

ISLAND CURRENTS

Beaver Island Association Newsletter - Fall-Winter 2015

Supporting Environmental & Economic Sustainability

In This Issue:

- THE BEAVER ISLAND BIRDING TRAIL UPDATE
- BEAVER ISLAND WATERWAYS TRAIL – INITIAL PLANNING
- NORTHERN MICHIGAN ISLAND COLLABORATIVE
- BEAVER ISLAND HEALTH CARE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES
- CHARLEVOIX AREA HOSPITAL CAPITAL CAMPAIGN
- EMERGENCY SERVICES RECOGNITION – PIG ROAST
- BEACH CLEAN-UP 2015
- ISLAND INSTITUTE COLLABORATION
- BEAVER ISLAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL UPDATE

- INVASIVE SPECIES CONTROL
- BIA JOINS A NEW MULTI-COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION ORGANIZATION
- INVASIVE SPECIES PLANNING MEETING- EARLY 2016?
- BEAVER ISLAND RADIO (WVBI)- AN UPDATE
- TOWNSHIP MARINA RESERVATIONS?
- HISTORY MUSEUM EXPANSION UPDATE
- ST. JAMES FINANCIAL PROBLEMS
- BIA MEMBERSHIP LIST



Beaver Island Birding Trail Update.

The Beaver Island Birding Trail (BIBT) hosted a spring event for birders on May 22-24, 2015. *Warblers on the Water* included four Saturday morning field trips, four Sunday morning field trips, and three speakers on Saturday afternoon. The weekend weather cooperated and the biting insects were not yet in full force, so everyone enjoyed observing resident birds and those migrating to their nesting grounds up north. Ninety people registered for the event. Approximately 50% were off-island visitors, and some of them were visiting Beaver Island for the first time. Several summer residents returned to the island earlier than usual to attend the field trips and talks. The talks on Saturday afternoon were open to the public, and all were well attended. Kay Charter, Executive Director of Saving Birds Thru Habitat, explained the organization's backyard habitat certification program and urged land owners on Beaver Island to consider having their property certified as bird habitat. Dr. Greg Butcher, the Migratory Species Coordinator for the U.S. Forest Service's International Programs, spoke about "Michigan's Connection to the Tropics," and Dr. Nancy Seefelt of Central Michigan University talked about "Avian Research in the Beaver Archipelago of Northern Lake Michigan." Plans are being made for a Memorial Day Weekend 2016 Beaver Island birding event which will include the ever-popular field trips as well as new activities and speakers. Photographs of Warblers on the Water participants can be viewed on line at the website <http://www.beaverislandbirdingtrail.org/wowgallery.html>.

The second Beaver Island *Fall Pelagic Birding Tour* took place on September 26-27, 2015. Twenty-two participants, accompanied by expert birders, took the *Emerald Isle* to and from the island to observe birds on Lake Michigan during fall migration. While on Beaver Island, they participated in field

trips to the Kuebler Trail, Little Sand Bay, and Gull Harbor to view more birds.

Also in September Pam Grassmick attended the Midwest Birding Symposium in Bay City as a representative of the BIBT and BIA. During this event, which attracted approximately 600 birders, Pam handed out hundreds of rack cards, maps, and birding checklists about the BIBT and Beaver Island. She also answered numerous questions about the island with the most common question being, "Where is Beaver Island?" Given that she spoke to birders from Indiana, Ohio, New York, and Virginia, we hope that her efforts will lead to more out-of-state visitors to the island for future birding events.

And on a final note, a pair of Piping Plovers nested on Greene's Bay this past summer, making them the first nesting pair on the island since 2005. The Great Lakes population of Piping Plovers is listed as federally endangered, and there are ongoing efforts to increase the size of the population. Because most Great Lakes Piping Plovers have been banded with unique patterns of color bands on their legs, we know that the Greene's Bay male and female were young birds nesting for the first time in 2015. They proved to be excellent parents, hatching all four eggs laid by the female. Two of the four chicks survived to fly away, with the other two possibly succumbing to a dog roaming free on the beach. We hope the adults will be back to nest again next spring. Beth Leuck

Beaver Island Waterways Trail. As reported at BIA's Annual Meeting, islanders, business owners and paddling enthusiasts are actively pursuing a state designated "Pure Michigan Water Trail" for Beaver Island. Waterways Trails are a hot recreational activity with 4.6 million people in the Midwest participating with an estimated \$1.78 billion in related trip spending. Matt Preisser who is with the Office of Great Lakes as Coordinator for Lake Michigan, remarked that "Beaver Island may be one of the last great opportunities for coastal water trail expansion in the state." Each Great Lakes basin has a waterway trail around an island group with the exception of

Lake Michigan. Beaver Island's presence on the Michigan Waterways Trail will be of great marketing value and assist with important conservation. To that end, both island townships and the Charlevoix County Board of Commissioners have passed resolutions of support for the waterways trail.

The proposed trail is intended for non-motorized watercraft such as kayaks, canoes, and paddleboards. The route will circumnavigate 50 miles of the Beaver Island shoreline with stops every 5 miles and highlight marine wrecks and artifacts as well as, cultural and historical sites. We have met with DNR representatives to identify 16 sites which will be located on public property. A two sign system will be used, similar to the BI Birding Trail signage, to indicate some of the areas as rest sites with no camping allowed and others to allow for overnight primitive camping. A photo of each site will be accessible from a virtual map. Additionally, a legend will be developed with the trail logo and indicate portage sites, fresh water, cleaning station (car wash), rest stops, and campsites along the water trail.

Northern Lake Michigan Islands Collaborative.

