

Antrim Creek Natural Area

Robert McLeod, Chairman

Gale Murphy

Mary Kay McDuffie

Gary Strange

Carl Veenstra

February 10, 2003

Minutes

Banks Township Hall

ACNA Commission

Members Present: Robert McLeod, Carl Veenstra, Gary Strange, Mary Kay McDuffie

Members Absent: Gale Murphy

Staff Present: Howard Yamaguchi

Others Present: Chuck Cleland, Traver Wood, Marion Williams, and Jacob Veenstra

1. Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. by Chairman Robert McLeod.

2. Approval of Minutes

Chairman Robert McLeod discussed the minutes of the previous meeting (September 2002). He noted that the matter of the second sign at the parking lot has been deferred till this year, and that Carl Veenstra reported progress on the establishment of the wildlife enhancement plan (will report in Spring to ACNA Commission).

Motion by Gary Strange, supported by Mary Kay McDuffie, to approve the minutes of the September 30, 2002, meeting. Motion carried – unanimous.

3. 2003 Meeting Dates

Chairman McLeod then discussed possible meeting dates for 2003. Out of a list of possible dates for 2003, the ACNA Commission agreed to meet next on **May 5**, followed by a **June 30** meeting. Other possible meeting dates from July on (last Monday of each month) remain unchanged for now, until the need for those dates become clearer later in the year.

4. Archeological Study

Prof. Chuck Cleland delivered copies of the ACNA Archeological Survey final report to the Commission and reported on its contents. He would like the report made available to the volunteers and to those on the mailing list provided to Chairman McLeod.

Mr. Cleland described the sites found in the survey, and noted that many sites were discovered for such a little patch of ground. Eastern side of ACNA is not really surveyed yet except for areas around south access alignment and around Nipissing trail. Not much excavation was performed, but we can expect large yields of artifacts if more excavations are performed in the future. Collections from site will go to MSU, with County as owner, and MSU as curator.

To preserve the archeological and historical heritage of the site, the report recommends:

- No earthwork in ACNA without prior archeological testing and mitigation;
- Amendment and posting of county ACNA Ordinance prohibiting metal detector use;
- Public educational program about importance of and protecting archeological resources;
- Long-term plan for archeological testing of unsurveyed portions of ACNA; and
- All archeological research in ACNA be conducted by certified professional archeologists.

Discussion ensued on the desirability of restricting metal detectors

Motion by Mary Kay McDuffie, supported by Gary Strange, to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to amend the Antrim Creek Natural Area Ordinance to prohibit use of metal detectors in ACNA. Motion carried – unanimous.

Responding to Bob McLeod's question, Chuck Cleland responded that he is currently searching for a student who will be able to further archeological studies at ACNA during summers with a crew. The rest of the archeology fund will be used to fund this study.

Bob McLeod presented the ACNA commission with the final invoice from Dr. Cleland for his services, and indicated that the balance due is \$889.09

Motion by Gary Strange, supported by Mary Kay McDuffie, to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to appropriate \$889.09 from the ACNA fund to pay the balance due to Prof. Cleland for Archeological Survey work performed. Motion carried – unanimous.

5. ACNA Website

Howard briefed the ACNA commission on the ACNA website. Ellsworth High School digital art and computer graphics students, under Deb Hughes, will create the ACNA website as their semester project. A product is expected in June.

6. Beach Traffic

Bob McLeod visited ACNA in December and noted over 30 people on the beach, but no signs of vehicular traffic. However, Carl Veenstra reports that boulders have been moved and vehicles ridden on the beach recently. He is offering to replace boulders to their original locations. More boulders are also recommended by Carl, but the consensus was that more would probably not be acceptable to DNR. Perhaps larger ones could replace the existing ones.

7. Old Business

The "Please Park in Designated Areas Only" sign was slated for installation in 2003 at the approach to the northern parking loop. The cost estimate for the sign is \$544.00. Discussion ensued on possible additional signs around portajohns and other facilities.

