

Antrim Creek Natural Area

Robert McLeod, Chairman

vacant

Mary Kay McDuffie

Gary Strange

Carl Veenstra

March 07, 2005

Minutes

Antrim Creek Natural Area

**ACNA Commission
Members Present:**

Robert McLeod, Carl Veenstra, Mary Kay McDuffie

Members Absent:

Gary Strange

Staff Present:

Pete Garwood, Elizabeth St. Pierre

Others Present:

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

Robert McLeod informed the group that the October 11, 2004 minutes have already been accepted/reviewed by the Board. He made the point that in all cases, by the time the ACNA Commission meets, the Board of Commissioners will have already accepted the ACNA Commission minutes. However, if there were mistakes identified by the committee, the BOC would likely not have a problem making the corrections.

3. Interpretive Display

The Committee discussed the \$623.75 left from the Norcross Grant and how it could be used for some kind of interpretive display Antrim Creek Master Plan recommendations for education/information on biology/ecology/management of threatened species were discussed as a possible subject.

Because of the small amount of funding available, it was suggested that the \$623.75 could be used as match for other grants. It was also suggested that if we get the schools to help with the design, it would be much less expensive. Mary Kay McDuffie will contact Deb Hughes from the local school system to help make the interpretive displays.

A grant application for the information arbor project will be submitted to the MNRTF Program this week by Antrim Conservation District.

Funding (\$3500-4000) may also be available from the Tip of the Mitt's Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat and Network Fund for 2 signs (totaling \$4700).

4. Grant Updates

Janet Person will resubmit the MNRTF proposal (for \$54K) next week. \$8700 from the Antrim Creek budget will be used as match for this grant.

The design for improving the road/stream crossing for Guyer Creek was distributed. Funding for this project is from a Clean Michigan Initiative grant awarded to the Antrim Conservation District.

Janet Person needs a letter of support for a federal Clean Water 319 grant for a watershed scale management plan that would include the Antrim Creek Natural Area that could be refunded every year. Robert McLeod stated that this proposal needs to be reviewed before the ACNA Commission could give a letter of support. Ms. Person will get a copy of the grant application to members of the commission for their review 1-2 weeks prior to the deadline. It was the consensus that if they felt it was a good project, a letter of support could be sent. The grant has an application deadline of 4-8-05.

5. Wildlife Habitat Update

Carl Veenstra reported that the property on the Antrim Creek watershed has been sold to new owners who may be willing to work with the ACD on a watershed plan.

Mr. Veenstra also reported on an incident that resulted in destruction of white pine on ACNA. Pete Garwood noted that page 17 of the Antrim County Master Plan states that visitors may not destroy, damage, or remove vegetation of any kind. Mr. Garwood will check whether any related ordinances would apply. He also noted that the text should be corrected to read "county" rather than "state" property.

Robert McLeod stated that it would be helpful if others could walk through the ACNA to check for any other damage.

In the future, "Wildlife Habitat Update" will be removed from the agenda. Mr. Veenstra will make wildlife habitat updates only when information is available.

6. Communications

The presentation on November 5, 2004 for the second Parks and Recreation forum by Mary Kay McDuffie was reported to be a success.

7. Other

Porta-jons need to be set up before Memorial Day. Eileen Wallick, park manager, will be handling the arrangements.

Next meeting: May 9 at 7:00 p.m. Meetings will also be held at the ACNA during the summer.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Antrim Creek Natural Area

Robert McLeod, Chairman

Gale Murphy

Mary Kay McDuffie

Gary Strange

Carl Veenstra

May 2, 2005

Minutes

Antrim Creek Natural Area

ACNA Commission Members Present: Robert McLeod, Carl Veenstra, Marion Williams, and Mary Kay McDuffie
Members Absent: Gary Strange
Staff Present: Pete Garwood
Others Present: Betty Hoffman

1. Call to Order

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

2. Public Comment

None.

3. New Member

The Commission welcomed Marion Williams as the new member of the ACNA Commission.

