

MACPRO Meeting
Thursday, August 11, 2006
10:00 a.m., Hawk Island Park Ingham County

- I. The meeting was called to order at 10:18 a.m. by President John Scholtz.
People present: John Scholtz-Ottawa County; Mark Brochu-St. Clair County; Ken Elwert-Lapeer; Roger Sabine-Kent County; Bob Moore-Ingham County; Mike McDonald – Ingham County; Mike Maisner-MRPA; Ron Reinke – Wayne County; John Schmude – Saginaw County
- II. Motion to approve minutes by Brochu, seconded by Sabine.
- III. Treasurer's report was presented by Sabine. No new activity. Treasurer's report showed a balance of \$9,614.05. Motion to approve report by Brochu, seconded by Sabine.
- IV. Legislative updates
 - a. Discussion concerning county revenue sharing revolved around Tuscola County and the fact that it's revenue sharing reserve fund will be depleted this year. So far there has been no news from the state where the funding will come from to replace this funding as originally claimed.
 - b. Proposal 06-1, put on the November ballot by the Michigan Legislature, will constitutionally protect a multitude of state level recreation funds if it is passed.
 - c. Federal bill to open federally protected waters and drill for oil and natural gas in the Gulf of Mexico would fund LWCF in 2017. Senate version of the bill would provide stateside funding for LWCF, the current house version does not.
- V. *Comben v State of Michigan* – court has issued a narrowly defined opinion that still leaves the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund under threat.
- VI. House Bill 5814 (MDNR land purchases and PILT payments) – Scholtz mentioned that he has not yet written the letter to MAC about this bill. Consensus was there has been no action on this bill.
- VII. House bills 5975 & 5976 (government competition) – Scholtz mentioned that he has not yet written the letter to MAC about these bills. There has been no action on this bill. Discussion ensued about golf courses and their role in park systems, public and private crossover, and concern over precedent. Sabine, Scholtz, Maisner, and Reinke agreed to set up a meeting with the Michigan Golf Course Owners Association to discuss issues of concern.
- VIII. Membership survey: Elwert brought up the desire to conduct a county membership survey as well as the possibility of constructing a MACPRO website. He volunteered to work on both of these items. Brochu indicated the desire to ask similar questions as our last survey. Brochu also indicated the desire to have questions revolving around seasonal unemployment compensation issues and members that have access to lobbyists. Sabine indicated the last survey was in 2000 and that he would forward the information. Sabine also mentioned a desire to explore the possibility of limited corporate MACPRO memberships in the future.
- IX. Other business: Reinke indicated frustrations and recent success in working with DTE on restoration of landscape (not just planting grass) by issuing permits (instead of leases or easements) for pipelines through park property. Limited copies of information may be available by contacting him directly. Mike McDonald indicated that he is representing the Great Lakes Region in the NRPA National Forum and encouraged people to contact him with comments.
- X. 2006 Meeting dates and locations
November 17 - Eaton County
(joint meeting with MRPA :Public Policy)
- XI. Meeting adjourned and roundtable was continued during lunch provided by Ingham County (Thanks Bob and Willis).

Online action addendum to MACPRO meeting minutes dated 8-11-06

- A motion was made by Ken Elwert, seconded by Mark Brochu and distributed to the entire MACPRO email list via email on 9-1-06:

"I move to support an evening social at the MRPA Resource Management Workshop on September 26, 2006 for no more than \$200.00 to be paid through MACPRO funds."

Eleven members responded with "yay", none in opposition, motion passed unanimously.

- *HB 6325*
Online discussion occurred around this topic with no formal motions made. President John Scholtz sent the attached document to MAC in letter form.

Minutes respectfully submitted,
Ken Elwert,
MACPRO Secretary

Dear Tom:

I am the current president of the Michigan Association of County Park and Recreation Officials (MACPRO) and I am writing to you to express MACPRO's viewpoint regarding HB 6325. I know this communication is late in the game as the legislation has already been approved by the House. However, please consider the following viewpoints regarding this proposed legislation.

There is near unanimous agreement within MACPRO in opposition to the legislation as currently drafted. We do not feel the Drain Commissioner should be given the discretion to appoint a designee to the Parks Commission - especially given the fact that the proposed legislation places no restrictions as to whom the Drain Commissioner can designate and the individual may or may not work within the Drain Office. Although it is true that amendments to the original Act permit the County Planning Commission and the County Road Commission to designate someone other than their respective chairs, the designee must be a member of that Commission - a major and important distinction,

Public Act 261 of 1965 has been a very successful piece of legislation and MACPRO desires to guard against changes which would reduce the effectiveness of the parks and recreation commissions which it authorizes. Therefore, whenever changes are proposed, we carefully consider the ramifications and express our viewpoint. Regarding the changes to Act 261 as proposed in HB 6325, the majority of MACPRO members are opposed to the bill and prefer no changes to Act 261.

If the momentum for change is too great, we would prefer HB 6325 be modified to eliminate the ability of the Drain Commissioner to make an open ended appointment. Opinions vary as to our preferred second alternative (the first being no change whatsoever). Some MACPRO members prefer the legislation be modified to permit a full time Deputy Drain Commissioner to serve in place of the Drain Commissioner. This would preserve the strong tie between the Parks Commission and the Drain Office which has proven so valuable over the years.

Another viewpoint is to grant the Board of Commissioners authority to appoint another ad hoc member. This makes sense in that they currently appoint the other citizen representatives and may as well make this appointment if there is no required connection to the Drain Office.

After considering our position, I am interested in knowing whether you feel MAC can support and assist MACPRO on this issue. Also, how can we best promote our position at this point in the legislative process. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

John Scholtz, MACPRO President
& Director, Ottawa County Parks and Recreation Commission
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