
Chair

Chuck Nelson, Citizen Rep.

Vice-Chair

Natalie Elkins, Citizen Rep.

Secretary

Phil Hanses, Drain Commissioner

Members

Dwight Washington, BOC Rep.

Dave Pohl, BOC Rep.

Jan Motz, Planning Comm. Rep.

Kevin Holt, Road Comm. Rep.

James Graham, Citizen Rep.

Pat Jackson, Citizen Rep.

Gary Boersen, Citizen Rep.



Clinton County Parks and Greenspace Commission



Staff

Kyle Thornton
Parks and Greenspace
Coordinator

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MINUTES

PARKS AND GREENSPACE COMMISSION

Friday, January 6, 2023, AT 8:30 A.M.
Board of Commissioners Boardroom
100 East State St.
St. Johns, MI 48879

I. Call to Order - Declaration of Quorum

Chair Natalie Elkins declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM

Members Present:

- | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------|
| 1) Natalie Elkins | 5) Jan Motz | 9) Kevin Holt |
| 2) Chuck Nelson | 6) Phil Hanses | 10) Pat Jackson |
| 3) Dave Pohl | 7) Dwight Washington | |
| 4) James Graham | 8) Gary Boersen | |

Guests Present:

- Kurt Wolf, Clinton Conservation District
- Katie Hafner, Clinton Conservation District

Staff Present:

- Kyle Thornton
- Todd Campbell

A. Approval of January 6, 2023, Agenda

Moved by Chuck Nelson, seconded by David Pohl, to approve the January 6, 2023, meeting Agenda. Motion carried.

B. Approval of December 2, 2022, Meeting Minutes

Moved by Chuck Nelson, seconded by David Pohl, to approve the December 2, 2022, meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

II. Public Comments Non-Agenda Items

- A. Kurt Wolf from Clinton Conservation District mentioned the CCD is preparing to open the Spring Tree Sale with the goal of the sales opening by February.
- B. Katie Hafner with the Clinton Conservation District reported that CCD will be hosting two Beginner Beekeeping Workshops on January 21, 2023. She mentioned the first session is already full and the second session is almost full. K. Hafner also mentioned CCD will host the Free Forestry Consultations Workshop in May again in 2023, with the date and location still to be determined.

III. Coordinator's Report – Kyle Thornton

- A. Kyle Thornton reported both Spark Grants for Motz and Clinton Lakes have been submitted to the DNR. Score and awards are not expected until the week of January 19, 2023.
- B. K. Thornton mentioned Corey Zverina, has graduated from Michigan State University, and accepted a full-time position with Delta Township. Corey spent the past two years with Clinton County Parks and Green Space as the 2021 intern and the park manager in 2022. K. Thornton reported that the 2022 intern, Christine Adamo will be coming back in 2023 as the new Parks and Green Space's Park Manager.
- C. Coordinator Thornton reported he would be unavailable on April 7, 2023, for the PGSC Meeting scheduled and proposed moving the meeting to April 14, 2023.

Moved by Chuck Nelson, seconded by James Graham, to move the Parks and Green Space Commission Meeting originally scheduled for Friday, April 7, 2023, to a week later. The new meeting date of Friday, April 14, 2023, at 8:30am; located at the Clinton County Courthouse: Motion carried

IV. Committee Reports

- A. Water Based Recreation/Surface Water Quality – Phil Hanses & Gary Boersen
 - a. Gary Boersen opened a discussion about adding fish structure into the lakes at Motz and Clinton Lakes. K. Thornton mentioned after G. Boersen reached out about fish structure, Coordinator Thornton contacted the City of St. Johns about the availability of Christmas trees after pickup. C. Nelson mention solid construction fish structure of pipes and tubes, where placed in the water before filling the lakes.
 - b. Phil Hanses reported the Looking Glass Drainage Board log jam removal project from on the Looking Glass River from the DeWitt/Olive township line to the Livingston County Line has been completed after about seven years. The Board will be doing a helicopter inspection of the project area during the winter to look for down trees, as the snow highlights down trees on the river for maintenance. P. Hanses mentioned beaver are continuing to be an issue attempting to cause log jams on the Looking Glass River.
 - c. C. Nelson mentioned the multiple county septic tank committee is scheduled to have another meeting on January 18th.