On October 13th, the first meeting of the Northern Lake Michigan Islands Collaborative met at the Peaine Township Hall to begin the process of developing a strategic plan for state held lands. Approximately 30 people attended including several off island agencies and organizations such as The Nature Conservancy, the Office of Great Lakes, Charlevoix County Planning Commission, the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa, and representatives from the Garden Island cemetery. The following minutes were compiled by the Department of Natural Resources and reflected projects that were identified in various planning efforts such as the NRESC's Natural Resource and Ecotourism Recommendations. As the process continues, there will be opportunities for seasonal and year round residents to provide input and become engaged in various efforts.

Meeting Minutes. Attendees: Galen Bartels, Sandra Birdsall, Lee Boisvert, Robert Boisvert, Mark Engelsman, Jim Flanagan, John Fox, Brad Frederick, Pam Grassmick, Denny Jason, Jim Jones, Keith Kintigh, Archie Kiogima, Jennifer Kleitch, Bill Kohls, Alvin Lafreniere, Pat Lederle, Bill McDonough, Seamus Norgaard, Bill Parsons, Doug Pearsall, Matt Preisser, Carol Roberts, Tim Schreiner, Don Seelye, Don Tritsch, Bob Turner, Alan Vicstein, and Bev Vicstein.

Meeting Objectives:

1. Establish Northern Lake Michigan Islands Collaborative
2. Prioritize Management Actions
3. Establish Sub-Committees to Address Priority Actions

Action Items:

- **Charter Development.** *Keith, Bill Kohls, Galen, and Lee--* Work to draft charter prior to next meeting in early December. Charter should help to develop a better relation to the NRESC and other plans using a cross-walk or other methodology.
- **Purchase History Map.** *Jen K. and Jen O.*—work to develop Purchase History Maps.
- **Invasives Coordination.** *Jen K., Noah (LTBB), Matt Priesser, Shawn Howard (TNC), Galen (and Pam?)*—Work to address Invasives needs including: 1) a new comprehensive survey; 2) developing an organized entity

We are presently working with Harry Burkholder, Executive Director with the Land Information Access Association (LIAA). This group is charged with the development of Michigan's water trails. LIAA administers 2,485 miles of water trails along Michigan's Great Lakes coasts and another 1384 miles of inland waterways. Digital maps, shoreline photos, informational videos, put-in and take-out locations can be found at: www.michiganwatertrails.org.

As with most projects funding will need to be secured for logo, signage, web development, and a dedication event. All proposed public sites will require a formal site review for cultural, animal, and/or plants of significance. Fire rings, platform camping areas, and other necessary site improvements will need formal review. At this date, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources estimates that we will be ready for dedication in 2018. Pam Grassmick

for island invasives work as CAKE (the Charlevoix, Antrim, Kalkaska, and Emmet county organization) is not yet functioning; 3) explore boat washing station; and 4) a beech decline response plan.

- **Peaine Twp. Rec Coordination.** *Keith K., Brian Mastenbrook, and Bill Kohls--*determine desired work load for DNR Seasonal Trail Position and also work to formalize Peaine Township use of State Properties as recreation sites.
- **Non-motorized Water Trail.** *Keith, Pat, Bill M, Pam and others--*Water trail planning sub-committee to (1) provide letter of support from DNR on water trail; (2) provide assistance on CZM Grant Application for planning and evaluation of water trail; and (3) work with LIAA on site evaluation. **Conference call Scheduled for 11/5.**
- **Landscape/Forest Planning.** *Jen, Bill Parsons, Don Tritsch, Seamus N, and Galen--*Sub-committee to start forest/landscape-level planning effort.
- **Exploring Designations.** *Pam and others--*identify possible designations to pursue, e.g. UNESCO World Heritage Site, National Natural Landmark, etc.
- **Director's Order Protections.** *Pat and Pam--*Draft language for High Island Director's Order to Protect Nesting Area.
- **Old Cabins and Landfill.** DNR will be evaluating High Island Old Research Cabins Removal and Garden Island Dump cleanup and will be scheduling review of Asbestos abatement, SHPO concerns, and Solid Waste concerns.

Meeting Notes:

- The meeting began with introductions.
- Pat Lederle discussed the idea collaborative governance and questions and discussion ensued. Concern was expressed about "starting-over" and disregarding previous work especially the NRESC Planning effort. The group spent time addressing these concerns; how this effort is expected to build upon the NRESC work and how the idea of landscape-level planning may move forward.

- Bill Kohls, Galen, and Lee volunteer to work with Keith on developing a group charter to be drafted prior to the next meeting in early December.
- The group discussed purchase restrictions and expressed interest in making purchase history maps available. Jen K. will follow-up Jen O. on this task.
- The group spent time discussing invasives management. The need for (1) another comprehensive survey, (2) an organizing entity for invasives work focused on the islands as CAKE is not functioning yet, (3) boat washing station, (4) beech decline response plan. Jen to work with Noah of LTBB, Matt Preisser, Shawn Howard of TNC, and Galen.
- The group spent some time discussing the need for additional cultural planning and coordination. No next steps identified. **Make this a topic for the next meeting.**
- There was a fair amount of discussion on trails; both the water trail concept and the need for maintenance of the Beaver Island trail network. The DNR has committed Seasonal Staff hours and a budget to Beaver Island trail maintenance for summer 2016.

- The group spent time discussing early successional habitat, core forest areas, landscape level planning, planning and zoning, and forest products. The group agreed that a forest plan or landscape level/zone plan was the best approach to handle many of these issues. Are there others that can be invited such as DNR Forest Resources Division? Important to identify some good examples to bring to the table. Habitat improvements identified include food plots, aspen clear cuts, replenishing mast source in light of beech die-off, and planting trails to clover etc.

Agenda topics not discussed: (1) Assistance with Dark Sky Evaluation, (2) Need for Maintained Overnight structures on Garden, High, and North Fox.