4. Approval of Minutes

Robert McLeod informed the group that the March 7, 2005 minutes have already been accepted/reviewed by the Board. However, if there were mistakes identified by the committee, the Board of Commissioners would likely not have a problem making the corrections.

5. Interpretive Display Update

Mary Kay McDuffie has contacted Deb Hughes and found out she is interested in helping with the interpretive display. Deb Hughes has also suggested we check with Raven Hill Discovery Center.

6. Grants Update

Peter Garwood, Coordinator/Planner, informed the Committee that two grant applications have been submitted for the ACNA: 1. Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, and 2. the Coastal Management Program. We will know whether or not they are successful between August and December.

The Committee agreed on the following meeting dates for the rest of the year: July 11, 2005, and September 7, 2005

7. Interpretive Display

Mr. Garwood informed the Committee that the Native American place name map survived the winter very well. However, it will be removed for the winter months in the future.

8. Out Johns

Out johns are scheduled to be in place by May 13, 2005 for the season.

9. South Entrance

Mr. McLeod stated the south entrance road is getting quite rough with pot holes. Mr. Garwood is checking with area excavating contractors for quotes on repairing and maintaining the park entrance.

10. Branch Trimming

Mr. Garwood will contact Eileen Wallick, Barnes Park Manager and request that she and her crew trim some of the branches along the South entrance.

11. Signage

- No Parking Sign

Mr. Garwood will check with Signs, Letters and Graphics to see when the "No Parking" sign, for the north entrance turn around, will be installed.

- No Hunting signs

Mr. McLeod suggested permanent signs should be erected, which warn park goers that hunting is allowed in the park. The other Commission members agreed. The signs would read, "Hunting is Permitted, Visitors Use Caution".

12. Communication

Mr. Garwood informed the Commission that he had a discussion with Dave Mahan from the Au Sable Institute. A grant application had been submitted by the Antrim Conservation District to the Great Lakes Aquatic Habitat and Network Fund to potentially fund a study by the students from the institute. The rules of the grant program do not allow a governmental agency to sponsor the application. However, Mr. Mahan had previously had a negative experience applying for funds from the same grant program, and felt it was not worth another try.

- School House

Mr. Garwood will check to see if taxes are paid.

Marion Williams informed the Commission of the possibility of a 260 plus campground going in on fifty (50) acres to the south of the ACNA. Ms. Williams will keep the Commission abreast of any news on the issue.

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

**The next Antrim Creek Natural Area Commission
meeting is scheduled for July 11, 2005.**

Antrim Creek Natural Area

Robert McLeod, Chairman

Gale Murphy

Mary Kay McDuffie

Gary Strange

Carl Veenstra

July 11, 2005

Minutes

Antrim Creek Natural Area

ACNA Commission Members Present: Robert McLeod, Carl Veenstra, Marion Williams, and Mary Kay McDuffie and Gary Strange
Members Absent: None
Staff Present: Pete Garwood
Others Present: Jake Veenstra, Betsy Dole and Stan Dole

1. Call to Order

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

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Mary Kay McDuffie, supported by Marion Williams, to approve the May 2, 2005 minutes with an amendment. The draft minutes will be amended to reflect the attendance of Jake Veenstra. Motion carried – unanimous.

4. Interpretive Display and Grants Update

Mr. Garwood informed the Committee we are still waiting on news of the two grant applications: Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund and the Coastal Management Program.

5. South Entrance

Motion: Strange Support: Williams

To authorize Chairman McLeod to present the lowest bid for graveling and grading the south entrance to the Antrim Creek Natural Area.

Mr. McLeod indicated the blue trail is growing over with weeds and grass. Mr. McLeod suggested the possibility of removing the growth and re-graveling if needed. Mr. Garwood will talk to the Barnes Park Manager about controlling the weed growth and will find out the name of the material used on the handicap trails.

6. Signage Update

Mr. Garwood informed the Commission that the two "Hunting Allowed" signs and "No Parking In Turn Around Loop" signs should be installed within the next two weeks.

