

Great Lakes States Team Up in Forest Fire Compact, Beneficial for 25 Years

Teamwork paid off in fighting 18,000-acre EUP fire in 2007

Michigan's spring wildfire season has returned, and firefighters from the Department of Natural Resources and other local fire departments already have been busy over the past few weeks responding to several flare-ups in the state's annual battle with wildfires.

Each year, thousands of preventable wildfires scorch the landscape and threaten valuable property, damaging homes, cabins, and outbuildings. Although fighting Michigan's wildfires is increasingly costly and hazardous, in one way, firefighting has become more efficient over the past two decades through innovation and partnerships.

After continually facing complex wildfire issues on their own, fire protection managers from natural resource agencies in Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin met 25 years ago to discuss common challenges regarding constrained budgets, firefighter training, and operational issues within a changing forest landscape.

In 1989, those three states signed an agreement forming the Great Lakes Forest Fire Compact and, after official international approvals were given, the Canadian provinces of Ontario and Manitoba were admitted, forming the current membership of the compact.

"Over the past 25 years, the compact has proven beneficial to the entire Great Lakes region," said Scott Heather, DNR state wildfire supervisor. "By utilizing the resources of the group, we are better able to deal with wildfire concerns in a way we would never be able to as a single agency."

Mr. Heather said one example of this cooperation was the use of air suppression resources, which included water bombers and helicopters from Ontario and Minnesota, during the 2007 lightning-caused Sleeper Lake fire, which burned more than 18,000 acres in the Eastern Upper Peninsula.

"Because agreements already were in place through the Great Lakes Forest Fire Compact those helicopters and planes were able to launch missions and successfully operate across state lines and international borders without any loss of time or effectiveness," he said.

In recent years, Michigan also has sent firefighting hand crews and other resources to assist partner members when their firefighting resources become stretched because of severe fire conditions.

Such cooperative efforts don't end when the smoke clears. Another advantage of the Great Lakes Forest Fire Compact is the ability to offer training that otherwise would not be possible through a single agency.



Outdoor Matters

A column from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources



Heavy equipment, such as this tractor/plow that is used to build a fire line, is the backbone of fire suppression efforts in Michigan.

Many times, high-level training is required by just a few people from an agency. By pooling resources, the compact is able to offer them advanced wildfire training within the Great Lakes region instead of having to travel across the country to enroll in a course.

"Last year, each agency was able to send an Incident Management Team to specialized training that improved their abilities to manage large, complex wildfires," Mr. Heather said. "This never would have been possible without the compact."

Another long-standing initiative of the Great Lakes Forest Fire Compact is fire prevention.

"Each year, we meet to determine

how best to reduce wildfires in the Great Lakes region," said Paul Kollmeyer, the DNR's fire prevention program coordinator. "We know the best method of fire prevention is educating our citizens."

This philosophy led the compact to create a special week aimed at wildfire prevention that could remind the public about the dangers of wildfires. It was determined that the third week of April commonly has the greatest fire occurrence for each member, so this year's observance of Wildfire Prevention Week will be April 19 through April 25.

Past prevention themes have included focusing on common fire causes, such as burning debris, campfires, or arson. In 2004, the

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS Cloverland Electric Cooperative

Cloverland Electric Cooperative is currently accepting bids for the installation of our secondary underground service cable. Bids must be received at our Dafter office by April 27, 2009. Please pick up bid sheet at one of our 3 offices. Contractors will be required to carry liability insurance.

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

The City of St. Ignace is accepting bids for the purchase and removal of two cabins located at the corner of West US2 and Church Street, directly behind the new bus station building. Sealed bids will be accepted in the City Clerk's office, located at 396 N. State Street, until 4:00 p.m. on May 4, 2009. No minimum bid required.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

To all Interested Agencies, Groups and Persons:

Mackinac County
100 S. Marley
St. Ignace, MI 49781

On or about April 23, 2009, the above named County will request the Michigan State Housing Development Authority (MSHDA) to release Federal funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 for the following project:

Homeowner Rehabilitation Program -- \$150,000

This program activity will result in the rehabilitation of 18 single-family, owner occupied homes in the County of Mackinac at a per unit cost of \$8,333, for a total project cost of \$150,000 in 2009 CDBG funds. These homes are located in Mackinac County and will meet local code and/or the Section 8 Existing Housing Quality standards after rehabilitation. Households assisted will have incomes not exceeding 80 percent of the area median. The assistance will be in the form of MSHDA CDBG interest-free loans. These loans will be secured by a non-diminishing "lien" placed on the property. These monies will be re-paid to Mackinac County when the home is either sold, transferred, or no longer occupied by the borrower and will provide additional funds for the Homeowner Assistance activity.