B. Non-Motorized Facilities – Chuck Nelson & Dave Pohl

- County-wide NMF Plan / Trails Advisory Council
- FMCIS Trail
- a. David Pohl mentioned nothing to report on the resurfacing of the CIS Trail.
- b. Coordinator Thornton reported Bengal Township has reached out to PGSC for a letter of support. As Bengal Township is applying for a grant to develop a trail head on the CIS Trail, using the land behind the township hall. The Bengal Township Hall is located on M-21 and Township Hall property backs up to the CIS Trail.

Moved by Chuck Nelson, seconded by Pat Jackson, to provide Bengal Township with a letter of support for the CIS trail head development grant application: Motion carried

- c. Kevin Holt mentioned the question about the property south of Capital Equipment in Dewitt (the old roadside park) is being donated to Dewitt Township was a rumor.

C. Universal Access – Dwight Washington & Pat Jackson

- a. Nothing to report

D. Finance Committee – Natalie Elkins

- a. PGSC Chair Elkins reported 2022 is at 98.3% of the budget spent. Coordinator Thornton mentioned a few more 2022 invoices will still come into the County. At the February PGSC Meeting, a 2023 year to date report will be provided.

E. Grassland Committee – Chuck Nelson, Jim Graham & Jan Motz

- a. Chuck Nelson asked Thornton the amount of the southern half of the grassland that has successfully had removal of the cottonwoods. Coordinator Thornton mentioned that he and J. Miller about a third of the way done with the southern half of the grassland. K. Thornton also mentioned CCRESA has been on Holiday Break, so Miller has not been available to help the past month.
- b. C. Nelson mentioned he reached out to the Fish and Wildlife Service and was waiting for a call back to see about seed for the 2-acre lot near the barns.

F. Health Committee – Dwight Washington & Pat Jackson

- a. Dwight Washington reported Health Officer Liz Braddock from Mid-Michigan District Health Department (MMDHD) is excited to continue the open line of communication developed with Coordinator Thornton and the Parks and Green Space Commission. Washington mentioned MPARKS President Lori Irwin has a health background, and the MPARKS Conference will be hosted in Lansing, MI. Dwight Washington reported that MMDHD has received a contract for Social Determinants of Health and the parks might be an additional partnership with this contract. Washington opened a discussion on staff training; Thornton mentioned park staff is put thought a Ranger Danger Training by Clinton County Emergency Operations Department that includes

CPR, AED, First-Aid, Stop the Bleed and Fire Extensions. Nelson mentioned NARCAN and Epipen Pen Trainings, could be potential trainings if available.

V. Old Business

- A. Clinton Lakes Master Plan & Five-Year Plan
 - a. Coordinator Thornton mentioned the plan will expire in December of 2024.

- B. Clinton Lakes Dog Beach
 - a. Thornton mentioned as reported he worked with the Drain Commissioner's office and Gary Boersen on the language for the response to EGLE as the 652 cubic yards in front of the dog beach being excavated to be replaced with pea stone and sand mixture; instead of just pea stone.

- C. Pratt Road Property
 - a. Coordinator Thornton reported that the EGLE Permit for the dewatering of Pratt Road submitted by Central Excavating has been received by EGLE.
 - b. K. Thornton provided an overview map and a soil map of the Pratt Road Property for the PGSC members to take home, so members can start drawing possible ideas for the trail system. Thornton mentioned he will collect maps at the February meeting to gather data on possible trail systems for the Pratt Road Property. J. Motz mentioned she recently saw a skid steer drum mulcher in action and this might be useful for working the trail on Pratt Road. K. Wolf mentioned that a local vendor of CCD has a drum mulcher in the Clinton County area. Additional discussion was held about if using a drum mulcher, the need for stump removal or herbicide to treat the stumps.

VI. New Business

- A. No New Business

VII. Public Comments – Agenda Items

- A. Coordinator Thornton mentioned he will be attending the MPARKS Conference in March, which is being hosted in Lansing. Thornton additionally will be attending the Great Lakes Parks Training Institute in Indiana in February.
- B. K. Thornton reported that he will be attending a career fair at Ferris State University and possibility Central Michigan University seeking summer park rangers. N. Elkins mentioned that she has additional career fair opportunities and will provide a list to K. Thornton. Pat Jackson added CCRESA also is hosting Pave Your Path (career fair) on March 18, 2023.

VIII. Adjournment –Next Meeting:

Friday, February 3, 2023, at 8:30 am
Board of Commissioners Boardroom
100 East State St.
St. Johns, MI 48879

Moved by Pat Jackson, seconded by Kevin Holt to adjourn the meeting until Friday, February 3, 2023. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 9:20 AM.