

## **Besser Museum Fishery Heritage Project – plan for 2019-20**

The short-term aim for the Fishery Heritage Project is to have the *RV Chinook* on display by Log Cabin Day, the end of June. To this end, the site for the *Chinook* has been partially landscaped, the reinforced concrete pad for the cradle is completed, and poured concrete revetments have been placed around the building housing the *Katherine V* and around the cradle pad of the *Chinook* as soil retainers. The design of the cradle was completed by RS Scott Engineering in October and the cradle is under Construction at Besser Company.

Weather has forced a close to construction for the winter. The *Chinook's* shrink-wrap covering has been reinforced somewhat in an attempt to get one more year of service out of the cover. Arrangements are being made to have the *Chinook* moved to its cradle in March or April of 2020.

Once the *Chinook* has been placed on the cradle, volunteers will be needed to help in building the dock-like wood walkway connecting the *Katherine V* and the *Chinook* and to clean and paint the deck of the *Chinook*. Though interpretative signage and other educational aids will be missing, the *Chinook* will be ready for walk-on display once the deck painting and dock construction are complete.

The Fishery Heritage Committee is currently drafting proposals for grants to fund the interpretative elements of the Fishery Heritage Display, with an immediate need to have basic interpretative signage in place for the *Chinook* by mid-summer 2020. Our longer-term plan is to have educational aids and tools available, including classroom exercises and project materials for students, but this work will require help of outside funding and may take several years.

### ***Strategy for future grants:***

Based upon feedback from the Great Lakes Fishery Trust, we have decided to focus this year's grant application on Great Lakes Stewardship education and interpretation, rather than infrastructure. We will be asking the "Trust" for help with design of classroom materials, lesson plans, and data sets that are grade-appropriate and add value for current fisheries education efforts in schools, and align with national Next Generation Science Standards and State of Michigan Science Standards. We also hope to receive funding to assist schools with the costs of field trips (buses and substitute teachers). We will also be asking for the Trust's assistance in funding audio-visual materials and tools, such as LCD displays, disk drives, and help with editing and organizing our videos, including oral interviews and the materials available from the filming of "Lake Invaders...". To have LCD displays and video available on the vessels, we need funding to extend electrical service to the vessel sites. ( Email from GLFT 12/2010: In 2019, the GLFT embarked upon a year-long effort to update its strategic plan. Through that process, the GLFT updated its funding priorities and timeline. We will now alternate between our access and stewardship categories every other year. The trust will be accepting access proposals in 2020, and we anticipate accepting stewardship proposals in 2021. As we are finishing up our strategic planning process, we will discuss the stewardship proposal timeline. Updates will be posted on the homepage of the website as necessary.)

The need to build a housing for the *RV Chinook* display remains unfunded and we are searching for sources that might be interested in funding this kind of infrastructure. The DNR's Parks and Recreation Division has a few funding opportunities that have been used for building park infrastructure such as restrooms, parking areas, splash parks... If we can make a logical connection to the Parks and Recreation Division's programs, we might improve our chances of being awarded some funding for a building, walkways, drinking water, and interpretative signage.

One such connection with the Parks and Recreation Division is Besser Museum's proximity to trail systems, some of which are administered by the DNR, such as the Northeastern State Trail (to Mackinaw) and the Hillman Trail. These, in addition to the Alpena Bi-Path, and the Maritime Heritage trails are all within a 1-mile radius of Besser Museum. In addition, we participate in the Heritage Route 23 Trail and the Fishery Heritage Trail. We are also centrally located between the Harrisville, Rockport, and Negwegon parks and recreation areas. Making logical connections to these trails and parks, representing the Besser Museum and its Fishery Heritage Project as a learning stop along these routes, will both better market the Museum to future visitors and demonstrate the educational and interpretative role we can play to potential funders.

In order to take advantage of these trail and park connections the Museum needs to work with the City of Alpena so that its Fishery Heritage plans are represented in the City's 5-year recreation plan. Therefore, our first step in this process will be to meet with the City's planning staff as soon as practically possible.

Three potential DNR funding opportunities are:

1. Recreation Passport Grant Program
2. Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Program
3. Land and Water Conservation Fund

Because of the need to partner with a local unit of government and be represented in the City's 5-Year Recreation Plan, it will take at least a year or two to qualify for one of these funding opportunities.

There is no better time to begin this collaboration than now!