

Appendix C –Planning Team Meeting Summaries

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES General Management Plan - Phase I Pinckney & Waterloo Recreation Areas

Team Meeting #1 May 18, 2011 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Eddy Discovery Center, Waterloo RA

Overview: Paul Curtis explained the General Management Planning process and gave an overview of Pinckney and Waterloo Recreation Areas. He emphasized the importance of connectivity between the two recreation areas. The future transfer of property from AgIndustries was also explained. Several other observations were made for the team:

- Michigan Mountain Biking Association (MMBA) desires trails in Waterloo RA
- MMBA wants to create a “legacy” trail that would connect both parks and serve as a regional or national destination
- Equestrians want expanded trails in both parks
- There was some recent negative press about the equestrians prior to a recent trail ride at Waterloo
- There is a current multi-community approach to create branding for the region as a recreation destination (“Gateway to recreation”)
- The NRC dedicated boundary for these parks is under review
- There is an interest in closure of Cassidy Lake Road (by the Township and DNR)
- The Waterloo Horsemen’s Association has an interest in Camp Waterloo
- Both parks feature a Biodiversity Stewardship Area

Paul outlined the next steps in the process, which include developing Purpose and Significance statements, discussions about users, their needs, and how those relate to PRD/WD management goals. We will also discuss co-management between PRD and

WD; the last update to the management agreement was in the 1970's. Updates are needed to reflect current DNR organizational structure and processes.

David briefly described the process and emphasized the importance of participation in team meetings. Phases I and II take about 18 months to complete; both must be finished by September 30, 2012. There are typically three team meetings in the planning process before the stakeholder meeting, and the public input meeting. He asked the team to begin thinking about who stakeholder groups and individuals are and getting their contact information. These meetings are important to the process and will be held in the late fall/early winter.

Introduction to Waterloo Recreation Area (Gary Jones)

- Mill Lake Outdoor Center
 - Built by the Works Progress Administration (WPA)
 - Would be good candidate for rehabilitation and reuse
 - Eligible for National Historic Register as a historic district
- Cedar Lake Outdoor Center
 - Built by the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC)
 - Used as a Michigan United Conservation Club (MUCC) kids camp about 6 weeks/year
 - MUCC does maintenance and built shooting range; electrical/utility upgraded in 2010
- Camp Waterloo
 - Built by the CCC; served as a POW camp during WWII
 - Condemned; buildings rotting and suffering arson damage
- Cassidy Lake Resident Work Camp
 - Under National Park Service administration in the 1930's, built through a cooperative partnership between the NPS and National Youth Administration (NYA)
 - Eligible for National Historic Register
 - Used by the Michigan Department of Corrections as a youth work camp since the 1940's
- Other cultural resources:

- Many of the lakes are natural and would likely have served as resources for native Americans
- Native American trail runs through the area
- Early Europeans settled in the area also
- Waterloo Farm Museum – run by the Waterloo Historical Society
- Natural resources include:
 - Natural Area—Black spruce bog found here
 - Haehnle Sanctuary (Audubon) – staging area for sand hill cranes
 - Many element occurrences found throughout the area
 - Animal, plant, and natural communities
 - Species of special concern, threatened, and endangered (State and Federal levels) including Blanding’s turtle, eastern Mississauga, and cerulean warbler
 - Minerals (AgIndustries)
 - Wetland complex: Waterloo/Munith Road
 - Invasive species: garlic mustard, etc.
- Recreational Resources
 - Both modern campgrounds were updated recently
 - Rustic campground should be improved this year
 - Water resources: boating access on ten lakes; chain of lakes
 - Riding stable is closed; reopening would require significant renovation and would likely be a lease rather than concession – no residence for operator; no septic field
- Stakeholders include: MUCC, AgIndustries, DOC, Waterloo Hunt Club, equestrians, hikers, MMBA, Haehnle Sanctuary, Corner Deli and other stores, Washtenaw County (parks, sewer system), Waterloo Horsemen’s Association, Waterloo Historical Society, two friends’ groups, more....