Next Meeting: Early December Pam Grassmick

The Collaborative would love the participation of other Beaver Islanders. If you have an interest or would like more information, please contact Pam. pgrassmick@gmail.com

Beaver Island Health Care & Emergency Services The letter below, dated October 13, regarding BI health care was sent to the BIRHC, the Emergency Services Board and both townships boards. The purpose of our letter is described immediately below, and a similar purpose statement was included in a preamble to the letter sent to all of the addressees. The BIRHC expressed concern to us that its board did not have an opportunity to review the letter in advance and has asked us to acknowledge that it was written without the review and input of the Health Center board.

Purpose of our letter: The BIA is anxious to assist in any efforts to maintain and enhance health care on the island. Several members of our board, particularly Jim Jones, have done a great deal of research to identify possible paths forward, and to connect with other health care providers who might be helpful in addressing Beaver Island health care needs. In this research we have spoken with members of the Emergency Services Authority board, the Director of EMS, the management of Island Airways, other emergency evacuation air services, the Director of the Rural Health Center, and a number of administrators of mainland health care facilities. We would very much like to begin a dialog with the various island health care boards to see what we might accomplish together, and we are looking forward to a response from the island health care providers on how we might be helpful. In the interest of starting an open discussion of Beaver Island health care, the following letter was sent to the various Beaver Island board members who have roles in island health care oversight and planning.

Beaver Island Association
Supporting Environmental & Economic Sustainability

Beaver Island Rural Health Center Board
Beaver Island Emergency Services Authority Board
St. James Township Supervisor and Trustees
Peaine Township Supervisor and Trustees

Tuesday, October 13, 2015

Dear Township Officials and Healthcare Board Members:

I am writing on behalf of the Beaver Island Association.

Quality rural health care and Emergency Medical Services are critical to welfare of all Beaver Island permanent and part-time residents and tourists. They are also critical to the Beaver Island's present and future economic sustainability.

Potential residents considering moving to Beaver Island include both retirees as well as those who are able to work virtually. Both groups expect, at the very least, high quality rural health care and Advanced Life Support Emergency Medical Services. Beaver Island Rural Health Center and Beaver Island Emergency Medical Services face many of the same challenges that are experienced by rural health care providers nation-wide. Healthcare was listed as one of the top five priorities for Beaver Island at the recent Maine Islands open house round table discussion.

According to Rural Policy Research Institute report of November 2014: "...accelerating rural hospital closures in recent years have created widespread concern... Moreover, broad health system transformation aimed at achieving the Triple Aim—improved experience of care, lower costs, and improved health of populations—is bypassing too many rural providers and health systems."

Beaver Island Emergency Medical Services and Beaver Island Rural Health Center are struggling. Beaver Island Emergency Medical Services has lost paramedics, Emergency Medical Technicians and First Responders and has tenuous funding. Beaver Island Rural Health Center patient visits have dropped by almost 60% from 3050 in 2009 to 1215 in 2014. Better coordination with Beaver Island Rural Health Center and Beaver Island Emergency Medical Services is critical to achieve best practice emergency healthcare services. Adopting a quality assurance program to improve existing services, and making exceptional use of telemedicine to leverage physician expertise at the Munson Health Center would greatly enhance the resources available to our local medical professionals. As Beaver Island Rural Health Center aligns with Charlevoix Area Hospital, Beaver Island Rural Health Center can expand its telemedicine capability from Charlevoix Area Hospital to the Traverse City Munson Emergency Room, Stroke Center and Level II Trauma Center.

Lyn Jenks, CEO Charlevoix Area Hospital said: "the report from which these recommendations were taken seems solid and well thought out. I hope the report will be well received and acted upon!"

We recommend that both the Beaver Island Rural Health Center and Beaver Island Emergency Medical Services jointly pursue the following:

1. Develop an operations manual that better integrates Beaver Island Rural Health Center and Beaver Island Emergency Medical Services.
2. Develop policies and procedures to align with Charlevoix Area Hospital when it aligns with Munson.
3. Initiate a Quality Assurance program to evolve to Best Practice for Beaver Island Emergency Medical Services and Beaver Island Rural Health Center.
4. Maintain Advanced Life Support EMS at all cost.
5. Expand telemedicine processes to include Munson and possibly McLaren.
6. Complete 2002 ESA TO-DO list.
7. Develop an Island wide disaster plan for Beaver Island Rural Health Center, Beaver Island Emergency Medical Services and Beaver Island Fire Department.
8. Train nurses and Emergency Medical Technicians for paramedic certification.
9. Apply for grants for ambulances, Beaver Island Emergency Medical Services and Beaver Island Rural Health Center personnel training and payroll.
10. Expand outreach, services and education programs.

BIA stands ready to support healthcare and emergency medical services. Some potential support activities might include:

1. Surveying BIA membership and residence to help determine community needs.
2. Test marketing proposed new healthcare services with BIA membership.
3. Coordinating traditional/digital and social media.
4. Performing promotional activities (e.g. thank you party for volunteer services personnel).
5. Coordinating affiliations with university medical and fellow programs (e.g. U of M Medical, Mayo Clinic, etc.).
6. Soliciting investor relationships.
7. Applying for grant funding (FEMA, ACA, CCCF, state, federal).
8. Supporting healthcare and emergency medical services public relations program in BIA newsletters.
9. Promoting and informing BIA membership of the Beaver Island Rural Health Center, Charlevoix Area Hospital and Munson affiliations, alignment and telemedicine opportunities.

Signed, Peter Igoe, for The Beaver Island Association board of directors.

Charlevoix Area Hospital Capital Campaign. At the request of the Beaver Island Rural Health Center, we are including the following note from Chelsea Townsend, Executive Director of the Charlevoix Area Hospital.



"The Charlevoix Area Hospital is proud to be one of Beaver Island's mainland partners. We know that living a long distance from quality health care can make visits difficult and treatment a challenge. The Beaver Island Rural Health Center is available to meet many of the community's health care needs, and when they need additional resources, we are happy to answer the call. We send over a physical therapist, physicians, and offer support in x-ray reading, tech support, lab testing, courier service, and emergency medical control. Our physicians have been travelling there for over 30 years, and as time has progressed, so has our relationship. Now we stand poised to provide even more.