Motion by Gary Strange, supported by Mary Kay McDuffie, to recommend to the Board of Commissioners to appropriate \$544.00 from the ACNA fund to purchase and install the "Please Park in Designated Areas Only" sign on the approach to the north access parking loop. Motion carried – unanimous.

Traver Wood suggested that a more durable seasonal hunting sign be used instead of the laminated sheets of paper currently deployed. Discussion ensued on desirability of seasonal versus permanent signs. Chuck Cleland suggested a permanent signboard into which seasonal or other temporary signs could be placed and removed as needed. Traver will bring designs and quotations of such signs to the next meeting.

8. New Business

Bob McLeod informed the ACNA commission that we were awarded a \$2,700 Norcross Wildlife Foundation grant (out of \$7,000 requested), the check is in hand. There are rumors of a tribal grant, but no official communications have been received. We were not awarded a Ford Foundation grant.

Phase III development work consists of implementing the work items that were postponed to date due to a shortage of grant funds. Traver Wood noted that the work yet to be done (total cost approx. \$50,000) includes a welcome and display structure at the south entrance, and an interpretive display (as yet not designed) for the area. Mary Kay McDuffie noted that the committee involved with the design of the display can be re-activated at any time upon receipt of the grants to do the work.

9. Communication

Mary Kay McDuffie presented the commission with a letter from Peg Comfort of White Pine Associates. Ms. Comfort notes that ACNA does not show as a location on the US Fish & Wildlife recovery plan document for the endangered species "Pitcher's Thistle." She inquires whether the ecological inventory of ACNA was ever submitted to the US Fish & Wildlife Service and to the Michigan Natural Features Inventory database, both in Lansing. She also reminds ACNA that the County is responsible for implementation of the Pitcher Thistle Recovery Plan.

Discussion ensued on Ms. Comfort's letter. Traver Wood recalled guiding a DEQ agent through the site, pointing out the locations where species on the Endangered list could be found in ACNA. However, whether or not the inventory document was formally submitted was not known to Traver or to the commission members. Howard was instructed to look into the matter.

Bob McLeod presented thank-you letters that were issued to two donors who made contributions to the ACNA Endowment Fund. These folks should be placed on the ACNA Xmas card list.

Meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

**Next meeting of the ACNA Commission will be on
May 5 at 7:00 p.m.,
Banks Township Hall, Ellsworth**

Antrim Creek Natural Area

Robert McLeod, Chairman

Gale Murphy

Mary Kay McDuffie

Gary Strange

Carl Veenstra

May 5, 2003

Minutes

Banks Township Hall

ACNA Commission

Members Present: Robert McLeod, Gale Murphy, Mary Kay McDuffie

Members Absent: Carl Veenstra, Gary Strange

Staff Present: Peter Garwood, Coordinator/Planner

Others Present: Jack and Barbara White, Traver Wood, Ed McDuffie, Jacob Veenstra, Betty Hoffman, 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 Mary Kay McDuffie, supported by Gale Murphy, to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2003, meeting. Motion carried – unanimous.

3. Tribal Grant

Mr. Garwood, Coordinator/Planner informed the Commission we were unsuccessful in securing a tribal grant for the informational and educational displays and arbor for the Antrim Creek Natural Area (ACNA). Mr. Garwood asked if the Commission would like to recommend to the Board of Commissioners that the grant application be resubmitted.

Motion by Mary Kay McDuffie, supported by Gale Murphy, to recommend the Board of Commissioners re-submit the grant application to the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. Motion carried – unanimous.

Ms. McDuffie inquired about the possibility of incorporating the old schoolhouse in the trails and information display program. Mr. Garwood will contact the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (GTRLC) and ask if they will contact the woman who owns the schoolhouse and see if she has changed her mind about selling the building.

4. Meeting Schedule

Commission decided to stay with the previous date and time selected: Last Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

5. Signs

Discussion took place regarding the vandalism that has occurred to the current signs. The idea of removing the signs and the future information arbor display seasonally was discussed.

