

Antrim Creek Natural Area

Robert McLeod, Chairman

Gale Murphy

Mary Kay McDuffie

Gary Strange

Carl Veenstra

March 9, 2004

Minutes

Banks Township Hall

ACNA Commission

Members Present:

Robert McLeod, Carl Veenstra and Mary Kay McDuffie

Members Absent:

Gary Strange, Gale Murphy

Staff Present:

Pete Garwood

Others Present:

Chuck Cleland, Marion Williams, Ed McDuffie and Betty Hoffmann

1. Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Robert McLeod.

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mary Kay McDuffie, supported by Carl Veenstra, to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2003, meeting. Motion carried – unanimous.

3. Curatorial Agreement

Dr. Chuck Clelland, Archeologist, distributed a Curatorial Agreement between Antrim County and the MSU Museum for the artifacts found on the ACNA property during the Archeological dig. The agreement would take the form of a cover letter and an "Incoming Loan Agreement". The Agreement was passed on to Mr. Peter Garwood, Coordinator/Planner. The agreement currently has the signature of William A. Lovis, PhD, Associate Director for Natural and Social Science Research and Curator of Anthropology. The agreement now needs to be signed by the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners.

Motion by Mary Kay McDuffie, supported by Carl Veenstra, to recommend the Board of Commissioners approve and the Chairman sign the agreement with the MSU Museum for care, storage and access of the artifacts found at the ACNA (agreement attached). Motion carried – unanimous.

4. Summer Dig at ACNA

Dr. Clelland distributed a letter from Jodie O'Gorman, PhD, Assistant Professor of Anthropology & Assistant Curator of Great Lakes Archeology. Dr. O'Gorman is requesting permission for up to 15 students to conduct an archeological excavation and survey at the ACNA this summer. The project would be conducted under close supervision.

Motion by Mary Kay McDuffie, supported by Carl Veenstra, to recommend the Board of Commissioners approve the proposed archeological excavation and survey at the ACNA (letter attached), and authorize the Chairman of the ACNA Commission to respond affirmatively to the request. Motion carried – unanimous.

Dr. Clelland indicated the students will need a place to stay and a place to set up a laboratory for the summer while they are participating in the excavation. Mr. Veenstra will check with the owners of a structure close to the natural area to see if it could be used for a laboratory. Mr. Garwood was directed to check with Carl Goeman, Emergency Management Coordinator on the availability of tents that might be used to house the students during the project.

5. Repair of the Trail Bridge and Boardwalk

Mr. Garwood informed the Committee that Travor Wood, Site Planning and Design, Inc., would not be at the meeting tonight. Mr. Wood had indicated to Mr. Garwood that he would put together a proposal for the next meeting for maintaining and improving the foot bridge abutment. Mr. Wood also indicated he received a letter from Robert T. Cole indicating a commitment for tree replacement on the South entrance this spring.

6. Wildlife Habitat Update

Mr. Veenstra indicated he has not had recent contact with the teacher from Ellsworth School. Most recent contact was last fall.

7. Other Grant Opportunities

Janet Person, Executive Director of the Antrim Conservation District, was not present. Mr. Garwood indicated Ms. Person had indicated that she was going to apply for additional funds from the Norcross Fund.

The Committee requested Mr. Garwood try to apply for Little Traverse Band of Odowa Indians as well as submitting an additional grant application to the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians.

8. Meetings

Next Meeting to be May 10, 7:00 p.m. at the Banks Township Hall.

Chairman McLeod proposed we might reduce the amount of meetings. The topic will be discussed at future meetings as we keep track of the amount of business that requires action.

Chairman McLeod indicated he would check with Charles Koop, Prosecuting Attorney, to see if anything has been done regarding the unleashed dog that attacked another dog at the ACNA.

9. Communications

None.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Antrim Creek Natural Area

Robert McLeod, Chairman

Gale Murphy

Mary Kay McDuffie

Gary Strange

Carl Veenstra

May 10, 2004

Minutes

Banks Township Hall

ACNA

Commission

Robert McLeod, Gary Strange, Gale Murphy, and Mary Kay McDuffie

Members Present:

Members Absent:

Carl Veenstra

Staff Present:

Howard Yamaguchi

Others Present:

Jacob Veenstra, Louise Haley, Marion Williams, Janet Person 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 Mary Kay McDuffie, supported by Gary Strange, to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2004, meeting with corrections as noted. Motion carried – unanimous.