Our hospital will become fully integrated into the Munson Healthcare system on Dec. 1, 2015. What does this mean for you? This integration will increase access to specialists and our ability to share best practices - all while retaining our warm, hometown feel and friendly, compassionate staff.

We are also in the process of expanding existing services in Charlevoix. This fall, we will be adding a third operating room to accommodate 550+ more surgeries a year. The expanded

surgical suite and new laboratory will better facilitate the needs of outpatient procedures, which have grown to account for around 85% of our surgeries. In addition to the obvious benefits of improved access and scheduling for surgeries and lab testing, this is also a very important step in securing our sustainability as a location of care. For a small hospital, surgery is an important revenue driver, and this means that we are able to continue providing community health access, such as our monthly low-cost health screenings, our school nurse program, and providing resources in partnership with other local health care organizations such as the Beaver Island Rural Health Center.

Whether seasonal or full-time, these positive changes can impact the care you receive on and off the Island. We have shared the news with our partners at the BI Rural Health Center, and we are all excited about the future possibilities.

Chelsea Townsend – Executive Director

We are a non-profit hospital and are seeking your contributions as an investment in our hospital, and in the future of health care for all of our communities. If you are able, please send your contribution to:

**The Charlevoix Area Hospital Foundation
14700 Lake Shore Dr.
Charlevoix, MI 49720**

More details are available by contacting the Charlevoix Area Hospital Foundation office at 231-547-8502 or email campaign@cah.org."

In recognition of their dedication and hard work, the BIA hosted a community pig roast to honor our health care and emergency services providers.

The celebration took place at 5 p.m., September 12 at the Community Center. Invitations went to: The Board and staff of the Beaver Island Rural Health Center; The Board of the Emergency Services Authority; The Director and staff of Emergency Services including Paramedics, EMTs, and First Responders; the Beaver Island Volunteer Fire Department;

The Charlevoix County Sherriff's Department on Beaver Island; and Island Airways - Paul Welke, Angela LeFevre and air ambulance pilots.

Families were invited and islanders contributed casseroles, desserts and all kinds of goodies. Special thanks go to Mark Engelsman for contributing the pig and for the hours he took roasting it! Attendance was great – "All Islanders understand the importance of your efforts, often during difficult weather conditions and at all hours of the day and night. This was a small opportunity to express our appreciation."

In great appreciation, the BIA Board of Directors

Beach Clean-up initiative 2015. The Beaver Island Association held another successful Beach Cleanup on Saturday, August 29. While the forecast of rain (which never occurred) limited participation slightly we were still able to clean 31 and a half miles of Beaver Island beaches--plus Hog Island. The 27 volunteers donated a combined total of 102 hours of their time and collected 225 pounds of trash. The most interesting item found this year was a jar of pink, scented

hand cleaner from Russia. This was found on the West side, no doubt from a passing freighter. All volunteers returned to the Community Center for a Nathan's hot dog lunch at noon sponsored by the BIA. Thank you to all the volunteers who worked so hard to help keep Beaver Island beautiful. Thanks also to the Community Center for the space, Carol Creasser for donating the hot dogs and McDonough's for donating the buns. Ken McDonald

Island Institute (Maine) collaboration project is a joint effort of the Office of Great Lakes (Jon Allan, Director), The Beaver Island Association, and the Island Institute.

This project will establish a collaboration network of the Beaver Island community in Michigan and one or more of the unbridged island communities in Maine. The objective is to identify actions to improve island prosperity including: education, health care, tourism, transportation, communication, the economy and the environment. Project members will explore the potential to collaborate with other Great Lakes and Maine island communities. There is potential for mutual support in addressing isolated island community problems. Project initiation contains three components: an open house community meeting on Beaver Island and two "knowledge exchange trips" between islands. It is the goal of the project to serve as a springboard for long-term, broader collaboration. The Maine Island Institute and the Michigan Office of the Great Lakes will provide programmatic, technical, and logistical support. The Project will be funded by the three collaborating organizations, and in-kind donations by a number of private individuals and businesses.

The initial stages of the project are:

1. A Maine Island Institute project team visited Beaver Island from September 21-24, 2015 in conjunction with the Open House at the Community Center. The team met with various community members and then toured all of our major public facilities including the Health Center, Community School, and the CMU Biological station.

2. A Community Open House, was held at the Beaver Island Community Center, Tuesday, September 22nd, 3-6:00 p.m. The Open House was attended by approximately 75 island residents. Jon Allan, Director, Office of the Great lakes and Matt Preisser, Lake Michigan coordinator kicked off the meeting. They were followed by two representatives from the Island Institute (Maine) who described in detail the kinds of project in which the Island Institute has been successfully involved over the years. After the presentations, island participants broke into small groups tasked with the objective of identifying key areas for programs to improve island life. At the end of the Open House, each small group presented its priorities for improvements and these ideas were then posted to determine which ideas had the greatest support from the entire group. The results in order of priority were:

- 1. Establishing broadband connectivity for the internet, available to all businesses, households, BICS and health care organizations; along with good island wide cell phone coverage.
- 2. Island health care and emergency services needs
- 3. The quality of K-12 education

4. Affordable housing for the island workforce

5. Marketing Beaver Island as a wonderful place to live and work

Other suggestions and ideas presented were: ways to improve the economy, township consolidation, extending the tourism season, developing value added food products and related infrastructure, enhancing the winter economy, strategic planning, enhanced senior services, and the economic value of our port/marina.

