree barking incident, and it was put up to indicate that the tree was not to be taken down as part of the project. Jack further inquired where the replacement wetland for the encroached wetland would be. Pete Garwood replied that it would be at Grass River Natural Area.

Pete Garwood reported that Mike Meriwether's tree damage report indicated a total damage figure of approximately \$5,000. Bob McLeod read excerpts from the report, which stated that many of the newly damaged trees were already damaged in the past, would have been considered high-risk trees. Most tree damage was minimal, and will not affect the growth or well-being of the tree in the future.

Carl Veenstra asked whether Mike had any recommendations on shoring up the downhill slope areas where cedars are currently damaged, and thought that long-term measures are needed. Carl also noted that there may be some damage to the retaining wall, also to the interior rocks due to excessive vehicular surcharge. Janet noted that Natural Resource Conservation Service engineers designed the system in the past, and that the Conservation District could ask for the NRCS to come and revisit the site. She also noted that Mike Meriwether will consider a reforestation plan for the area, to be presented at the next meeting. Carl further asked whether the southern boulder line was acceptable. Traver noted that it was, but the ends could not be flared.

## 5. Old Business

Pete Garwood reported that he had contacted the Antrim County Road Commission (ACRC) for quotations on guardrails for the downhill ramp. ACRC also suggested that the County get quotes from the contractor at site. Ron Freed reminded the Commission that this would require a very long post, and any quotation should have an engineered plan from ACRC (otherwise we will be subject to major liability problems on steep hillslope conditions). Pete Garwood will ask from ACRC some engineered specs to allow site contractors to quote.

Janet stated that she is talking to the Great Lakes Fisheries Trust for possible funding for an engineering study for the northern access road in ACNA. If ACNA Commission could provide her with a ballpark figure on such an engineering study, the County could apply for a grant through the Conservation District. Jack White would like to talk to Road Commission to get engineered costs for this grant effort. The ACNA board is in agreement to request outside assistance to design and fund the guardrails.

Ron Freed reported on quotations received for convex mirrors. Prices range from \$100 to \$300 for plexiglas (which may be too vulnerable to hunting damage). Stainless steel convex mirror would cost \$339 plus post and installation for a 34" mirror that provides a 30' viewing area. The mirror is to enable ascending and descending traffic on the ramp to detect traffic going the opposite direction.

## 5. New Business

To reduce scheduling conflicts for ACNA Commission members, the regular meeting day was changed to be held on **the last Monday of a month** when a meeting is deemed to be needed. The next meeting will be held at the Banks on **August 26, at 7 p.m.**

## 6. Archeology Update

Chuck Cleland joined the meeting at 6:49 p.m. He gave an impromptu project update: the archeological digs uncovered a surprising number of sites, dating from 4000 years ago to the lumbering era. They comprise mostly villages, campsites, and chipping/debris stations. The results far surpassed expectations. Most of the remaining work is Chuck's, mostly in writing up the results.

In response to a question by Bob McLeod, Chuck Cleland noted that he worked with Traver on the placement of trails and roads in ACNA. He has no objections if there have been no changes since his walk-through with Traver. Carl Veenstra commented on the handicapped trail to the outlook, and Traver stated that this necessitated a redesign of the entire loop. Traver noted that the current plan has an alignment that uses fill sections rather than cuts. Chuck Cleland informed the Commission that he is currently searching for people to work with the new project funding.

## **7. Communication**

Pete Garwood paraphrased to the Commission correspondence from Ev Nienhouse, commenting on the ACNA construction work, on illegal overnight campers at ACNA, and on his tracking a dune buggy that had apparently driven along the ACNA beach and those of many of the neighboring properties.

Extensive discussion ensued on vehicles and parking on the beach. Responding to comments from Chuck Cleland, Bob McLeod noted that keeping out vehicles from the beach has been a priority for the ACNA commission. Residents and users have been asked to report license numbers, and sheriff will respond to those calls. To Jack Norris' question, Bob replied that there is a state statute that governs cases such as this. Jack further suggested installing an automated camera system to record violations.

