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Polverento and Tim Machowicz,
Citizen Representatives



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COORDINATOR'S REPORT

JUNE 2012

ACTIVITIES:

The Birth of a Lake Continues ...



Lake Basin – August 1, 2011



Lake Basin – October 26, 2011



Lake Basin – May 8, 2012



Lake Basin – May 29, 2012

Coordinator's Report

June 2012

Page 2 of 6

Bill Earl Youth Fishing Program (Motz County Park)

The Saturday, May 12 event sponsored by Mid-Michigan Steelheaders attracted 53 youth participants or three more than the advertised maximum registration of 50 youth. The morning started off with the threat of thunderstorms; however, the storm passed by the 10:00 am program start time. Program sponsor and volunteers did a terrific job with planning and carrying out the event. Participants were exposed to such topics as fishing rules and ethics, fishing safety, casting, fish identification, line tying, and much more. Each participant was presented with his/her own spin cast rod and reel, tackle box and a selection of hooks, bobbers artificial baits and more; a package worth \$25. Finally, the youth were taken to the shoreline to catch fish. Not every youngster caught fish but many did. Everyone had an enjoyable time and I suspect that many will make fishing a personal lifetime recreational activity.



Bill Earl Youth Fishing Program - Welcoming remarks made by retired Michigan DNR Fisheries Biologist John Hesse.



The success of the Bill Earl Youth Fishing Program is reflected in the smiles of two youth fisherpersons.



Blessing of the Bikers (Motz County Park)

The second annual Blessing of the Bikers sponsored by Clinton County Habitat for Humanity was held on Saturday, May 19. The weather was sunny and comfortable. Approximately 120 motorcycles were lined up in the parking lot for viewing by the time of my 11:00 am arrival. A band featuring easy listening music and song entertained the crowd of approximately 250 while they examined the bikes and engaged in biker-stuff conversation.



Blessing of the Bikers - A good time for a good cause. The event raised funds for Habitat For Humanity home construction in Clinton County.



Blessing of the Bikers - Participant bikers and event visitors were entertained by a county music band.

2012 Summer Park Rangers

With the loss of prior year Park Rangers to other employment opportunities, new individuals were hired for the summer of 2012. **I spent most of May in the "field"** preparing the park for opening and training three new Park Rangers. Office tasks now await my attention; however, time spent performing maintenance and operational tasks provided me with an opportunity to review and adjust procedures to improve employee performance and effectiveness.

I am confident in the selection and readiness of the three new Park Rangers to serve Motz County Park visitors. They survived the Memorial Day weekend **"opener"** without any significant issues. Like past Park Rangers, the individuals are enthusiastic about their duties, and each has performed beyond my early expectations for them.



2012 Park Rangers from left to right are Hunter Jordan, Travis Stewart and Matt Meaton.

Clinton County RESA – Wheelchair Transfer Device

RESA Construction Trades Class students under the direction of Instructor Ross Pope constructed a wheelchair transfer device for use on the Motz County Park swimming beach. A grab bar still needs to be installed; however, this feature has yet to be received from Katren Industries of St. Johns which is awaiting delivery of stainless steel components. The grab bar will be installed when available.



Construction Trades Class students and Instructor Ross Pope (fourth from left) pose with a wheelchair transfer device they built for use a Motz County Park. The device will allow wheelchair visitors to transfer from their chair to ground level.

The design of the wheelchair transfer device was provided courtesy of Michigan Department of Natural Resources.

Bath Charter Township (Park Lake Preserve)

The Parks and Green Space Commission assisted Bath Charter Township in its successful Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant application to acquire property adjoining township-owned Park Lake Preserve. The legislature has yet to appropriate funding for 2011-approved projects but is likely to do so soon. Meanwhile, township officials upon recommendation of the Park Lake Advisory Board have petitioned the Clinton County Drain Commission to establish a legal elevation level for the lake. The goal is to stabilize the surface elevation at spring season levels which would necessitate repair/enhancement to the dike system located at the south end of the lake. The Drain Commission Office will conduct a study, obtain input from shoreline property owners and DEQ and forward a recommendation to Circuit Court for action. The process is likely to take several months to complete. If approved by Circuit Court, the next step would be to obtain funds to engineer and develop the dike system. This project is a fine example of County Government working in partnership with local government to improve outdoor recreation opportunities for area residents.

