March 20, 2020

TO: Craig Brunet, Legislative Liaison
    Executive Division

FROM: Dan Lord, Section Manager
      Grants Management Section

SUBJECT: Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Recreation Grants, Public Meeting
         Guidance for April 1st Application Due Date

At this time, the deadline to submit grant applications in our online system is April 1, 2020. However, we understand that the evolving coronavirus situation will pose challenges for some applicants. If an applicant – for reasons related to taking steps to mitigate coronavirus – is unable to meet this deadline, we will review those situations on a case-by-case basis and allow variances where justified.

In the interest of public safety, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer’s Office and the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services have provided guidance on reducing or eliminating public gatherings and actions people can take to limit the spread of coronavirus. For the most up-to-date information, visit Michigan.gov/Coronavirus or CDC.gov/Coronavirus.

As a result, the DNR Grants Management Section will allow any municipality choosing to limit or eliminate public meetings, to electronically collect public comments on grant applications, and also the passing of their local resolution for the 2020 grant cycle, and submit those through the supplemental period (typically through August). Wherever possible, municipalities are encouraged to use broadcast or online media to keep their audiences aware of project plans and opportunities to provide input on those plans.

Please note: When submitting applications, municipalities will still need to include clear information regarding advertising efforts (whether print or electronic media or posting flyers at public sites) to solicit public input on grant proposals.

As the state continues to take proactive steps to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in Michigan, we appreciate your understanding and cooperation in helping to reduce the coronavirus risk to Michigan residents.

For any questions about the Land & Water Conservation Fund, Recreation Passport or Natural Resources Trust Fund’s 2020 grant cycle, please email your appropriate grant coordinator.