3. The Beaver Island Program team will visit the islands of Islesboro (an island in upper Penobscot Bay about 3 miles from the mainland, with a population of about 600) and Vinalhaven (in West Penobscot Bay, 1 and ¼ hours by ferry from the mainland with a population of about 1200). The trip dates are November 9-13, 2015. Beaver Island Trip members are: Kitty McNamara, Ernie Martin, Patrick McGinnity (Director, Beaver Island Library, and BIA board representative), Pam Grassmick (BIA board and project organizer), and Bill McDonough.

The Maine Island Institute is a non-profit founded in 1983 with a goal of ensuring balanced use and a healthy future for the islands and waters of the Gulf of Maine. It has a staff of 41 full time and 4 part time employees, and 10 Island Fellows who live and work in communities. The Institute's priorities are developed in collaboration with island residents and its 22-member Board of Trustees. It has a membership of 4,500.

Its mission is to work to sustain Maine's island and remote coastal communities and to exchange ideas and experiences to further the sustainability of communities there and elsewhere. Maine has 15 year-round un-bridged island communities, with approximately 5,000 year-round residents, and another 144 working waterfront communities reliant on fisheries, with a coastal population of 100,000. While these communities continue to struggle with extreme challenges in creating sustainable livelihoods and community institutions, the Island Institute has seen evidence of improvement and local success. The Institute is dedicated to sharing lessons learned from its partnerships with island and remote coastal communities in Maine and elsewhere.

Its staff is engaged in environmental protection, island energy efficiency and cost reductions, parental support and distance learning in local schools, documenting and creating school curriculum regarding island agricultural history, health awareness in substance abuse, aging in place, fitness and nutrition, building a directory of resources for island professionals, building a website to increase awareness and transparency in town government in collaboration with the Town Selectmen, working with the local Fire & Rescue Departments to create resource maps for hydrants and other emergency locations, helping to streamline administrative operations, and to develop a community safety awareness program.

Beaver Island Community School Update

BICS made a major commitment to a multi-year curriculum development initiative to increase instruction emphasizing high level thinking skills. This year's focus is laying the foundation for creating a coherent writing curriculum to develop students' competence and confidence in using writing as a tool for communication and learning in and out of school. This whole school initiative involves the entire school teaching staff, resource teaching staff, administration, and representatives of the community (e.g., parents, Board of Education members) working collaboratively. The focus is on: (a) building knowledge of writing and writing instruction in all disciplines (history, science, mathematics, English language arts), (b) learning a process for creating curriculum in any school subject, starting with writing, and (c) establishing clear, shared learning goals that represent the best interests of the island and that reflect the rigor of high level external standards.

Time is protected for teachers' collaborative work every week within and across elementary and secondary levels. The goal of the project, supported by the external partner team from SchoolRise, is to build local capacity on the island. The instructional practices will incorporate all the tools – computer lab, radio station, iPad access for all students/teachers – that the community has funded. These resources provide the tools and the outlets for students to publish and distribute their writing to a wide range of audiences, and to create authentic situations where writing becomes a critical skill.

The BICS Identity statement, written by school and community members, has been approved by the Board of Education and will guide curriculum work across all subject areas: *Preparing students through customized learning in a unique and supportive island community.*

The external partners have provided professional development to guide this process during 'anchor sessions' that took place in August, October, and November. Between sessions, support during teacher collaborative work time is provided via conference calls by consultants Susan Piazza and Kate Weber.

Other exciting new activities initiated for students this year include a robotics class available to all secondary (6th through 12th) students, while the 3rd through 6th grade students learn to create computer codes in a new 'coding class' designed specifically for that age group.

An important milestone was achieved recently when all negotiations were completed and approved by the Board of Education for teachers' contracts for 2 years. Key components of the new contract include:

- Options for teachers to receive financial support from the school to cover costs associated advanced professional development or degree programs, contingent upon the focus of the advanced work aligning with BICS goals
- Dedicated time for teachers to engage in collaborative professional development within the work week, with the goal for 2015-2016 to be 12.5 hours per week devoted to professional development and time for teachers to collaborate to improve teaching and learning at BICS
- Salaries that are competitive with the mainland, supporting the goal of both recruitment and retention of high quality teachers.
- Removal of a specified time frame for teachers' workday to reflect the reality that like all professionals, teachers work hours and obligations involve more than solely contact time teaching students .

Taffy Raphael, Mark Engelsman, and Patrick McGinnity

The Beaver Island Board of Education

Susan Myers, President
2016
Policy Committee, Curriculum Committee

Judy Boyle, Secretary
2018
Policy Committee, Building Committee, Sex Education Committee

Jessica Anderson, Vice-President
2016
Curriculum Committee, Building Committee

Dawn Marsh
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David Avery, Trustee
2016
Policy Committee, Building Committee

Kathy Speck, Treasurer
2018
Finance Committee, Scholarships Committee

Mark Engelsman, Trustee
2018
Finance Committee, Curriculum Committee

Upcoming board meetings:

Monday, December 14, 2015
Monday, January 11, 2016

All meetings are held at Beaver Island Community School beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Invasive Species Control 2015 A great deal was accomplished this summer and fall in the eradication of invasive species from the archipelago. Below is a summary of the efforts from a report by ***Vicki Smith of Wildlife and Wetlands Solutions, LLC.***

Our crews treated Beaver Island on four occasions during the summer and fall of 2015. The initial treatment in June dealt with spotted knapweed, bladder campion, reed canary grass, sweet clover, bull thistle, and Canada thistle. A second treatment during July treated spotted knapweed, bladder campion, reed canary grass, sweet clover, bull thistle, Canada thistle, narrow leaf cattail, common mullein, autumn olive, Japanese artichoke, wild parsnip, and Asian bittersweet. A third treatment was completed in September for narrow leaf cattail, Phragmites, swamp thistle, autumn olive and black locust. The last treatment for spotted knapweed was applied in October.