Introduction to Pinckney Recreation Area (Chuck Dennison)

- Old homestead, right off the most popular trail – land unsuitable for farming, built late 1800's-early 1900's
 - Opportunity for interpretive signage
- Crooked lake Campground & fishing pier (25 years old)
- Potawatomi Trail (a.k.a. “the Poto”)
- Invasives include garlic mustard
- ½ mile of boardwalk and bridges throughout the park (most built with DOC labor)
- Navigable waterway connecting chain of lakes
- Silver Lake Unit – most popular
 - 500 space parking lot
 - Trailhead for Poto and Waterloo-Pinckney Trails
 - Silver Lake – spring-fed, clear, clean lake – great for swimming
 - Sand beach volleyball is very popular
 - Private Boys and Girls Camp (Toledo) across the lake; campers often come across to use facilities
 - YMCA camp nearby
 - Concession building with no concessionaire; mobile food trailer will come this summer
- Half Moon Lake Unit
 - 500 space parking lot
 - 35 space boat launch
 - Underutilized; tornado in 1994 took out oak grove and concession/restroom building. Portable toilets not popular with users.
 - Two picnic shelters
 - Beach developed in low area; requires sand to be added to beach annually
- Adjacent land use conflicts:
 - Waterloo portion of Waterloo-Pinckney Trail meets Pinckney portion at M-52, across residential driveway (which is in trespass)

- Glenn Brook Road is signed as “private road,” but state land abuts both sides for most of the road, and it is a public road
- Top of the World subdivision is better example of public access through state rec area by easement,
- Public access is important to demonstration area, as Federal funds were used
- Dam in hell – owned/operated by Livingston County
- Lakelands Trail – leased to adjacent communities for use and maintenance
 - Putnam Township is planning to expand to Hamburg and will accommodate hikers, bikers, and equestrians within same trail.
- Losee Lake Trail – only hikers; well-used 3-mile trail. Low growth, no forest
- Pickerel Lake
 - High demand; no boat launch from shore
 - No alcohol within ¼ mile of launch to limit “party crowd”
 - University of Michigan Edwin S. George Reserve (ESGR): About 1,400 acres wned and run by the UM since 1930 for the purposes of providing research and education opportunities in the natural sciences and preserving the native flora and fauna.
 - Bruin Lake Campground – new camper cabin
 - Gorman lake – rough road to the lake

Ray briefly discussed upcoming acquisitions; Stewardship is developing a new map and setting priorities for an updated NRC Dedicated Boundary. David noted recommendations from the planning team during this process will help Stewardship.

Field Tour: The Planning Team toured the park areas, mainly those highlighted during the discussions. Future team meetings will include additional opportunities to tour the park.

Adjournment and Next Meeting: The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m. The next will be in mid-June.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

General Management Plan - Phase I

Pinckney & Waterloo Recreation Areas

Team Meeting #2

June 20, 2011 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Eddy Discovery Center, Waterloo RA

Overview: David Birchler of Birchler Arroyo Associates, Inc. gave an overview of the maps available for the meeting. These included aerial photos, identification of wetlands, woodlands, park amenities, and elevation models. The team then divided into two groups to discuss unique features of both Pinckney and Waterloo Recreation Areas.

Unique features of Pinckney:

- Chain of lakes
- No clear single point of entry
- Trail systems, extensive & connect to Lakelands Trail State Park
- Hunting – fishing – boating – trapping unique to SE Michigan
- Threatened & endangered species – large potential habitat area – wildlife corridors
- Significant gaps are challenge to protecting habitat
- Exemplary natural habitat
- In area designated for biodiversity
- Archeological & pre-historic sites
 - Lakes chain and waterways – pre-historic
 - Homestead sites
- Overnight recreation opportunities from rustic pack-in to developed (Yurt, cabin, and modern campground)
- Size of Pinckney & Waterloo combined (approximately 30,000 acres)– very significant in SE Michigan.
- Destination for health and fitness events and individual users
- Location in relation to State’s population center
- “Up north” feel in southeast lower Michigan due to combo of land mass and natural features.
- More concentrated day-use than Waterloo
- Unique geology and large land area assists the potential for species conservation.
- Lakelands Trail as potential connector.
- Potential trail connection to HCMA parks.

- Local Townships potential trail connections.
- Great diversity of users – hunters, birders, trail runners, geo-cachers, equestrians, hikers, mountain bikers, fishermen/women.
- University of Michigan Bio Station within NRC boundary.
- University of Michigan Stichfield Woods – potential connection to HCMA
- Used by University classes & research.