Mr. Garwood and Traver Wood, Site Planning, Inc. were directed to research alternative materials to the pressure treated wolmanized wood that could be used for the information arbor as well as future signs.

Ms. Janet Person, Executive Director for the Conservation District indicated that logs similar to those used to construct the Antrim Conservation District Office Building could be used for the information arbor as well as other structures.

Mr. Wood presented drawings and specifications for additional sign boards at the natural area.

The Commission discussed whether to purchase the additional signs needed as well as replace some of the current signs due to the recent vandalism to some of the signs at the ACNA. Action delayed until we can get better prices on sign additions and the replacement of others.

6. ACNA Spring Report

The Commission reviewed the report submitted by the Eileen Wallick, Barnes Park Manager regarding the current condition of the ACNA infrastructure.

The Commission directed Ms. Person, to arrange to have prison crews clean up the fallen trees and branches on the ACNA trails.

Mr. Garwood indicated that Ms. Wallick has been instructed to weed whip around the signs periodically during the summer.

7. ACNA Website

An instructor, Deb Hughes and two students from Ellsworth School presented the information and graphics they have developed (in draft form) for the ACNA website. The students used DreamWeaver software to develop the website.

Motion by Gale Murphy, supported by Mary Kay McDuffie, to approve the layout and color scheme of the draft website presented by the Ellsworth students and to authorize Mary Kay McDuffie and Howard Yamaguchi to work with Ms. Hughes and the students to complete the website. Motion carried – unanimous.

8. Wildlife Habitat Program

The Committee requested that a meeting be held on the Wildlife Habitat Program with the presence of Carl Veenstra, a representative from the Antrim Conservation District, a representative of the MSUE 4-H program and Howard Yamaguchi to plan the steps to make the program a reality.

9. Endangered Species Act Requirements

The Chairman reviewed the letter sent by Peg Comfort indicating the County is obligated to submit an ecological inventory of the ACNA to the State of Michigan. Ms. Comfort's letter also indicated the County is obligated to implement a Pitcher's Thistle Recovery Plan.

Mr. McLeod also reviewed the research and report completed by Howard Yamaguchi, Associate Planner on the issue. Mr. Yamaguchi had telephone discussions with Ms. Lori Sargent, DNR Endangered Species Specialist. Ms. Sargent indicated the County is not obligated to submit the ecological inventory nor is the County obligated to implement a Pitcher's Thistle Recovery Plan. However, a submittal of the ecological inventory would be most welcome by the State.

Mr. Yamaguchi has already sent a copy of the ecological study to Ms. Sargent. Mr. Wood indicated that prior to the County owning the property (when Mr. Jones owned it) he had also completed and sent an ecological study to the State.

Question: Does this Commission want to get involved in Pitcher's Thistle Recovery Plan?

Mr. Garwood will contact Mr. Todd Vigland, from the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (GTRLC) and see if he is willing to map the threatened plant species and to also invite him to the next meeting.

10. New Business

- Boulders

Mr. Garwood said that in a conversation with Carl Veenstra, he learned that individuals are moving the small boulders and driving four wheelers and trucks on the beach.

Mr. Garwood was directed to contact Drenth Brothers and the Road Commission to inquire about the availability of boulders at least 3 feet in diameter and at what price.

The Commission authorized the Chairman to work with the Coordinator/Planner Office to work on the purchase and placement of boulders.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Antrim Creek Natural Area

Robert McLeod, Chairman

Gale Murphy

Mary Kay McDuffie

Gary Strange

Carl Veenstra

June 30, 2003

Minutes

Banks Township Hall

ACNA Commission

Members Present: Robert McLeod, Gale Murphy, Mary Kay McDuffie and Carl Veenstra

Members Absent: Gary Strange

Staff Present: Howard Yamaguchi, Associate Planner

Others Present: Jack and Barbara White, Traver Wood, Marion Williams

1. Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Chairman Robert McLeod.

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mary Kay McDuffie, seconded by Gale Murphy, to approve the minutes of the May 5, 2003, meeting. Motion carried – unanimous.