A new multi-county environmental protection organization. The Beaver Island Association has been invited to participate in a newly created organization encompassing the land and shoreline areas of the Michigan counties of Charlevoix, Antrim, Kalkaska and Emmet (the four counties are planning a number of initiatives together under the name of CAKE [the first letter of the county names]).

Purpose of the organization: To create a voluntary network of conservation partners in Charlevoix, Antrim, Kalkaska, and Emmet Counties working to prevent and control invasive species and to enhance coordination and cooperation among the region's conservation organizations. Creating a **Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA)** in these four counties will fill a critical gap in invasive species identification, treatment, monitoring and public education. Coordinated invasive control efforts protect our natural environment, our families, and our economy.

The parties agree that it is in their mutual interest to work cooperatively to inventory, monitor, control, and prevent the spread of invasive weeds across jurisdictional boundaries within the CISMA area. It is hoped that this cooperative effort will achieve better management of invasive plants while improving working relationships among the parties and the public.

The organization will establish goals, objectives, responsibilities and actions plans aligned with (1) the State of Michigan Early

Environmental Planning Conference – 2016. The purpose of the conference will be to coordinate activities and information related to invasive species treatment. Pam Grassmick has been asked by several off-island agencies to hold the meeting again in the spring. She will keep everyone posted on progress with planning. The meeting may be held in March or April.

Beaver Island Radio (WVBI) update-WVBI takes to the Air. After a year of operating only on the internet, Beaver Island's first (and only) radio station took to the airwaves on the first day of summer, just in time for the Preservation Association of Beaver Island's annual Summer Solstice donor thank you dinner. Dinner attendees watched as the station officially signed on for the first time with an announcement that they had recorded as a group just moments before. This was a fitting launch as PABI is the

The treatment was applied with backpack sprayers, although a high volume sprayer from on a boat was used for the outer islands. Cut-stump and hand-swipe methods were also used where appropriate.

Major stands of spotted knapweed were treated on the state land on the SW side of Beaver Island. Many private land stands were also treated in June and all areas were retreated, where needed, in July. First treatments for wild parsnip were conducted in July.

The Outer Islands. Phragmites and narrow leaf cattails were treated on Hog Island in September. Spotted knapweed was treated on High Island in July and October. Treatment was below the ordinary high water mark (OHWM), however, vast areas of contiguous, patchy/dense areas of knapweed still remained above the OHWM to the tree line. Lastly, Phragmites and narrow leaf cattail were treated on Garden Island in September.

Detection & Rapid Response program ("EDRR") and, (2) existing regional and state-wide invasive species plans. In this regard, dealing with invasive species is more effective and cost efficient when treated early. These goals and objectives will be a guiding document for the management of invasive weeds within the CISMA area.

A Steering Committee will be created to establish priorities and plans, and to provide expertise and oversight regarding invasive weed management within the area, recognizing that each member of the organization will retain primary responsibility and management discretion for lands under its jurisdiction.

At this time, members of the organization include: the Antrim Conservation District, Emmet Conservation District, Kalkaska Conservation District, Charlevoix Conservation District, Little Travers Bay Bands of Odawa Indians, Walloon Lake Trust and Conservancy, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council, Little Traverse Conservancy, the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy, and the Beaver Island Association.

The BIA believes that this is an important initiative for Beaver Island because enhanced invasive species control on the mainland will, over time, reduce the waterborne transit of harmful invasives to the archipelago. The Cooperative also offers the opportunity to apply for funding at the regional level.

In prior years participants have included members of the BIA board, the Conservation Resource Alliance, the Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources, the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa, the Beaver Island Phragmites Administrator, the Little Traverse Conservancy, Wildlife and Wetlands Solutions, LLC, the Charlevoix County Road Commission, and The Nature Conservancy.

operator of the station and its members raised the money to bring it to life.

The station broadcasts on the island at 100.1 on FM and on the internet at wvbi.net. What will you hear? Well, as some of station's promos recite—WVBI is like a box of chocolates. You never know what you'll hear next. For a good portion of the day the station broadcasts its Cottage Mix, which is collection of music designed to appeal to a broad range of age groups and musical tastes. It includes current and older pop, country, jazz, folk, Celtic and what the station calls "Island Music,"

which includes local artists as well as those who have visited the island (and, thus, a broad range of music). Weekday mornings and afternoons, the station plays current hits with regular global and island news updates. Weekends start with feature news programs, more of the Cottage Mix and feature WVBI produced music programs including Mark Beltaire's Rockin' the Boat (an eclectic collection of rock), Phil Becker's Sunday Night Oldies Show and WVBI's Top Ten + Five (a topical countdown show produced during the summer). Also presented are Celtic Connections, the Midnight Special (hosted by island seasonal resident Rich Warren), the International Americana Music Show and Full Moon Hacksaw. Classical music lovers can enjoy a full two hours from the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra on Sunday afternoons as well an hour of Exploring Music with Bill McLaughlin every weekday morning at 10.

WVBI also covers local events with current events updates every day at 9, noon, three and six and interview programs as opportunities present in the mornings and evenings. Guests

so far have included Lt. Governor Brian Calley, Office of the Great Lakes Director Jon Allan, Beaver Island's state senator and representative, Charlevoix's new city manager and many other island visitors and residents. Also covered are island events like memorial services at Veteran's Memorial Park, township meetings and the BIA's annual meeting and Island Institute community meeting.

As part of its educational mission, the station is working with the Beaver Island Community School to mount a media class at the school. Students at the school are working on a program about the Marold II disaster that will be broadcast in January. It will include interviews with islanders, excerpts from oral histories gathered by the students and the Beaver Island Historical Society and reporting by the students. As part of the class, WVBI and the Beaver Island Historical Society co-hosted three experts from Northern Michigan University who taught classes on oral history work and radio production. (For more about this see "BIHS Museum Addition and Oral History Projects Advance" in this issue.) Kevin Boyle

Should the Beaver Island Municipal Marina accept slip reservations? The following letter was sent to Bill Haggard regarding a marina reservation system. We are hopeful of a response soon.