Marian Williams recounted an incident when she and other beach users chased a dune buggy off the beach. Responding to a question by Marian, Bob McLeod noted that parking on the beach by beach users is also prohibited. Carl Veenstra urged that more and larger boulders be placed in the likely access areas (perhaps another line of boulders) to discourage vehicles, and that more effort must be put into this than before. Bob McLeod reiterated that further use of boulders would prevent fishermen from accessing the water. Traver Wood noted that boulders could be buried in the area in such a way as to discourage vehicle usage. He also reminded the Commission that the DEQ will not tolerate widening of the within the boulders, as they see this as an invitation to park on the beach. Dick Sharkey stated that a beach watch is definitely worth doing. Chuck Cleland offered that folks park on the beach because it looks like a parking lot, and that perhaps 80% of those who park will refrain from doing so if there is a "No Parking" sign. Dick Sharkey suggested that if a "No Parking" sign is to be posted, it should read "*Please* Do Not Park" or something like that instead. Bob McLeod instructed Traver to obtain quotes for such a sign.

Bob McLeod read to the Commission a letter by an 8-year old child (Alexander), who was upset about the felling of trees at ACNA.

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

**Next meeting of the ACNA Commission will be on  
August 26 at 7 p.m.,  
Banks Township Hall, Ellsworth**

# Antrim Creek Natural Area

*Robert McLeod, Chairman*

Gale Murphy

Reg Bird

Gary Strange

Carl Veenstra

**August 26, 2002**

## **Minutes**

Banks Township Hall

ACNA Commission

Members Present: Robert McLeod, Gary Strange and Carl Veenstra

Members Absent: Reg Bird, Gale Murphy

Staff Present: Howard Yamaguchi

Others Present: Jack and Barbara White, Traver Wood, Mary Kay McDuffie, Marion Williams, Jim Ferguson, Jacob Veenstra, Russ Blasdell, Mike Meriwether

### **1. Call to Order**

The Meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m. by Chairman Robert McLeod.

### **2. Approval of Minutes**

In discussing the minutes of the August 5 meeting, Mary Kay McDuffie had a question on wetland replacement policy. She stated that the policy could have the effect of setting a bad precedent for the rest of the county.

**Motion by Gary Strange, supported by Carl Veenstra, to approve the minutes of the August 5, 2002 meeting. Motion carried – unanimous.**

### **3. Grant Application Update**

Brief discussion ensued on the progress of the various grants, including the Norcross Wildlife Foundation grant. Bob McLeod stated that changes in the grant made ACNA more eligible for award. Howard informed the Commission that the tribal grant application failed during this education round, but will be resubmitted during the government round.

### **4. Phase II Update**

Mr. Traver Wood from Site Planning reported that the Phase II project is now 98% complete. Only tree planting/removals, shingle placement, road paving (scheduled for Thursday), and a variety of punch list items (to be compiled by Traver and Ron Freed). Before final road works are begun, we will obtain advice and input from the Antrim County Road Commission (ACRC). Contacts with Manthei are continuing.

Notes from a meeting between the Road Commission and Jack White and Pete Garwood were distributed. ACRC will send a grader to repair some damage from the recent storms. Also, ACRC quoted \$2,400 for 250 feet of guardrail on the hill/curve. ACRC will pay for \$800, and ACNA Commission must contribute the balance (\$1,600). Installation of the used guardrail will take three days, with work scheduled to start after Labor Day.

**Motion by Gary Strange, supported by Carl Veenstra, to recommend to the Board of Commissioners that the sum of \$1,600 be allocated for installation of guardrails along the hillside ramp and curve of the northern access road into the Antrim Creek Natural Area. Motion carried – unanimous.**

Discussion moved on to the proposed "no parking" signage on the beach. Chairman McLeod distributed copies of the quotation for the proposed sign. Gary Strange asked whether some other message like "no motor vehicles on beach" could be used instead, and that we must check location to see if it will be an obstruction in the access to the beach. Carl Veenstra asked if there may be any prohibitions on parking in the loop. Often there is parking in the loop, obstructing traffic and nullifying the purpose of the loop. May need a sign there as well?

Bob McLeod asked what kind of wording may be appropriate. A sign on the long-and-narrow lot would need simple wording. We also have rules of use to post. Traver noted that ticketing, and other ordinance enforcement is another way to control parking. Russ Blasdell opined that ticketing one-time visitors would not be very effective. Traver replied that most violators tend to be folks who've been habitually parking improperly. Mary Kay McDuffie noted that a "Please" usage might help to promote compliance. At entry of parking area, we could post a "Please Park in Designated Areas Only" sign.