3. ACNA Website

Mary Kay reported that the website is not finished yet, but the class is still working on it and will let us know when they are done.

4. ACNA Maintenance and Repair

Guardrail: One of the guardrails was recently hit by a trailer and is skewed. Should it be removed?

Signs: "Parking Only in Designated Areas" sign has not yet been purchased. We have prices but are still waiting to see if we are approved by the Tribal Grant. If we do not get the dollars from the Tribal Grant, we will check with the Antrim Conservation District regarding the expiration date of the \$2,700 Norcross Foundation Grant, and if possible, use those funds.

Boulders: Carl Veenstra reported that he moves the boulders back, vehicles move them aside. Bob McLeod noted that the boulders have not been moved recently. Howard briefed the Commission on the need to obtain a DEQ permit. Bob McLeod suggested not to take any action until the need arises.

Trails: There is a stone erosion at abutment end of the handicapped trail foot bridge. Traver will check design drawings to see if an abutment was designed or not.

Parking: Carl Veenstra stated that something needs to be done at the northern parking area, (remove or shorten) but thinks that if the barriers are removed, more people will park on the trail to the beach. Moving the parking area will narrow the handicapped trail behind the barrier, and increase vehicle traffic crossing the handicapped trail. Carl suggested moving the southern barrier more to the south. He also stated that the northern barrier is also in the way of vehicles backing down the roadway. Carl believes we need to decide whether or not we want boat trailers to back down to the beach. Bob McLeod stated that we have an obligation to give the public access to the lake.

Carl Veenstra made a motion, seconded by Mary Kay McDuffie to move the two endmost southern barriers to form a straight line with the third barrier from the end. Motion carried – unanimous.

5. Budget

Motion by Gale Murphy, seconded by Carl Veenstra to recommend the proposed budget to the Parks Committee for approval by the Finance Committee. Motion carried – unanimous.

Discussion took place regarding the endowment fund. Bob McLeod, in a telephone conversation with Jeanne Snow from the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation, (GTRCF), stated the ACNA has \$13,741 in a temporary fund and \$3,057 in the endowment fund. Carl recommended letting the money sit in this account. Mary Kay McDuffie wondered if there's a possibility of a better interest rate. Carl Veenstra will check on this.

Antrim County initially funded \$37,000 to get the ACNA project started with the understanding the ACNA would repay this amount over a seven year period. At this time, the ACNA has three more payments to make to the County.

6. Endangered Species Survey

Howard will ask the AuSable Institute to do the work next summer. He will also check on terms.

7. Treated Lumber

Traver is still looking at alternative materials and stated that there is a 20-25% premium on new materials.

8. Wildlife Habitat Project

Carl has still not heard from the 4-H office. He has a large stack of materials (brush) for this project and would like to bring in a tractor and put these materials in place for rabbits, etc. The plan is for 4-H representative to meet with Antrim Conservation District and Carl to design pasture mix, get materials, etc. Seeds should be planted by August, and habitat material placed by late fall or early winter.

9. Parks and Recreation Commission

Mary Kay McDuffie will represent the ACNA at the Parks and Recreation Commission goal-setting meeting on July 24 at 9:00 a.m.

10. Member Communication

Carl stated that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife was checking Antrim Creek for lampreys. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife representative commented about what good shape the creek was in and the road culvert being very successful judging from the abundance of game fish upstream of the creek.

11. Next meeting scheduled for Monday July 28 at 7:00 p.m. at Banks Township Hall.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

Antrim Creek Natural Area

Robert McLeod, Chairman

Gale Murphy

Mary Kay McDuffie

Gary Strange

Carl Veenstra

July 28, 2003

Minutes

Banks Township Hall

ACNA Commission

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

Members Absent: Mary Kay McDuffie

Staff Present: Pete Garwood, Coordinator/Planner

Others Present: Marion Williams, Janet Person (ACD), Elizabeth Hoffmann, Jacob Veenstra

1. Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Chairman Robert McLeod.