An Environmental Review Record respecting the aforementioned project has been made by the above named County which documents the environmental review of the project. This Environmental Review Record is on file at the Mackinac County Administration office, 100 S. Marley, St. Ignace, MI 49781. The records are available for public examination and copying upon request between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. Please contact Mackinac County Clerk, at (906) 643-7300.

Mackinac County will undertake the project described above with CDBG funds, with Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. Mackinac County is certifying to the State of Michigan that Mackinac County and Dawn Nelson in her official capacity as Chairperson, consent to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to environmental reviews, decision making, and action; and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The legal effect of the certification is that upon its approval, Mackinac County may use the CDBG funds, and HUD will have satisfied its responsibilities under the Natural Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

MSHDA will accept an objection to its approval of the release of funds and acceptance of the certification only if it is on one of the following basis: (a) that the certification was not in fact executed by the chief executive officer or other officer of applicant approved by HUD; or (b) that applicant's environmental review record for the project indicates omission of a required decision finding or step application to the project in the environmental review process; or (c) other specific grounds in HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58.75. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedure (24 CFR Part 58), and may be addressed to Carolyn Cunningham, MSHDA at P.O. Box 30044, Lansing, Michigan 48909.

Objections to release of funds on basis other than those stated above will not be considered by MSHDA. No objection received after May 8, 2009 will be considered by MSHDA.

Certifying Officer:

Dawn Nelson, Chair



On major fires, such as the lightning-caused Sleeper Lake fire in 2007, the Incident Commander held daily briefings for everyone fighting the fire. The team is apprised of all aspects of the firefighting effort, including air support and conditions on the ground. (DNR photographs by David Kenyon)

compact received a national award for promoting Smokey Bear's 60th birthday by producing a number of products highlighting Smokey's image and his familiar message that "Only You Can Prevent Wildfires," which remains one of the most successful slogans ever developed in any advertising campaign.

"This year's theme is 'Wildfire Costs You,'" Mr. Kollmeyer said. "It is intended to spotlight how wildfires carry a price tag beyond damaged trees.

"Wildfires are responsible for uncountable hours of work performed in hazardous situations by Michigan's firefighters," Mr. Kollmeyer explained. "Each firefighter requires protective safety clothing costing nearly \$1,000. The price of a single firetruck is typically more than \$100,000 and water-dropping aircraft run up charges at an average rate of \$1,500 per hour. The total cost of suppressing the Sleeper Lake fire was \$7.5 million."

This monetary message is intended to bring awareness that wildfires cost everyone, not just the careless

person who gets a ticket for burning illegally or allowing a fire to escape control, or the neighbor whose property gets burned or the family whose home is destroyed.

Wildfires cost everyone and by

preventing them, we all can benefit from the savings.

For more information on wildfire prevention and safety, visit the DNR Web site at www.michigan.gov/dnr.

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES (DNR) OFFICE OF LAND AND FACILITIES (OLAF)

NOTICE OF PROPOSED SALE OF DEDICATED STATE-OWNED LAND LAND TRANSACTION CASE #20080187

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to the provisions of Section 2133, Part 21, Subpart 10 of Act 451, P.A. 1994, that the DNR proposes to sell the following State-owned land or rights in land:

Mackinac County, Bois Blanc Township, T39N, R01W, Section 3: Huron Shores Subdivision, Lots 18-25 of Block 22. Containing 0.60-acre, more or less.

The proposed direct sale of land is being placed on the Natural Resources Commission (NRC) Agenda for public comment prior to being approved by the DNR Director. The next meeting of the NRC is scheduled at the following date, time and location:

May 7, 2009
4:30 p.m.

UAW-GM Center for Human Resources
200 Walker
Detroit, Michigan

Public appearances before the NRC will begin at 4:30 P.M. and may be scheduled by calling

Ms. Teresa Gloden, NRC Secretary, at 517-373-2352.

PLEASE NOTE: This notice is not a solicitation for bids. Further information regarding this case may be obtained by contacting the Real Estate Services Section, OLAF, DNR, P.O. Box 30448, Lansing, MI 48909-7948 or via telephone at 517-373-1240.