On the question of in setting of boulders: in the beach area this week, Traver noted that the last time he looked, some boulders needed to be reset.

On signage for the beach area, wording such as "Motor Vehicles Strictly Prohibited in The Beach Area" was suggested. Bob McLeod suggested that we try Mary-Kay's sign idea first, and then work on another one near the beach. Discussion concluded with consensus on placing a "No Motor Vehicles on Beach" sign with Rules of Use at the beach, then placing a smaller one (Mary Kay's) sign.

Traver explained that the installation of sign is \$40 (not on quote), plus the cost of sign of \$222.60. There will be additional cost because of the decision to place an additional sign.

**Motion by Gary Strange, supported by Bob McLeod, to place signs as discussed in the Antrim Creek Natural Area Phase II site. Unanimous.**

Traver will report in the September meeting with final configuration and costs.

Traver asked the Commission if trees slated for felling could now be removed. Mike Meriwether noted that he advised Howard earlier that trees should be taken down after the compensation issue has been settled. Traver replied that he only received the full copy of the tree damage valuation report tonight, so he will start talks with the contractor. Discussion ensued on how best to proceed in negotiating with the contractor. Traver will send a note to start talks with the contractor, and the Commission authorized Bob McLeod to act on behalf of the ACNA Commission to proceed with tree removal discussions and decisions. The Commission requested Mike Meriwether to inspect the trees along the newly constructed trails.

Mike Meriwether also noted that many more trees than are currently marked for felling along the access road to the Beach are "high-risk" (20 to 30 more than in damage inventory) trees, and the County should work on those first. Traver noted that removing additional trees would cost additional funds; could the County identify the "high-risk" trees to reduce the County's liability? In response to a question by Bob McLeod, Mike verified that he could mark all hi-risk trees as well as the damaged ones that should be felled.

**Motion by Gary Strange, supported by Bob McLeod, to strike a deal with Robert T. Cole to remove trees ID'd by Mike Meriwether (29 damaged ones, as many as 30 others), with costs defrayed by Robert T. Cole up to a value equal to the amount of assessed tree damage. Unanimous**

## **5. Old Business**

Bob McLeod reported that he responded to the letter by the 8-yr old boy (introduced last meeting). In his response, Bob invited the boy and his dad to visit site in September.

Carl Veenstra revisited the issue of parking slots on top of bluff. Would slot parking still be appropriate for those who do not want to go down to the bottom of hill? Traver noted that all gravel originally stockpiled is gone now. Jim Ferguson added that parking there may be attractive to X-country skiers in the winter. Bob McLeod noted that there are no funds currently available, although the goal is good. Carl replied that the work would not take much in the way of cost. He has put in one slot in 1 hour's time, but didn't have gravel. Bob McLeod requested that Mike Meriwether mark trees in the area appropriate for removal to make way for a possible slot parking area.

## **6. New Business**

Discussion turned to bollards and other barricades to ATVs on trails. Trevor reminded the group that trails were designed to accommodate ATV's to serve the remote areas of ACNA in an emergency. Carl Veenstra recounted how ATV's in the past had driven the trails and beaches, and posed the question of how to make the trail accessible for emergencies, yet difficult to access normally? Gary Strange suggested that we should try the system as is for a while, then see if we need additional work.

Bob McLeod informed the Commission that Reg Bird had notified him of completion of a year on the ACNA Commission, and that Len Franseen would be his replacement from the Conservancy on the Conservancy seat on the Commission. Bob informed Reg that the Conservancy does not automatically have a seat on the ACNA Commission, but that Reg would be welcome to renew his Commission. Reg, however, preferred to step down. Bob McLeod suggested that we post a public notice to solicit letters of interest for serving on the ACNA Commission, with the deadline set so that these letters can be examined at the next ACNA meeting on the last Monday of September. Howard was instructed to make this so.

