

# **AMENDMENT TO THE 2003 RECREATION PLAN BURT TOWNSHIP - ALGER COUNTY**

by the  
Burt Township Board  
February 13, 2007

## **INTRODUCTION**

In March of 2003 Burt Township, Alger County, submitted a Five-Year Recreation Plan to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources intended for the period through December 2007. Since 2003, Burt Township and the Grand Marias area has experienced accelerated loss of its harbor facilities and access to Lake Superior due to the deterioration of the break wall structure and the subsequent migration of beach sand into the harbor area. These recent events have greatly diminished fishing and boating opportunities for local residents, for visitors to the area, has had a negative impact on the township's economy and impossible, at times, to launch rescue vessels.

The purpose of the Amendment to the 2003 Burt Township Recreation Plan is to include proposed initiatives and projects that will allow citizens continued resource access to the Grand Marias Harbor and Lake Superior for fishing and boating activities.

## **AMENDED GOALS AND POLICIES**

This plan amendment will use policy as a course of action for the Township Board. It is the intent of this plan amendment to provide a means for the Township to cope with and resolve significant, and detrimental, natural changes to the Burt Township/ Grand Marias waterfront caused by factors beyond their control and financial means. The following goals and their corresponding policies are intended to serve the Township as additional guidelines toward developmental, operational and financial strategies on how best to rebuild necessary facilities for adequate access to the Lake Superior resource.

**GOAL I: TO COMMIT TO THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE GRAND MARIAS HARBOR FOR THE PURPOSE OF FISHING AND BOATING ACCESS.**

*Policy I-A:* Provide shore fishing opportunities by implementing a shore fishing structure in the Grand Marias Harbor.

*Policy I-B:* Reconstruct the existing Boating Access/ Small Boat Launching facilities at the Grand Marias Harbor.

Policy I-C: Implement dredging activities to provide shore fishing and boating access to the Grand Marias Harbor and Lake Superior.

GOAL II: TO COMMIT TO THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE GRAND MARIAS HARBOR AS A MEANS OF MAINTAINING AND IMPROVING OUR CITIZENS' QUALITY OF LIFE.

Policy II-A: Develop shore fishing facilities that meet our special needs as a means of promoting our quality of life and economic vitality.

Policy II-B: To promote the Burt Township/ Grand Marias waterfront for the purpose of attracting tourists and visitors to our community.

GOAL III: TO PROMOTE COOPERATION WITH OTHER GOVERNMENTAL JURISDICTIONS.

Policy III-A: Encourage State and Federal agencies to recognize the regional impact and the broad range of interest with the Grand Marias Harbor redevelopment.

Policy III-B: Continue to emphasize the not only the recreational and economic impact of the Harbor redevelopment, but also its role in providing adequate facilities for the public's safety.

## **AMENDED NEEDS AND JUSTIFICATION OF PROPOSED ACTIONS**

Since development of the Township's 2003 Recreation Plan, the Grand Marias waterfront has been physically devastated as a result of the deterioration of the harbor's break wall. The break wall deterioration has caused the migration of hundred's of thousands of yards of sand to move into the harbor area. This migration of water-borne material into the harbor has:

- Eliminated shore fishing opportunities;
- Caused the boating access site to be unusable at most times of the year; and
- Hampered the capability of Federal, State and local governments to provide marine rescue operations

The Township recognizes it is facing two important issues regarding its waterfront facilities:

- In the long-term, the Township must continue to solicit the Federal government to rebuild the Grand Marias Break Wall; and
- In the short-term, the Township recognizes the need to provide interim measures to re-establish shore fishing and boating access opportunities for its residents and visitors.

The Township's intended purpose of this Plan Amendment is to highlight the need for shore fishing and boating access development and to further provided justification for these proposed projects. In the long-term, the Grand Marias Break Wall reconstruction will not take place for at least another five (5) years, at best. The immediate need is to provide shore fishing and boating access, essential for the Township's quality of life and the community's economic lifeline.

It is noted that Recreation Needs identified within the 2003 Recreation Plan are not diminished in their importance and need as a result of this Plan Amendment. The purpose of the Amendment is to:

- Provide supplemental needs and justification to "Improvements to the Marina...", page 14 of the 2003 Plan; and
- Place waterfront/ harbor improvements, as documented within this Amendment, as the Township's first project priority.

## **AMENDED DEVELOPMENT SCHEDULE**

The following Amended Development Schedule reflects the addition of Shore Fishing, Boating Access and Dredging activities to the 2003 Recreation Plan as the Township's top project priorities.

PROJECT: Shore Fishing structure @ 150'x 8' crest into the Grand Marias Harbor w/ ADA access walkway; Funding sources: MDNR-MNRTF, MDEQ-CZM, Great Lakes Fishery Trust, MDNR- Waterways, LWCF; Estimated cost: \$400,000; Year: 2007.

PROJECT: Reconstruct existing boat launching ramp at the Grand Marias Harbor by extending ramp 25' and other; Funding sources: MDNR- Waterways, Tribal funds; Estimated cost: \$70,000; Year: 2007.

PROJECT: Dredging at Shore Fishing Structure and Boat Launch Ramp; Funding sources: MDNR-MNRTF, Great Lakes Fishery Trust Fund, MDNR-Waterways; Estimated cost: \$50,000; Year: 2007.

**Resolution #2007-06**  
**RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE 2003 RECREATION PLAN**  
**February 13, 2007**

**Whereas,** Burt Township filed its 2003 Recreation Plan with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in March of 2003; and

**Whereas,** Burt Township has experienced continued degradation of its waterfront, loss of its shore fishing and boating access facilities, and diminished ability to provide essential rescue services;

**Whereas, the** Township Board and its citizens are committed to maintaining fishing and boating access to the Grand Marias Harbor and Lake Superior; and

**Whereas;** the Township Board hereby amends the 2003 Burt Township Recreation Plan to reflect the importance and urgency of maintaining citizen access to its waterfront resources; and

**Whereas;** the Recreation Plan Amendment is intended to allow the Township to access to State and/or Federal funding opportunities as a means of retaining its quality of life and economic vitality;

**Now, therefore be it resolved,** that the Burt Township Board hereby adopts the Amendment to the 2003 Recreation Plan, dated February 13, 2007, and forwarded to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and copy to the Regional Planning Commission.

Adopted on Motion by Kay Wampler, Seconded by Lois Leavenworth.

Roll Call Vote:

Lois Leavenworth, Trustee	<u>  √  </u>	yes	<u>      </u>	no
L. Scott Wieting, Trustee	<u>  √  </u>	yes	<u>      </u>	no
Marc Oglevie, Treasurer	<u>  √  </u>	yes	<u>      </u>	no
Kay L. Wampler, Clerk	<u>  √  </u>	yes	<u>      </u>	no
Jack Hubbard, Supervisor	<u>  √  </u>	yes	<u>      </u>	no

STATE OF MICHIGAN                    )  
COUNTY OF ALGER                    )

I, Kay L. Wampler, Clerk of the Township of Burt, Alger County, Michigan, certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the resolution which was adopted by the Township Board at a meeting held on February 13, 2007.

Signed:

Dated:

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Kay L, Wampler, Clerk