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Gale Murphy, seconded by Carl Veenstra, to approve the minutes of the June 30, 2003, meeting. Motion carried – unanimous.

3. ACNA Website

In Mary Kay McDuffie's absence, Carl Veenstra gave the update for the website. The website is very close to being finished. Mr. Garwood will have Howard Yamaguchi contact Deb Hughes from the Ellsworth High School regarding the contents of the website. The Commission would like to see a website demonstration before it goes online.

4. Grants Update

Mr. Garwood indicated the Tribal Grant decision would be made this week according to Mary Kelly the Tribal contact. Janet Person, Executive Director for the Antrim Conservation District indicated we would need to spend the Nor Cross Grant by November or December. If the Tribal Grant comes through, the subcommittee will need to meet to get rolling on the grant. If the Tribal Grant does not come through, the Nor Cross Grant will be used to focus on an educational interpretive display at the north entrance of the park. In which case, the subcommittee would need to meet to discuss the information that should be included on the display boards.

5. Mapping Threatened Species

Mr. Garwood was directed to follow up on the offer from the AuSable Institute on the plant inventory.

6. Old Schoolhouse Update

Mr. Garwood was directed to find out from the Grand Traverse Land Conservancy if they have ever heard from the woman who owns the schoolhouse. Mr. Garwood informed the Commission the Conservancy has not heard back from the woman who owns the schoolhouse.

Mr. Strange indicated he would be happy to engage in negotiations with the schoolhouse owner.

7. Beach Grooming

Mr. Strange inquired about the possibility of (due to the low lake level) grooming the grass and other growth along the beach. Ms. Person said she would have her staff get the DEQ over to the beach to evaluate the possibility.

8. Beach Barriers

Mr. Garwood presented a site plan that illustrated how the wooden barriers at the north beach access were to be moved. The Coordinator/Planner office was directed to work with Traver Wood from Site Planning Inc., to get the identified barriers moved to the desired position (so a vehicle pulling a boat trailer can more easily back in to the water and launch their boat).

9. Bridge

The Commission discussed the erosion taking place at the approaches to the boardwalks and bridges. Mr. Garwood informed the Commission that Traver Wood, indicated last week that he was going to have a discussion with Robert T. Cole, the contractor on the project, to see if there was anything he could do to stop the approaches to the boardwalks and bridges from eroding.

10. Posts & Signs

Discussion took place regarding whether or not we should continue to go through Site Planning, Inc. for our sign needs. Mr. Garwood indicated he would contact the sign maker directly next time.

Carl Veenstra inquired if there are extra trail marker posts available. The Commission agreed we should have extra trail marker posts available, as we currently have one that needs to be replaced due to vandalism. Mr. Garwood will check on post supply.

11. Wildlife Habitat

Mr. Veenstra indicated he has not located a source of appropriate grass and other plant seed for wildlife enhancement planting. A pasture mix (clover, etc.) was indicated as a good attracter for wildlife.

Ms. Person indicated the Antrim Conservation District may have some seed mix that could be used.

Motion by Gary Strange, supported by Gale Murphy to approve the planting of a wildlife feed plot on the south end of the natural area. Motion carried – unanimous.

12. Communications

- Mr. Garwood distributed the results of a goal setting meeting held by the Parks and Recreation Commission.
- Letter from Commission member Mary Kay McDuffie regarding a park user who had a dog on a leash. The woman's dog was seriously hurt by a large dog that was not on a leash.

The issue was tabled until next month. Pete Garwood and Bob McLeod will talk to the Prosecutor about what resource is available in this case.

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

**Next meeting of the ACNA Commission will be on
September 29 at 7:00 p.m.,
Banks Township Hall, Ellsworth**

Antrim Creek Natural Area

Robert McLeod, Chairman

Gale Murphy

Mary Kay McDuffie

Gary Strange

Carl Veenstra

September 29, 2003

Minutes

Banks Township Hall

ACNA Commission

Members Present: Robert McLeod, Gale Murphy, Carl Veenstra and Mary Kay McDuffie

Members Absent: Gary Strange

Staff Present: Pete Garwood, Coordinator/Planner

Others Present: Marion Williams, Janet Person (ACD), Dan Bean, Jacob Veenstra, Ed McDuffie, 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 July 28, 2003, meeting. Motion carried – unanimous.