Carl Veenstra brought up a possible animal habitat project, maybe some type of wildlife feed in the area. Using trimmings from trail and maintenance debris, at such locations as power line right-of-ways, etc. We can make brush piles for rabbits and such. People can get involved with this project, as much habitat is damaged by deer, etc. Bob McLeod suggested that kids, 4H groups, Scouts, and others could be involved (There is also a spot of wetland gain that is a candidate location). Howard was instructed to get Stan Moore and MSUE involved in the wildlife feed and habitat project.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

**Next meeting of the ACNA Commission will be on  
September 30 at 7 p.m.,  
Banks Township Hall, Ellsworth**

# Antrim Creek Natural Area

*Robert McLeod, Chairman*

**Gale Murphy**

**Reg Bird**

**Gary Strange**

**Carl Veenstra**

**September 30, 2002**

## **Minutes**

Banks Township Hall

ACNA Commission

Members Present: Robert McLeod, Carl Veenstra, Gale Murphy

Members Absent: Reg Bird, Gary Strange

Staff Present: Pete Garwood

Others Present: Jack and Barbara White, Traver Wood, Mary Kay McDuffie, Marion Williams, Jacob Veenstra, Ron Freed, Betty Hoffman, Ed McDuffie

### **1. Call to Order**

The Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairman Robert McLeod.

### **2. Approval of Minutes**

**Motion by Carl Veenstra, supported by Gale Murphy, to approve the minutes of the August 26, 2002 meeting. Motion carried – unanimous.**

### **3. Grant Application Updates**

Mr. Peter Garwood, Coordinator/Planner reported that the grant application deadline (for the round in which the focus is governmental units) for the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians 2% allocation funds is December 31.

**Motion by Carl Veenstra, supported by Gale Murphy, to recommend the Board of Commissioners approve an application for grant funds from the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians, for Phase III at the ACNA (Information Arbor and displays). Motion carried – unanimous.**

- Other Grants  
No update at this time.

### **4. Phase II Construction Update**

Ron Freed met with Robert T. Cole last week at the natural area to review the contractors' compliance with the final punch list. All work is complete except the arrival and installation of the trail signs.

Traver Wood informed the Committee that he received a copy of a communication from Lauri Silagy, DEQ Wetland Officer indicating that they may not have properly restored the edge of the parking lot (out of the wetland area). Mr. Wood is currently trying to arrange a meeting with Ms. Silagy, as he feels that the requested restoration (and more) was completed.

Carl Veenstra, indicated that he feels that if the wet part of the trail on the bluff (south side of the North Entrance) was moved to the west it would provide a dry alternative to the current trail in wet times of the seasons. Mr. Veenstra is currently working to make the above mentioned addition to the trail.

Chairman, Bob McLeod informed those present that the road on the hill is now paved and there is a guardrail installed.

**5. Signs**

At the last meeting a motion was approved for the fabrication and installation of a sign that would read, "Please Park in Designated Areas Only". However, since that time it was discovered that we currently do not have the money in the budget for the sign. The sign can be reconsidered next budget year.

A sign that reads, "No Motor Vehicle on the Beach" was already included in the Phase II budget and has recently been installed.

**6. Tree Felling by the Subcontractor**

The trees that were marked for removal that were damaged in the course of completing the Phase II project, as well as the additional trees negotiated for removal by the sub-contractor have all been removed.

**7. Animal Habitat Project Update**

Mr. Garwood informed the Commission that 4-H does have a program for Wildlife Habitat. He will pursue this opportunity with the MSU Extension.

Mr. Carl Veenstra indicated he has already relocated some of the brush into suitable piles for the creation of rabbit habitat.

Mr. Garwood was directed to inquire whether the Conservation District would be interested in assisting with the habitat creation project, possibly with prison labor. Mr. Carl Veenstra inquired about possibly getting some seed for wildlife habitat. Mr. Garwood will find out if MSU Extension has suggestions.

**8. Maintenance**

Discussion took place regarding using Barnes Park employees to do the sweeping, brush hauling, and litter policing. Committee thought this idea was worth pursuing. Committee will also pursue the possibility of help from the inmates.

Mr. Garwood will ask the Barnes Park Manager to apply a weed whipper around the ACNA signs.

Mr. Garwood will check to see if the porta john company has a ramp attachment for the front of the porta john.

**9. Membership**

There have been four letters of interest submitted for membership on the ACNA Commission. Committee members spoke highly of the two top candidates, Mary Kay McDuffie and Marion Williams.

**Motion by Carl Veenstra, supported by Gale Murphy, to recommend the Chair of the Board of Commissioners appoint Mary Kay McDuffie to the ACNA Commission. Motion carried – unanimous.**

Carl Veenstra solicited volunteers for assisting with the habitat enhancement project. Several hands went up.

Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

**Next meeting of the ACNA Commission will be on  
February 10 at 7:00 p.m.,  
Banks Township Hall, Ellsworth**