Bill Haggard
St. James Township Supervisor
Township Office
Beaver Island, MI 49782

Saturday, September 5, 2015

Dear Bill: I am speaking on behalf of the Beaver Island Association. We were disappointed to hear that the Municipal Marina will not be using the State of Michigan reservation system. We believe a reservation capability is important for drawing boaters to the island, with the benefits of increased commerce and the potential for establishing longer term relationships with visitors, possibly home ownership. There are many documented cases of boaters not willing to risk sailing the distance to Beaver Island without a confirmed reservation and this is an economic loss.

At last week's Township meeting, it was mentioned that there are alternatives to the state system and we urge you to explore these,

In addition, the Beaver Island Association includes members (myself included) who could assist in installing a system and in manning it during the height of the summer visitor season. We would like to hear from you or other Township officials what the Beaver Island Association could do to assist in having a reservation system in place for next summer.

Sincerely, Peter Igoe, for the Beaver Island Association Board of Directors

BIHS Museum Addition and Oral History Projects Advance.

The Beaver Island Historical Society continues to make progress on its plans to expand its facilities at the Print Shop Museum.

Once the new facility is constructed, the plan is to update and add displays, some of which will include material from the extensive collection of oral histories that BIHS has collected over the years. This will involve a lot of volunteer work, but bit by bit it will be accomplished, says BIHS Executive Director Kitty McNamara. As reported elsewhere in this newsletter, the Society is working with a media class at BICS and WVBI's staff on the production of a radio program on the Marold II disaster that may eventually be repurposed for use at the museum. In addition to student projects, BIHS expects the work to develop modern, interactive exhibits at the Society's island museums to

spin off material that will be used for programs on WVBI. "This is an exciting opportunity to bring history to life with firsthand accounts from those who witnessed it," said McNamara. "We have a pretty big archive here that's been assembled by dedicated volunteers over the years. We look forward to putting it to good use."

As part of these efforts, BIHS co-hosted with WVBI an oral history and audio production workshop early this fall for those interested in working on the project. The session included NMU Professor Charles Ganzert, who has written one of the most-often used books on collecting oral histories, Beaumier UP Heritage Center Director Daniel Truckey and long-time WNMU-FM radio host Hans Ahlstrom.

If you are interested in working on the project, please contact Kitty McNamara at kittym@tds.net

St. James Finances On October 20th the St. James Township Board met in special session to receive the draft report from the township's special auditors on the townships accounting difficulties. The draft report (which was accepted at the board's regular November board meeting) was presented in an almost-full St. James Township Hall by Steve Peacock from the Traverse City office of Rehmann, a large Michigan-based accounting and financial services firm. Asked whether he had found any evidence of embezzlement, Mr. Peacock said decisively there was none. But, his draft report indicates that, while the township treasurer and, apparently by delegation, the township clerk, were responsible to send out regular sewer use bills, this was not done for an extended period resulting in an excess of \$130,000.00 in sewer use fees going unbilled/uncollected over the past eleven years.

Of this, according to legal advice to the township board, only about sixty-five thousand dollars may be legally collected since the board can only collect for the last 6 years. Over the years the township did not bill correctly or consistently and did not follow up on unpaid bills to impose penalties. Users continued to receive a valuable service, but in some cases the amount billed was not correctly calculated or billed regularly. The township received payments from most sewer users in response to the bills it did send. The audit report contains a full accounting of all of these payments save for about \$6,500.00. The independent accountant's report is posted on the township website at <http://www.charlevoixcounty.org/stjames.asp> under Board of Trustees, Documents.

The report also shows that, apparently at least in part as a result of the failure to bill for and collect the sewer use fees, the township transferred more than \$180,000 to the sewer fund from the townships General and Road Funds. The draft report recommends that these amounts be repaid as soon as possible, starting with the amounts due the road fund. When asked how long this would take, Trustee McNamara said that was not yet clear—that it would depend on how the township went about collecting the past due fees and other budget issues, but that her advice was that it be done as quickly as possible.

In addition to a review of the sewer use funds, the draft report addressed the sewer assessment that is included in tax bills of those in the original sewer district. While these amounts have been properly billed and collected, the report indicates that the revenues received from the county were co-mingled with other township funds and recommends that going forward they be tracked in a separate account.

At the township's November 2015 regular board meeting recommendations for collection of the prior year unbilled/uncollected sewer fees were approved. The township will mail individual payment histories and invoices to sewer users and will give customers the choice of paying their amounts due in one payment or in equal payments over the next two years. The township will meet individually with any customer who has questions or concerns about their invoice. This coupled with current best practice billing and collecting (new billing clerk Maureen Turner) will bring stability to the sewer fund and will allow the township to finally complete an annual review of system per the ordinance.

The report issued by Rehmann, Inc. included 15 recommendations of which 5 have already been fully implemented, 6 are partially implemented and 4 that need further discussion by the board. In further action at its November 4th meeting, the board scheduled a budget work session for Monday, November 30th at 7:00pm for the purpose of fully discussing current year budget and the implications for the next fiscal year and to discuss board finance policies which will promote more accountability and scrutiny of its financial situation.

There is still much work to be done. The next big step is to develop and adopt a formal amortization schedule which would require funds to be repaid to funds to which they are due. The Road Fund will be the top priority in this plan. The township board will soon receive its audit for the fiscal year ending 3.31.15 which is being completed by the firm of Vredeveld Haefner LLC, a firm new to our township, but with much township auditing experience. The results of that audit will help in determining amounts to be repaid to other funds.