3. Trail Bridge Erosion Repair

Traver Wood of Site Planning reported that Robert T. Cole did what they felt was their obligation under the contract to repair the erosion problems noted last year. Some work still needs to be done at the present to correct last winter's erosion effects, total cost to be \$1,400 to \$1,600. Materials only would be about \$250. Janet Person reported that prison labor may be available to do the work, possibly by next month. Traver Wood will provide final time and material costs to Howard. The chair requested that prison labor also be employed to clear the trunk of the 20-inch pine tree that still lie on either side of one of the trails.

Traver also noted that he will start to remind Robert T. Cole to replace the trees that were damaged or destroyed last year.

4. Grant Update

Janet reported that grant sources for small-scale grants are hard to find. They will resubmit the Norcross Foundation grant again in late June. ACNA could possibly be part of a county-wide wildlife improvement grant to NRCS, as could be the Great Lakes Fisheries grant for fishermen's access path to the lagoon.

5. Pitcher's Thistle Monitoring

Howard reported that Prof. Hal Reed of Oral Roberts University will return to the Au Sable Institute this summer, and is willing to have his biology class do a survey of the pitcher's thistle at ACNA. The work will correspond to data gathering activities for Tasks 2 and 4 of the Department of Natural Resources' (DNR) pitcher's thistle recovery plan document.

Au Sable Institute is requesting about \$600 to \$800 for equipment and transportation from the ACNA commission to carry out the work. The amount can be included in the ACNA budget for next year. For 2004, we can use the contractual services line item.

Mary Kay McDuffie requested that a written report be a deliverable for this activity. She also requested specifics of the budget before the amount could be approved.

Motion by Gary Strange, seconded by Gale Murphy, to:

- **authorize the Chairman to review the detailed budget request from Au Sable Institute,**

and, if the budget submitted is found to be satisfactory, to

- **authorize the Chairman to approve expenditures totaling not more than \$800, from the Contractual Services budget line item, for Au Sable Institute to carry out the summer 2004 field survey of the pitcher's thistle (data for Tasks 2 and 4 of the recovery plan) at the Antrim Creek Natural Area.**

Motion carried – unanimous.

6. Communications

There was no communications to ACNA. The chairman noted that Eileen Wallick, Barnes Park manager, and her staff performed numerous pre-season maintenance activities. She has also offered free accommodations at Barnes Park for the MSU archeology field crew that will be performing digs at ACNA this summer. Gary Strange reported that he has secured a 5,000-sq ft site for the MSU crew to set up office and lab, as well as a garage to use for equipment storage.

7. Other Matters

ACNA Commission instructed Howard to follow up on portajohn deployment at the ACNA for 2004. They specifically instructed him to make sure that aprons are deployed with the portajohns.

Janet Person requested permission to transplant some ACNA beach grass to Sand Creek area, where the Conservation District is involved in restoration work for the DNR. ACNA Commission granted her permission, with the caveat that she not take excessive amounts from the ACNA beach area.

8. Meetings

The next meetings will be at the Banks Township Hall, at **7 p.m.**, on **Monday, July 12, 2004**, and on **Tuesday, September 14, 2004**.

Chairman McLeod instructed Howard to ensure that those dates were posted at appropriate locations.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Antrim Creek Natural Area

Robert McLeod, Chairman

Gale Murphy

Mary Kay McDuffie

Gary Strange

Carl Veenstra

July 12, 2004

Minutes

Banks Township Hall

ACNA

Commission

Robert McLeod, Gary Strange, and Mary Kay McDuffie

Members Present:

Gale Murphy, and Carl Veenstra

Members Absent:

Staff Present:

Peter Garwood

Others Present:

Dan Goatley, Chuck Cleland, Jack White, Betty Hoffmann, Janet Person, and David and Nancy Jones

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 Gary Strange, supported by Mary Kay McDuffie, to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2004, meeting. Motion carried – unanimous.

3. Repair of the Trail Bridge and Boardwalks

Janet Person, Antrim Conservation District, informed the committee that her crew, along with prisoners, shored up the erosion problems with bridges and boardwalks as well as the access to the water. The cost came to \$292.50.

Motion by Mary Kay McDuffie, supported by Gary Strange, to recommend the Board of Commissioners approve an expenditure of \$292.50 to fix the erosion at the bridge and boardwalks and the end of North Access Road at the Antrim Creek Natural Area. Motion carried – unanimous.

The Commission directed Mr. Garwood to contact Trevor Wood to make sure he doesn't go to the ACNA to fix the erosion.