Unique features of Waterloo:

- More rare animals & plants species than any other park in system.
- More exemplary natural communities
- In area designated for biodiversity
- Co-Management by both Wildlife & Recreation Divisions
- Black Spruce bog – National Natural Landmark and State Natural Area
- National Recreation Demonstration area – 1930's.
- 4 eligible historic districts:
 - POW Camp (Camp Waterloo)
 - Mill Lake – WPA
 - Cedar Lake – CCC
 - Cassidy Lake – NYA
- Eddy Discovery Center – interpretive activities
- 70 cultural resource sites, historic sites, prehistoric and ethnological.
- Campgrounds
- Disc golf
- Aggregate Industries (future addition of 324 acres to the park)
- Access to population.
- Size – 3rd largest in system; largest in Lower Peninsula
- No clear single point of entry
- Fishing – boating – hunting – trapping – birding – cross country skiing
- Close to Audubon Sanctuary - sand hill cranes
- MUCC-operated outdoor center
- Equestrian trails
- 2 active Friends groups
- Fox hunting – Hunt Club
- WPA – Waterfowl Production Area
- Farm Museum – operated by Historical Society

- Idle stable facility
- Indiana bat – Federally endangered
- “Quiet” boat activities (gravel launches)
- Doyle Lake – exemplary aquatic community
- Large area around Discovery Center – no hunting & snowmobiles – quiet in Fall & Winter
- Private equestrian campgrounds adjacent to equestrian trails.
- State-designated Natural Beauty Roads in recreation area.

Following this discussion, groups were asked to review draft management zones for both parks. Adjustments will be made based on comments provided and the draft maps and statements of significance will be reviewed and discussed at the next team meeting.

Pinckney Draft Management Zones Notes

- Leased farm fields: offer revenue generation, but have potential for future habitat. Note in text that farming will continue as an interim activity.
- Bruin Lake Campground
 - Wet camp sites to be relocated to west.
- Intensity of Events
 - Sometimes at odds with Management Zone concept
 - Buffer “Poto” trail with 100’ developed recreation for those potential accommodations
 - Waterloo-Pinckney Trail – hiking only (1 time per year ok for bike event).
- South portion adjacent to Waterloo Recreation Area: consider trail potential across M-52.
 - Change to Back Country – North of M-52
 - West of Bruin Lake Campground – change to Back Country
- Boat launch sites: small areas around parking lots – developed recreation
- Yurt – developed recreation
- “North Unit” makes sense as Primitive
- Cassidy as “trail” could be center of a semi-wilderness area.
- Stewardship will outline Exemplary Areas at Team Meeting 3.
- Add Aggregate Industries land to Management Zone Plan
 - Potential for forest and much-needed native grassland
 - Parking area for more active use of waterbody (recognize that swim beach may be at odds with native grassland).
 - South end of Waterloo could use added parking.

Adjournment and Next Meeting: The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. The next will be July 27.

**DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
General Management Plan - Phase I
Pinckney & Waterloo Recreation Areas**

**Team Meeting #3
July 27, 2011 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Putnam Township Hall**

Overview: The Planning Team reviewed the draft management zone maps and provided comments and input for refining the proposed zones.

Pinckney Recreation Area:

- After considerable discussion about the natural features and recreational opportunities in the proposed Ecologically Sensitive zones, the team agreed that high level of protection is not necessary and changed those areas to Primitive and Backcountry for compatibility with adjacent areas. The team agreed that the management plan text will include references to these exemplary communities (Ray will provide information to the team), and will address specific concerns including adventure racing, orienteering, primitive camping, and equestrian events, as well as educational uses.
- The team agreed to expand the Developed Recreation zone at the Bruin Lake campground west into the sharecropped fields to potentially accommodate trails for campers. The text will note the desire to develop a hike/bike shared-use trail that would connect to the Potawatomi Trail. Such a future trail would be zoned as a backcountry corridor, and may run through a differently-zoned area.
- The team discussed South Lake, and the potential for the eastern side to accommodate either a yurt or primitive hike-in/paddle-in camping in the future. Despite the area's desirability as a habitat for the Mississauga snake, the primitive and remote feel around the lake make it ideal for a rustic camping experience. Should future plans include a yurt, the area would be zoned as appropriate.

