

# The Michigan Vernal Pools Partnership

Approved on November 7, 2016

## Mission

The mission of the Michigan Vernal Pools Partnership is to increase awareness, understanding and protection of vernal pools through conservation, research & mapping, education & outreach and collaboration.

## Goals

To achieve its mission, the partnership has developed four goals:

- Conservation: Encourage vernal pool conservation through local and state measures.
- Research & Mapping: Understand the status, distribution and ecology of vernal pools to best inform conservation measures.
- Education & Outreach: Improve awareness, understanding and engagement of land managers, educators, and other targeted audiences to increase effective conservation of vernal pools across Michigan.
- Collaboration & Coordination: Leverage the experience, expertise and resources of partner organizations and others to maximize impact and accelerate progress.

## Governance

Organization of the partnership includes the general membership, a steering committee, and sub-committees based on the goals of the partnership.

### *General Membership*

The Michigan Vernal Pools Partnership is made up of state and local governmental agencies, industry representatives, businesses, educators, academic institutions, and non-profit organizations. General members of the partnership (partner organizations and participating individuals) shall meet annually to review the status and direction of the partnership. Each general member shall select at least one subcommittee on which to serve.

The partner organizations (listed alphabetically; asterisks indicate Steering Committee members) are:

- City of Ann Arbor Natural Area Preservation
- Eastern Michigan University\*
- Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy
- Herpetological Resource and Management\*
- Kalamazoo Nature Center
- Little Traverse Conservancy
- Michigan Department of Environmental Quality\*
- Michigan Department of Natural Resources\*
- Michigan Forest Products Council
- Michigan Natural Features Inventory\*
- Michigan Nature Association\*
- Michigan Sea Grant
- Michigan State University Extension\*
- Michigan Technological University / Michigan Tech Research Institute\*
- Michigan Wetlands Association
- Mid-Michigan Stewardship Initiative

- Northeast Michigan Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative
- North Oakland Headwaters Land Conservancy\*
- Oakland County Economic Development & Community Affairs
- Oakland County Parks
- Oakland Township Parks and Recreation
- Oakland University
- Potawatomi Resource Conservation & Development Council
- The Nature Conservancy
- The Stewardship Network\*
- University of Michigan – Flint\*
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service\*

Additional partner organizations or participating individuals may be added to the partnership if they are actively engaged in or otherwise supportive of the conservation of vernal pools. Partners or participating individuals may choose at any time to discontinue their membership by notifying the partnership co-chairs in writing.

### *Steering Committee*

The steering committee will address general administrative needs, ensure continued progress, consider new programs and initiatives proposed by the subcommittees, and approve partnership materials. The steering committee will meet at least 3 times per year. Summaries of steering committee meetings will be provided to the general members after each meeting where major decisions are made.

The steering committee members will select a chair or co-chairs for the Vernal Pools Partnership to facilitate partnership business and manage the steering committee and full membership. The responsibilities of the co-chairs shall include chairing full partnership and steering committee meetings (including setting meeting dates and agendas), assisting the partnership with general planning and organization, tracking and encouraging of subcommittee progress with partnership goals and objectives, and chairing the Collaboration and Coordination subcommittee.

### *Subcommittees*

Each of the four subcommittees shall focus on one of the four partnership goals (Conservation, Research & Mapping, Education & Outreach, Collaboration & Coordination) and will be led by a chair or co-chairs. Each subcommittee shall meet at least once between steering committee meetings. The chair (or co-chairs) of each subcommittee shall provide a brief progress report at each meeting of the steering committee.

Sub-committees shall consist of steering committee members and/or general members except for the Collaboration & Coordination subcommittee. The subcommittee on Collaboration & Coordination shall consist of the Partnership chair/co-chairs and the chairs/co-chairs of the other three subcommittees. This subcommittee will be chaired by the Partnership chair or co-chairs.

### *Decisions*

Decisions will be made collectively to encourage full participation. Approval of major decisions will be made by consensus - whenever possible. Although the partnership will strive for consensus, the partners may vote if there is not consensus on an issue if requested by a partner. Approval by vote will be by majority of those present. Each of the partner organizations listed above will have one vote each. Major decisions will be brought to the steering committee.

### **Partnership Materials**

The names of participating partners may be listed in materials (electronic or print) describing the mission and goals of the partnership and the importance of vernal pools. Organizational logos shall not be used without the express written permission of the participating organization.