4. Next Meeting

Next meeting will be held, September 13 at 6:00 p.m., starting at the Antrim Creek Natural Area. The Banks Township Hall will be reserved in case of bad weather.

5. Tree Clean-up

Mr. McLeod directed Janet Person, from the Antrim Conservation District, to take care of fallen trees on the south side of the property and on the trail north of the north entrance.

6. The Archeological Study

Dr. Chuck Cleland, Archeologist, introduced Dan Goatley, who is supervising the students who are doing the archeological study at the ACNA. They are studying the Nippising Terrace Area. In particular, they are finding “chert flakes” which is a raw material for spear or arrow heads.

They also found an old fire ring, the contents of which allow them to carbon date when the activity took place.

Dr. Cleland inquired about getting an electronic copy of a topographical map that Traver Wood gave him.

Mr. Garwood will check into getting an electronic copy of the map.

Wednesday, July 14, 2004 at 7:30, the Norwood Area Historical Society is sponsoring a program at the ACNA (south end) at which Dan Goatley will be speaking.

**Motion by Mary Kay McDuffie, to recommend that instead of spending dollars on an interpretive display, at this time, to spend any dollars available on doing more research to gather the information (in particular archeological research).
No support – motion failed.**

Mr. Goatley informed the Commission that because they did not expect to get free camping at Barnes Park, they will be making a \$1,200 donation to the campground. He expressed their thanks to both the Barnes Park staff, as well as Gary Strange for the building space they used as a lab.

7. Wild Life Habitat Update

Carl Veenstra was not in attendance, so there was no update on the wildlife habitat project.

8. Threatened Plant Species Update

Mr. Garwood informed the Commission of his conversation with Dave Mieham from the AuSable Institute regarding the threatened plant species study. Dr. Mieham indicated the students had completed their 5 week session last Saturday. Each of the students has completed a report. He and Dr. Hal Reed will consolidate the students work into one report on the plants. Dr. Mieham indicated that according to the study, both the Pitcher’s Thistle and the Lake Huron Tansy, is doing well and has healthy populations. He also shared, there is some ORV damage in the dunes.

Mr. Garwood will write a thank you letter to the AuSable Institute.

9. Other Grant Opportunities

Janet Person informed the Commission, there will be a grant application going to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) for interpretive display work.

- o Norcross Grant

Janet Person informed the Commission that Norcross has changed its focus. Thus, an additional grant application to them does not make sense at this time.

10. Communications

Liz Evans will be the honored guest at the September 13, ACNA Meeting. The idea is to thank and honor Ms. Evans for providing the Native American interpretive map.

o Letter from Marion Beatty, Yasmin Richmond and Ruth Hoppe

The three (3) residents communicated that they would like the county to move the Native American Interpretive Map to the right, on the scenic overlook. Currently the map is situated in the middle of the overlook. It is their contention, the map although interesting, blocks the view.

Motion by Mary Kay McDuffie, supported by Gary Strange, to direct that the Native American Interpretive Map, at the scenic overlook, be moved to the far right of the overlook structure. Motion carried – unanimous.

Pete Garwood will make arrangements for the Native American Interpretive Map to be moved.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Antrim Creek Natural Area

Robert McLeod, Chairman

Gale Murphy

Mary Kay McDuffie

Gary Strange

Carl Veenstra

September 13, 2004

Minutes

Antrim Creek Natural Area

**ACNA Commission
Members Present:**

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

Members Absent:

Gary Strange

Staff Present:

Howard Yamaguchi

Others Present:

Jacob Veenstra, Marion Williams, Janet Person, Nate Thompson, Dave and Nancy Jones, Betty Hoffman, Liz Lee and Stuart Evans, Dorothy Pearl, Mark Stone, Daugherty Johnson, and John Crane.

1. Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Robert McLeod.

2. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the July 12, 2004 meeting were examined by the board members at the ACNA site and approved by acclamation.

3. Trail Bridge Erosion Repair

Bob McLeod informed the committee that the repairs were made in July.

4. Habitat Project

Carl Veenstra did not have any progress to report at this time, as some machinery assistance was not forthcoming. He is working on the project by himself.

5. Grant Update

Janet reported that the Antrim Conservation District had just submitted the application for access road improvement to the Great Lakes Fisheries Trust. The grant amount is \$42,000, which includes engineering for the fisheries access road and for runoff management. Bob McLeod reminded the group that access for fishermen was one of the mainstays of the ACNA master plan.