Waterloo Recreation Area:

- The team suggested reviewing the funding sources maps as we move forward to ensure that proposed zones do not conflict with restrictions that may be in place.
- Ray noted four parcels are being added to the park boundary and will forward a pdf to Birchler Arroyo Associates for inclusion into the maps.
- The team discussed the southwest corner of the park, which had been suggested for either Primitive or Backcountry and agreed to zone it Primitive.
- The team noted that Camp Waterloo and the immediate adjacent area (including the lagoons site) should be zoned Developed Recreation to accommodate future camping.
- The Aggregate Industries property and adjacent property were discussed and it was suggested that there be scenic overlay zones at the three nearby high points. The team also discussed opportunities to provide parking that could potentially accommodate an appropriate number of cars. This may be done in multiple locations, rather than in one large lot that would remain vacant for much of the year.

- The team discussed ADA-compliant trails and it was noted that there is sufficient latitude in the ADA to allow less intensive trail types to serve those with mobility issues, and the proposed management zones should not present a conflict.
- The team agreed to zone all boating access sites as Developed Recreation, as was shown in the Pinckney map.

Adjournment and Next Meeting: The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m. The next meeting will be a stakeholder workshop. The tentative dates are August 15-16 at the Eddy Center and will accommodate the wide variety of stakeholder groups. Birchler Arroyo will solicit team members' input into the stakeholder list over the next few days.

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

General Management Plan - Phase I

Pinckney & Waterloo Recreation Areas

Team Meeting #4

September 14, 2011 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Conference Call

Overview: The Planning Team reviewed the draft management zone maps and provided comments and input for refining the proposed zones.

Document Notes:

- Future trail connection between Pinckney & Waterloo should be handled in text as an item for further evaluation during Phase 2
- Future equestrian trail connection between north Pinckney and south Pinckney can be handled in text, noting that it will require purchase of private property
- Ray Fahlsing, Gary Jones, Chuck Dennison, Joe Strach and Paul Curtis will conduct a side meeting to develop language to guide management decision to issue special use permits (frequency and intensity)
- Future yurt site(s) on South Lake can be identified in Phase 2 – appears it would be feasible to allow canoe in and hike in access without need for road
- October 6 meeting scheduled to discuss the extent of future development at Mill Lake and Cedar Lake ODCs for such things as a high ropes course and an expanded shooting range – Katie would like trail connections to remain Primitive for the experience provided to school groups
- Add a Significance Statement to both parks that identifies this as “largest area for recreational hunting opportunities in Southeast Lower Michigan”

Map Changes:

- Add Hell to all maps
- Remove Developed Recreation designation from Potawatomi Trail (rustic camping at Blind Lake already serves the trail)
- Fix the Poto Trail connection between Silver Lake and Blind Lake
- Sullivan Lake Boat Launch (east of South Lake) – change to Backcountry
- South Lake Boat Launch – delete Developed Recreation from the wetland around the river
- Joslyn Lake Boat Launch - reduce size of Developed Rec. to just the area of the launch

- Gosling Lake Boat Launch (small lake surrounded by the Poto Trail) – change to Backcountry
- Pickerel Lake Boat Launch (south of Crooked Lake) – change to Natural Resource Recreation
- Expand our Inset Map to incorporate Cedar Lake ODC – see Dave
- Doyle Lake Boat Launch – change to Primitive
- Cedar Lake Boat Launch – remains Developed Recreation but make it smaller to reflect actual area in use
- Ray F. suggested creating symbology for cemeteries – Lisa G pointed out that the Cultural Zone overlay takes cemeteries into account
- Crooked Lake Boat Launch – stays Developed Recreation
- Winnowana Lake Boat Launch – change to Backcountry with added boat launch symbol
- Green Lake Boat Launch – keep Developed Recreation (because this is new yurt site) but compare with aerial photo to make sure the red area is large enough
- Mill Lake Boat Launch - change to Backcountry
- Walsh Lake Boat Launch - change to Backcountry

Adjournment and Next Meeting: The meeting was adjourned at 12 p.m. The next meeting will be a public input open house. The date is set for Thursday October 13 at the Eddy Center, from 4 – 8 p.m. to accommodate the public. Birchler Arroyo will send the maps out to the planning team one more time for a final review.