Kitty McNamara

The Beaver Island Chamber of Commerce

- Rachel Teague - President**
- Diane McDonough – Vice President**
- Steve West, Executive Director**
- Kathy Speck**
- Marijean Pike**
- Jean Kinsley**
- Tim McQueer**
- Mark Englesman**
- John Works**

Website: [www. Beaver Island.org](http://www.BeaverIsland.org) (“the best source of visitor information, transportation, accommodations, etc. can be found here.”)

LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS. The Beaver Island Association is an organization of dedicated volunteers who seek to represent the interests of all residents and visitors on Beaver Island. From Phragmites and other invasive species control, to township governance, to support of the Community School, and everything in between, the BIA is working to support environmental and economic sustainability. If you have friends or neighbors who are not members, send the BIA their names and addresses and we will send them a copy of this newsletter.

Write: The Beaver Island Association, P.O. Box 390, Beaver Island, MI 49782.

Email: beaverislandassociation@gmail.com

Beaver Island Association Membership 2015-2016

Maureen Abele	Carol Burton	Tom Hawkins	Doris Larson	Julie Neff	Nancy Smith
Keith Albin	Carol Creasser	Susan Hawkins	Greg Lawson	Florence Neumann	John Starr
Christy Albin	Charles Creaser	Tom Herbert	Mary Jane Lawson	Seamus Norgard	Leigh Starr
Bruce Allen	Annette Dashiel	Henry Hill	Ed Leuck	Scott Osborne	Evan Steger
Bob Anderson	Frank D'Andraia	Kirsten Roberts	Beth Leuck	Margaret Osborne	Suzy Steger
Alana Anderson	Dana D'Andraia	David Howell	David Lucas	Ann Partridge	James R. Stout Sr.
Paul Armstrong	Mark Engelsman	Sandy Howell	Jim Luteyn	Fred Payne	Kenneth Jay Taylor
Nancy Armstrong	Kailonnie Dunsmore	Carolyn Hricko	Barbara Lucas	Theresa Payne	Don Taylor
Elwood Baker	Harris Fawell	Mike Igoe	Claude A. Lucchesi	Pete Peterson	Judy Taylor
Phyllis Baker	Ruth Fawell	Peter Igoe	Ruth Lucchesi	Sheila Peterson	Diana Taylor
Joyce Bartels	Jon Fogg	Ruth Igoe	Greg Lucchesi	Nancy Peterson	Tom Thieme
Royce Beers	Sally Fogg	Jonathan Igoe	Linda Lucchesi	Carey Johnson	Nita Thieme
Margie Beers	Bill Freeman	Kathleen Igoe	Dan Lynch	Louis Post	Bob Tidmore
Raymond C Becker	Janice Freeman	Bruce Jacobson	Rosemary Lynch	Clare Collins	Kathy Tidmore
Priscilla Becker	Jack Gallagher	Leonor Jacobson	Marty Maehr	Taffy Raphael	Don Tritsch
Narin Bhatia	Judy Gallagher	Clyde Johnson	Jane Maehr	Marilyn Reed	Nancy Tritsch
Nishta Bhatia	Jim Gavelek	Nadra Johnson	Art McCaskey	Joe Reed	Ed Troutman
Jim Birdsall	John Gerrish	Ronald Jakubus	Debbie McCaskey	Richard Ries	Linda Troutman
Sandy Birdsall	Sandra Gerrish	Helen Jakubus	Ken McDonald	Kris Ries	Craig Turnbull
Eric Blalock	Ken Gitersonke	Jim Jones	Deb McDonald	Randy Roberts	Karen Turnbull
Kathryn Blalock	Pat Gitersonke	Judith Jones	Bill McDonough	Carol Roberts	Alan Vicstein
Glen Borre	Paul Glendon	Michael Kamrin	Tammy McDonough	Pat Rowley	Bev Vicstein
Betsy Borre	Anne Glendon	Katie See Kamrin	Patrick McGinnity	John Rowley	Jack Wayne
Kevin Boyle	Tim Gonyeau	Cheryl Kane	Larissa McGinnity	Larry Seiford	Barbara Wayne
Judy Boyle	Kathie Gonyeau	Phyllis Kayne	Sandra Michelson	Bev Seiford	Ed Welter
Frederick J. Boyles	Brad Grassmick	Jack Kelly	Joe Moore	Bill Schneider	Willy Welter
Barbara Boyles	Pam Grassmick	Ruth Kelly	Phyllis Moore	Craig Schrottenboer	Ronald Wierenga
William Boyles-Visel	Emory Griffin	Donna Kieselbach	Charles Morris	Sherry Schrottenboer	Elisabeth Wierenga
Janee Boyles-Visel	Marjorie Hammond	Andy Kohls	Sandra Morris	Thomas Sell	Verle Wiita
Keith Brothers	Nackerman Harborfront LLC	Jacque LaFreniere	Rick Nank	Patricia Sell	Trish Wiita
Janet Brothers	Jim Haveman	Mark LaFreniere	Janet Nank	Bob Simpson	Annalda Worsfold
Dan Burton	Sarah Haveman	Lars Larson	Bob Neff	Sandy Simpson	

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Bob Anderson, Treasurer Kevin Boyle Keith Brothers Mark Engelsman Pam Grassmick

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--

Patrick McGinnity Taffy Raphael, Secretary Craig Schrottenboer Bob Tidmore

MEMBERSHIP TOTAL – 191

The Beaver Island Association
Supporting Economic and Environmental Sustainability

If you do not see your name as an active member in the preceding list, please consider joining to support our efforts and to continue to receive the BIA newsletter. Our membership year runs from July 1 to the following June 30. Please join us by sending a check for \$20 to Bob Anderson, Treasurer, The Beaver Island Association, PO Box 390, Beaver Island, MI 49782.

*******Yes, please renew our Beaver island Association membership for 2015-2016 *******

Name(s)

Mailing Address

Email address (please!)

The Beaver Island Association
Supporting Environmental and Economic Sustainability
P.O Box 390
Beaver Island, Michigan 49782