6. October 11, 2004 Meeting

Howard reported that Prof. Hal Reed of Oral Roberts University will be available to give a report on the summer 2004 Pitcher's Thistle Survey performed by the Au Sable Institute students. The ACNA Commission decided to hold a meeting on **October 11, 2004, at 6:30 p.m.** at Banks Township Hall to hear Professor Hall.

7. Appreciation for Liz Evans' Work on Anishinaabe Place Names Map

The meeting then moved to the Dune Lookout, where the Anishinaabe Place Names Map is currently located.

Bob McLeod gave the background of the impetus for placing the map. He introduced Liz Evans and Mark Stone. Mark Postma, the man who installed the map, was not present. Ms. Evans explained the story behind the creation of the map, and the importance of the map and the research behind it to celebrate our Michigan heritage. Mark Stone described his collaborative efforts with Liz to orient and design the map. Daugherty Johnson, of Odawa background, expressed his appreciation for Liz's work and its placement at the ACNA. Bob McLeod then presented a certificate of appreciation to Liz Evans.

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Next Meeting: Monday, October 11, 2004, at 6:30 p.m. (Banks Township Hall)

Antrim Creek Natural Area

Robert McLeod, Chairman

Gale Murphy

Mary Kay McDuffie

Gary Strange

Carl Veenstra

October 11, 2004

Minutes

Antrim Creek Natural Area

ACNA Commission Members Present: Robert McLeod, Carl Veenstra, Gale Murphy, Gary Strange and Mary Kay McDuffie
Members Absent: None
Staff Present: Pete Garwood

1. Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Chairman Robert McLeod.

2. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Gary Strange, supported by Mary Kay McDuffie, to approve the minutes of the September 13, 2004, meeting. Motion carried – unanimous.

3. Au Sable Institute - Threatened Species Survey

Professors Hal Reed and Dave Mahan, from the Au Sable Institute, showed the Commission a PowerPoint presentation on the Threatened Plant Study at the ACNA. The focus was on two species, primarily the Pitcher's Thistle and the Lake Huron Tansy.

A couple of students who were involved in the study are interested in doing further study for their graduate work. Grants will be necessary for the further study to take place. Additionally, the Au Sable Institute will be interested in taking their class out there again next summer to follow up on this years study. Peter Garwood, Coordinator/Planner, will work with Janet Person, Executive Director of the Conservation District, to see if there are any grant dollars available for these projects (\$6,000 to \$9,000). Mr. Garwood will keep in touch with Professor Mahan on this subject.

4. Pollen Survey Study Request

The Commission reviewed a communication from an MSU Grad student, Maria Raviele, who requested permission to pollen core sample from ACNA on the weekend of October 29, 2004. The coring would enable Ms. Raviele to make some judgments on how local prehistoric inhabitants used the area and interacted with the natural resources.

Motion by Mary Kay McDuffie, supported by Gary Strange, to recommend the Board of Commissioners grant permission to Maria Raviele to conduct a pollen core study at the ACNA in late October, 2004. Motion carried – unanimous.

5. Grant Update

Mr. Garwood reported on a telephone call he received from Linda Hegstrom from the DEQ regarding the Antrim Creek Natural Area grant. Ms. Hegstrom has been reviewing the MNRTF Grant application and found some inconsistencies. The Coordinator/Planner office has made sure the problems were corrected.

6. Wildlife Habitat Update

Carl Veenstra reported no action has taken place on the ACNA property but, that he has been experimenting with a planting on his own property, just south of the ACNA. If successful, the results will be useful at the ACNA.

7. Communications

⇒ Norcross Grant

Mr. Garwood noted that we currently have \$623.75 as a result of the Norcross Grant which was earmarked for the Native American Place Name Map. The project ended up costing less than expected. Mr. Garwood explained, to stay true to the intent of the grant, the funds must be expended on an interpretive display.

⇒ Parks and Recreation Forum

November 5, 2004 the County will be holding the second Parks and Recreation forum. Chairman McLeod asked for a volunteer to give a presentation on a five (5) year plan for the ACNA. The presentation will be given by either Mary Kay McDuffie or Peter Garwood.

⇒ ACNA Commission Meeting Schedule - 2005

First Monday in March and May, July 11, and August 29.

⇒ Signage

Motion by Gary Strange, supported by Mary Kay McDuffie, to appropriate a maximum of \$200 for a sign to read "No Parking in Turn-Around Loop" to be paid out of the ACNA fund. Motion carried - unanimous.

Mr. Garwood will contact Mark Postma, from Signs, Letters and Graphics, and arrange for the sign and will also ask Mr. Postma to instruct on how to remove the Native American Place Name Map.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.