3. Beach Grooming

Janet Person informed the Commission that, through a discussion with the Department of Environmental Quality, she found out, grooming the beach without a permit, below the ordinary high water mark, can only be done by hand (physically pulling weeds out by hand). Above the high water mark on the beach, tools can be used (rakes, hoes, etc.). Machinery is not allowed in either area.

4. Bridge and Boardwalk

The Commission inquired from Traver Wood, Site Planning, Inc., as to whether or not Robert T. Cole has fixed the abutment where the trail meets the scenic overlook, boardwalks and bridges (in order to stop erosion). Mr. Wood indicated he had a discussion with Chris Richter from Robert T. Cole however; he wasn't sure whether they revamped the structure yet.

5. Web Page

Mr. Peter Garwood, Coordinator/Planner, demonstrated the new ACNA website that was developed by the Ellsworth High School students and teacher, Deb Hughes.

Mr. Garwood indicated the website can be found on the Antrim County website at www.antrimcounty.org.

6. Police Patrol

Undersheriff Dan Bean discussed patrol at the ACNA and gave the group an idea of what to do in the case of an illegal activity taking place at the ACNA.

Motions by Mary Kay McDuffie, supported by Gale Murphy, to find out the name of the dog owner whose dog attacked a visitor's dog in July, and ask the Prosecutor to pursue the ordinance violation.

Undersheriff Dan Bean indicated he will post a notice at the Sheriff Department to increase patrol at the ACNA.

The Committee discussed the problem with dogs running loose at the ACNA. Mr. Bean indicated he will inform the sheriff department and animal control about the problem.

For individuals driving on the beach, Undersheriff Bean recommended getting a license plate number and/or a description of the individual and notify the Sheriff Department (call 911).

Committee discussed an incident where a kid drove a golf cart on the beach. Mr. Garwood and Undersheriff Bean will find out more about it for the next meeting.

7. Wildlife Habitat Project

Carl Veenstra indicated his equipment has been down recently and no action has been taken at this time. Once his equipment is repaired he will begin work on the project.

Mr. Veenstra thinks he can get started on brush piles this winter. Mr. Garwood was directed to contact Mr. Martin, at Ellsworth High School, to see if there is interest in a class participating in the project.

8. Information Arbor and Display

Mary Kay McDuffie explained how the subcommittee got the idea for a display map of the surrounding area with both the Native American names and the current names.

Mr. McLeod described the concept for the information display that the subcommittee has been working toward. The concept is for the design and fabrication of a map of the area surrounding the ACNA. The map will illustrate the historical Native American names associated with local landmarks and the current names with a legend that translates the meaning of the Native American names to English. The display would be approximately 30" x 40" and would be mounted at the scenic overlook off of the handicap trail accessed by the north entrance.

9. Threatened Plant Species

Mr. Garwood indicated that Howard Yamaguchi has been in contact with the instructor from the Au Sable Institute. He has indicated an interest in involving the students in an expanded threatened plant species study. They are currently trying to nail down the extent of the study.

10. Tribal Grant Information Arbor and Future Signs

Mr. Garwood informed the Commission that we were unsuccessful in obtaining the tribal grant. Ms. Janet Person, Executive Director of the Antrim Conservation District, brought up other possible grant opportunities. The Commission asked Ms. Person to bring word of other grant opportunities to the next meeting.

11. Parking Barrier Update

Site Planning, Inc. has moved the parking barriers so a fisherman can back a boat and trailer to the lakeshore more easily.

12. Sign and Post Replacement

Mr. Garwood indicated the sign maker is working on fabricating and replacing the signs and trail markers. However, the total cost was \$2,038.50, but we only have \$1,600.