7. Communication

❖ Correspondence from Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (GTRLC)
A communication from Glen Chown, Executive Director of the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy (GTRLC), was reviewed. Mr. Chown was seeking permission to place a plaque at the ACNA recognizing the Conservancy's contribution to the ACNA purchase. Mrs. Betsy Dole, Chair of the GTRLC, and her husband, Stan Dole, were present to answer any questions.

Motion by Mary Kay McDuffie, supported by Marion Williams, to approve placing a GTRLC plaque and a Mott Foundation plaque at the ACNA, at each of the entrances. Motion carried - unanimous.

The GTRLC will contact Mott Foundation seeking an appropriate plaque from them.

❖ Agendas

The Commission requested the meeting agendas and minutes be sent out 10 days in advance of the meeting. Mr. Garwood indicated it would not be a problem to send the meeting notices, agendas and minutes earlier.

The Commission directed that meeting notices are to be sent to all the surrounding neighbors of the Antrim Creek Natural Area.

❖ Archeological Study

Mr. Garwood will contact Dr. Cleland to inquire about a report on the most recent archeological study at the Antrim Creek Natural Area.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

**The next Antrim Creek Natural Area Commission
meeting is scheduled for
September 7, 2005, 7:00 p.m.
at the Antrim Creek Natural Area.**

Antrim Creek Natural Area

Robert McLeod, Chairman

Marion Williams

Mary Kay McDuffie

Gary Strange

Carl Veenstra

September 7, 2005

Minutes

Antrim Creek Natural Area

ACNA Commission Members Present: Robert McLeod, Marion Williams, and Mary Kay McDuffie and Carl Veenstra
Members Absent: Gary Strange
Staff Present: Pete Garwood, Joe Meyers and Eileen Wallick
Others Present: Nancy Jones and Dave Jones

1. Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order at 7:08 p.m. by Chairman Robert McLeod.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Approval of Minutes

The Commission accepted the minutes from the July 11, 2005 meeting.

4. Grant Update (Janet Person)

Pete Garwood explained the updates in the absence of Ms. Person. He informed the board about the two grants pending on the ACNA. He noted that the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant was prioritized second over the Wetzel Lake Grant due to the need for more parks on the east side of the County. Mr. Garwood also noted that there was another grant pending for a similar project through the Coastal Management Program (CMP) Grant that is being processed and has more support.

5. South Entrance

Mr. Garwood and Mr. McLeod both commented on the condition of the south entrance after the graveling. Both agreed that the graveling was successful. On a separate note the north entrance is starting to get potholes.

6. Signage Update

Mr. McLeod noted that the signs look great.

7. 2004 Archeological Study Update

The Commission discussed the memo from Maria Raviele, of MSU. Mary Kay McDuffie indicated that she received a short PowerPoint from Ms. Raviele but could not figure how to get it off her computer. Mr. McLeod advised her to forward the email to the Coordinator/Planner Office. Ms. McDuffie also noted that Charlevoix County had a wonderful archeological display and was wondering if ACNA had enough artifacts to have one for just our area in the future. She was informed that there were enough artifacts to have a display and could be considered for the future.

8. Member Comment

Mr. McLeod complimented Eileen Wallick and her crew on the wonderful job they have been doing on keeping up on the natural area. He also noted that the Indian sign needed to be removed for the winter because of hunting problems in the past.

Carl Veenstra discussed the need for habitat improvement in the area. He would like some financial help for the habitat but will donate his time. He also noted that the gravel pit across the street from the area might like to sell and it would give an opportunity for the area to expand across the street.

Ms. Wallick informed the Commission that her crew could do some preventative maintenance to keep up the Port-a-john structures. Mr. McLeod advised her that it would be a good idea.

Ms. McDuffie presented the Commission with pictures of painted rocks in one of the parks nearby and advised the committee that they only lasted two to three years so they would probably be unlikely.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10p.m.

**The next Antrim Creek Natural Area Commission
meeting is scheduled for
March 6, 2006, 7:00 p.m.
at the Banks Township Hall, Ellsworth.**