

Annual Report
Fisheries Heritage ad hoc Committee
June 19, 2018

During 2016-2017, the *Chinook* Committee drafted a proposal for funding the placement and interpretation of the Chinook as an element of the Museum's Great Lakes Fishery Heritage Exhibit. In response, the Great Lakes Fishery Trust offered to fund Besser Museum to develop an overall vision for the Fishery Heritage Exhibit, wishing to see this more detailed plan of the entire display before committing further funds. Thus, the *Chinook* Committee found itself working, in addition to the *Chinook* project, this broad vision of the overall Fishery Heritage Exhibit. Recognizing this reality, the Museum Board of Trustees broadened the charge and changed the name to the 'Fishery Heritage ad hoc Committee' (the *Katherine V* ad hoc Committee designation remains unchanged). The committee membership consists of the following:

Tuffy Cross, DNR, retired

Ron Meneghel, Alpena Public Library

Suzanne Stone, DNR

Brandon Schroeder, Michigan Sea Grant

Mike Ableidinger

Jim Johnson, DNR retired, Chair

Dan Stevens

Mary Jo Beck

Chris Witulski, Museum Director

Tracy Page, DNR Aquatic Ed. Coord.

The committee met formally four times during the period July, 2017-June 2018. At a meeting of August 7, 2017, the committee reviewed the response to Besser's request for proposals for the \$10,000 conceptual planning project funded by the GLFT. We found there was only one bidder, Good Design Group, LLC, and reviewed the Good Design proposal. The committee was quite satisfied with the proposal and decided to award the bid to Good Design. The remainder of the meeting was focused upon developing the "story" the Fishery Heritage Exhibit will tell – this story would be the basis for the Good Design artistic renderings and concept description. A meeting on August 27 was devoted to outlining the story/concept plan narrative. Johnson, Schroeder, and Witulski used that outline to draft the story narrative over the next few months. Good Design visited Besser Museum in October, when the committee again convened, discussed our "story" with Good Design staff, and learned a good deal from Good Design based on their experience with the design of other museum displays. In February, the full committee was convened again to go over the narrative and draft renderings from Good Design. We chose those

elements of our draft narrative we wished Good Design to focus upon in its final Concept Plan and commented on the drawings. The draft rendering and concept plan from Good Design were viewed by the committee as being very close to the product we were looking for. Final renderings, based on our comments from the February meeting, were received in April; these were shared electronically with the full committee and excepted with minor revisions. Good Design was paid in full for its work (\$9000 from the GLFT and \$1000 from Museum operating funds, the latter to be reimbursed by GLFT upon its receiving our final report).

Brandon Schroeder, Michigan Sea Grant, took the lead in appointing Agency, Educator, and Advisory panels to the Fishery Heritage Project. The primary objective of the Agency Panel is to verify the soundness of our messages regarding science and natural resources. The objective of all three panels is to identify priority educational needs and opportunities to convey messages about stewardship of the Great Lakes – how to help visitors to the Museum become resource stewards through their day-to-day behavior and volunteer activities. The Agency and Educators panels first convened in October to review the concept planning outline and confer with Good Design staff.

The survey stakes delineating the City's water-sewer easements through the Fishery Heritage Exhibit area were replaced with sunken rebar capped with survey markers so as to protect the survey positions from disturbance. No permanent structures are to be placed on this easement.

The Committee Chair in October gave a presentation of our vision for the Fishery Heritage Exhibit to the staff of the Michigan Office of the Great Lakes. In May he gave a presentation on the basics of Great Lakes fishery biology and the Museum's plans for the Great Lakes Fishery Heritage Exhibit as an educational asset to a B-WET training session for teachers engaged in the Great Lakes Stewardship Initiative organized by Brandon Schroeder.

Now that the Planning Grant project has been completed, the next step will be to use the Concept Plan and artistic renderings in applying for further grants to fund final design and buildout. The next GLFT grant application deadline is January 2019. In preparation for that grant application, the Committee will in the near future be collecting cost estimates for architecture, landscaping, the Chinook building, etc.

A selection of some of the Good Design renderings is shown below:



Besser Museum Fisheries Exhibits RENDERINGS: Museum Lower Level Render 02 



Besser Museum Fisheries Exhibits RENDERINGS: Museum Lower Level Render 06 



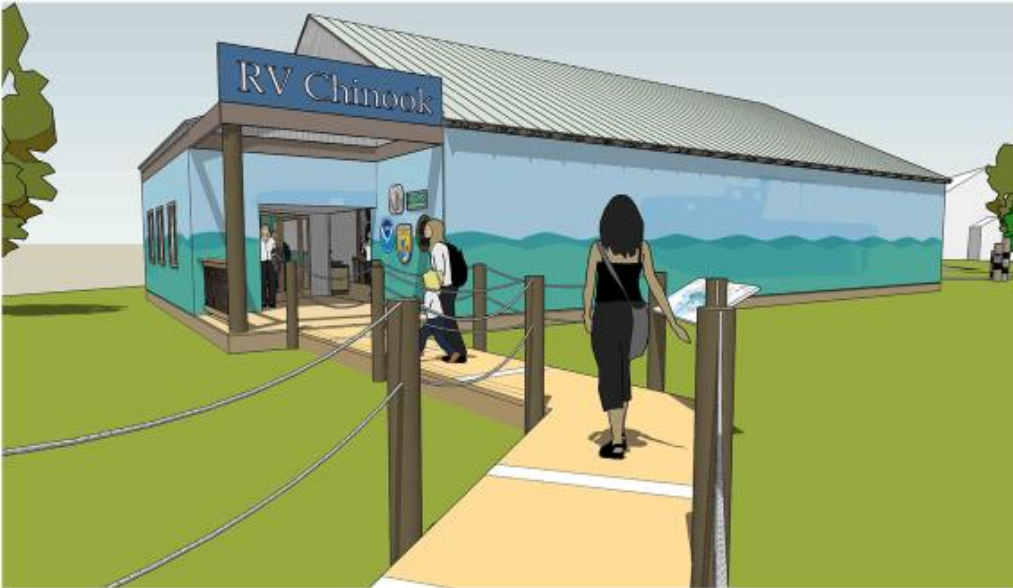
Besser Museum Fisheries Exhibits RENDERINGS: Native American Gallery Render 07 good



Besser Museum Fisheries Exhibits RENDERINGS: Fisheries Outdoor Exhibits Render 11 good



Bassett Museum Fisheries Exhibits RENDERINGS: Fisheries Outdoor Exhibits Render 15 good



Bassett Museum Fisheries Exhibits RENDERINGS: Fisheries Outdoor Exhibits Render 17 good



Bassett Museum Fisheries Exhibits RENDERINGS: Fisheries Outdoor Exhibits Render 22 good