Motion by Gale Murphy, supported by Mary Kay McDuffie, to recommend the Board of Commissioners approve a transfer of \$440.00 from an ACNA fund to the ACNA budget for signs and trail markers. Motion carried – Unanimous.

The Commission directed Mr. Garwood to get new “Caution! Hunting Season” signs up at the ACNA.

13. Communications

- Mary Kay McDuffie informed the Commission that Eileen Wallick, Barnes Park Manager, indicated that her crew could go down to the ACNA and take a leaf blower to the scenic overlook and boardwalks. The Commission indicated they thought it was a good idea.

14. Porta Johns

Mr. McLeod inquired about when the porta johns will be removed. Mr. Garwood indicated that if the company charges for a full month, the porta johns will be removed at the end of October. If the company prorates the monthly charges, the porta johns will be removed October 15.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

**Next meeting of the ACNA Commission will be on
December 1 at 7:00 p.m.,
Banks Township Hall, Ellsworth**

Antrim Creek Natural Area

Robert McLeod, Chairman

Gale Murphy

Mary Kay McDuffie

Gary Strange

Carl Veenstra

December 1, 2003

Minutes

Banks Township Hall

ACNA Commission

Members Present:

Robert McLeod, Gale Murphy, Carl Veenstra and Mary Kay McDuffie

Members Absent:

Gary Strange

Staff Present:

Howard Yamaguchi, Associate Planner

Others Present:

Jacob Veenstra

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 Mary Kay McDuffie, supported by Gale Murphy, to approve the minutes of the July 28, 2003, meeting. Motion carried – unanimous.

3. Wildlife Habitat Project

Carl Veenstra informed the ACNA Commission that Ellsworth High School is very interested in participating, but will not be able to start immediately. They are currently setting up an environmental curriculum. Carl may start something on his own this year.

4. Bridge and Boardwalk

Howard updated the Commission with information from Traver Wood. Traver has finally been contacted by Robert T Cole Inc., and a site foreman will be visiting the site "soon." No information on when repairs will take place, or who will pay, is yet available.

5. Police Patrol

Howard noted that the Sheriff's Department was not able to find any record of complaints about golf carts on the beach. They did, however, have records of a deputy responding to complaints about golf carts on the public road outside ACNA.

Howard also informed the Commission that the matter of enforcement of the dog ordinance at ACNA has been referred to the County Prosecutor. Bob McLeod noted that he will also discuss this with the prosecutor at the next Administration Committee meeting.

6. Threatened Plant Species

Howard explained that the professors at Oral Roberts University and University of Wisconsin who teach at Au Sable during the summers have the Pitcher Thistle recovery document. We have yet to hear from them about summer plans for their students. Howard continues to contact them.

7. Information Arbor and Display

The Committee viewed the draft map of the display. Howard explained that the final version would include some translations of Native American names, as well as an explanation of the items shown in the map legend. The Coordinator/Planner office will receive a cost estimate for

the mounting frame tomorrow. The map will be mounted using tamper-proof screws. Pete Garwood expects the total cost, including Fen's Rim cost, to come in just under the grant amount.

8. Grant Follow-up

Bob McLeod directed Howard Yamaguchi to instruct the Antrim Conservation District to pursue grant opportunities for the educational displays.

9. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting will be at 7 p.m. on **March 1, 2004**, at the Ellsworth Township Hall.

10. Communications and Member Comment

Carl Veenstra noted that the recent high winds have blown a lot of tree branches and such across most of the trails at ACNA. Much cleanup work is required immediately. The Conservation District may be asked if they could provide some assistance here. Carl was asked to call Howard's office with information what the priority needs may be.

Mary Kay McDuffie informed the Commission that a graduate student may be available to do further archeological work for her degree at ACNA, at the oldest site. Carl Veenstra discussed his conversations with a person who is an acquaintance of the owner of the old school house. The school house, if available, could be a base for the archeological studies.

Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

**Next meeting of the ACNA Commission will be on
March 1, 2004, at 7:00 p.m.,
Banks Township Hall, Ellsworth**