MRPA PROfessional Quarterly

The newest edition of Michigan Recreation and Park Association *PROfessional Quarterly* celebrates the 35-year anniversary of the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. An article written by the DNR Grants Management titled 'Top Tips: Applying for a Grant'

Coordinator's Report

June 2012

Page 5 of 6

includes a description of five projects identified as being the "best of the best" Trust Fund projects in recent years. Motz County Park is one of the five so identified.

PROfessional Quarterly Volume 4, Issue 1 – 2012 is not yet available online. I will bring the publication to the meeting for review. Once posted online, the publication will be found at www.mrpaonline.org/NewsAwards/MRPAProfessionalQuarterly.aspx. The Motz County Park development is a product of support and ideas contributed by the County Board of Commissioners, Parks and Green Space Commission, county employees in numerous departments, Universal Access Citizens Committee and many other organizations. Everyone take a bow!

Dr. Ned Fogle Ph.D. Visit

One member of Mid-Michigan Steelheaders I was fortunate to meet at the May 12 'Bill Earl Youth Fishing Program' event is Ned Fogle. Ned is a retired Fisheries Biologist with extensive field experience having worked for state government fishery agencies in Arkansas, North Dakota, South Dakota and Michigan. Mr. and Mrs. Fogle met Leon Searles, Don Potts and me at the proposed acquisition property on Tuesday, May 22 to tour the lakeshore and gain an understanding of the lake's environment. Fish stocking recommendations for the property's 90-



Dr. Ned Fogle Ph.D. Fisheries examines the structure of the 90-acre lake located inside the 272-acre property proposed for purchase by Clinton County for public outdoor recreation use.

acre lake have been provided by DNR Fisheries Biologist Scott Hanshue and Stony Creek commercial Fishery Biologist Dave LaBomascus. Ned will review both recommendations and suggest modifications, if any. If the 272-acre property is acquired by the county, its two lakes with a combined surface area of approximately 100 acres have the potential for a productive and attractive fishery, including the **Tri-County Region's first walleye fishery.** With the assistance of Ned Fogle, Scott Hanshue and Dave LaBomascus, the fishery will realize its potential.

MMRMA Member Achievement Recognition Award

Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA) is a public entity self-insurance pool that provides liability and property coverage to municipal governmental entities across Michigan, including Clinton County. In January the Authority launched its **'Member Achievement Recognition Award.** The award was created to encourage and recognize innovative safety and loss control programs (projects). Such programs can result in the reduction of the frequency and severity of member losses. Loss prevention and loss reduction improves the financial bottom line for both the member and Authority.

Coordinator's Report

June 2012

Page 6 of 6

In February I submitted the Motz County Park swimming beach project for award consideration. Having managed other county park systems with gravel pit swimming beaches in their facility inventory and with a knowledge of how most public entities create and manage gravel pit beaches, I know that Clinton County far exceeded the norm when it developed its Motz County Park beach.

Authority Director of Risk Management Chuck Schwab recently phoned to congratulate Clinton County which was selected as the 1st place award winner. Second place was awarded to the City of Grand Rapids. The award comes with a monetary reduction of **5% in Clinton County's annual insurance premium, up to a maximum** reduction of \$5,000. County representatives will receive the award at the August annual meeting of the Authority held at the Grand Traverse Resort in Acme.

Other Duties Assigned to Parks and Green Space Coordinator

- Agricultural Preservation Board – Administration Staff Liaison
- Community Development Department – General Management
- **"Authorized Organization Representative" for Federal Grants**