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS AND ELECTORS of the City of St. Ignace and to Users of the City's Sanitary Sewage Disposal System of Intent to Issue Revenue Bonds and the Right of Referendum Relating Thereto

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City Council of the City of St. Ignace, Mackinac County, Michigan, intends to issue and sell revenue bonds pursuant to Act 94, Public Arts of Michigan, 1933, as amended, in one or more series in a total amount not to exceed Two Million Dollars (\$2,000,000), for the purpose of paying all or part of the cost of acquiring, constructing, furnishing and equipping sanitary sewer system improvements, including collection mains and all related appurtenances and attachments thereto.

SOURCE OF PAYMENT OF REVENUE BONDS

THE PRINCIPAL OF AND INTEREST ON THE REVENUE BONDS SHALL BE PAYABLE from the revenues received by the City from the operations of the sanitary sewage disposal system except as provided below in the case of bonds sold to the Michigan Municipal Bond Authority in connection with the State of Michigan's Clean Water Revolving Fund program. The revenues will consist of rates and charges billed to the users of the system, a schedule of which is presently on file in the office of the City Clerk. The rates and charges may from time to time be revised to provide sufficient revenues to provide for the expenses of operating and maintaining the system, to pay the principal of and interest on the bonds and to pay other obligations of the system and to provide reserves therefor.

BOND DETAILS

THE REVENUE BONDS will be payable in annual installments not to exceed thirty (30) in number and will bear interest at the rate or rates to be determined at public or private sale but in no event to exceed such rates as may be permitted by law on the unpaid balance from time to time remaining outstanding on said bonds.

ADDITIONAL SOURCES OF PAYMENTS FOR BONDS SOLD TO MICHIGAN MUNICIPAL BOND AUTHORITY

IN THE EVENT THAT THE REVENUE BONDS ARE SOLD TO THE MICHIGAN MUNICIPAL BOND AUTHORITY, THE CITY MAY PLEDGE FOR THE PAYMENT OF THE BONDS MONEY RECEIVED OR TO BE RECEIVED BY THE CITY DERIVED FROM IMPOSITION OF TAXES BY THE STATE AND RETURNED OR TO BE RETURNED TO THE CITY AS PROVIDED BY LAW, except for money the use of which is prohibited for such purposes by the State Constitution. The City may enter into an agreement providing for the payment of taxes, which taxes are collected by the State and returned to the City as provided by law, to the Michigan Municipal Bond Authority or a trustee, and such funds may be pledged for the payment of the revenue bonds.

IN THE EVENT THAT THE REVENUE BONDS ARE SOLD TO THE MICHIGAN MUNICIPAL BOND AUTHORITY, THE CITY MAY PLEDGE ITS LIMITED TAX FULL FAITH AND CREDIT AS SECURITY FOR THE REVENUE BONDS, IN WHICH EVENT DEBT SERVICE ON THE BONDS SHALL BE PAYABLE EITHER FROM REVENUES OF THE SYSTEM OR FROM AD VALOREM TAXES THAT MAY BE LEVIED ON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY IN THE CITY, SUBJECT HOWEVER, TO CONSTITUTIONAL, STATUTORY AND CHARTER TAX RATE LIMITATIONS.

RIGHT OF REFERENDUM

THE REVENUE BONDS WILL BE ISSUED WITHOUT A VOTE OF THE ELECTORS UNLESS A PETITION REQUESTING SUCH A VOTE SIGNED BY NOT LESS THAN 10% OF THE REGISTERED ELECTORS OF THE CITY IS FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK WITHIN FORTY-FIVE (45) DAYS AFTER PUBLICATION OF THIS NOTICE. IF SUCH PETITION IS FILED, THE BONDS MAY NOT BE ISSUED WITHOUT AN APPROVING VOTE OF A MAJORITY OF THE QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE CITY VOTING THEREON. If such petition is filed and the electors of the City voting thereon approve the issuance of the bonds, then the bonds may be payable from revenues or from ad valorem taxes that may be levied on all taxable property in the City without limitation as to rate or amount

THIS NOTICE is given pursuant to the requirements of Section 33, Act 94, Public Acts of Michigan, 1933, as amended.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION will be furnished at the office of the City Clerk upon request.

Renee Vonderwerth
Clerk, City of St. Ignace