

**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.



**Staff**  
Kyle Thornton  
Parks and Greenspace  
Coordinator

1327 E. Townsend Rd • St. Johns, MI 48879  
[www.clinton-county.org](http://www.clinton-county.org)

Phone: 989.224.5128 • Fax: 989.224-5102  
Email: [parks@clinton-county.org](mailto:parks@clinton-county.org)

# MINUTES

## PARKS AND GREENSPACE COMMISSION

Friday, February 3, 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 | 4) James Graham | 7) Dwight Washington |
| 2) Chuck Nelson   | 5) Jan Motz     | 8) Kevin Holt        |
| 3) Dave Pohl      | 6) Phil Hanses  | 9) Pat Jackson       |

#### Guests Present:

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

#### Staff Present:

- Kyle Thornton
- John Fuentes

#### A. Approval of February 3, 2023, Agenda

**Moved by Pat Jackson, seconded by David Pohl, to approve the February 3, 2023, meeting Agenda.** Motion carried.

#### B. Approval of January 6, 2023, Meeting Minutes

**Moved by Jan Motz, seconded by David Pohl, to approve the January 6, 2023, meeting Minutes.** Motion carried.

## **II. Public Comments Non-Agenda Items**

- A. John Fuentes, new Clinton County Administrator was introduced.
- B. Kurt Wolf from Clinton Conservation District mentioned the CCD is still waiting to hear back from the 319 grant for the Upper Looking Glass River. K. Wolf mentioned the CCD is planning to submit two additional grants; the first being for an urban/ag implantation grant and the second is with National Fish and Wildlife (NFWF) to replace a grant from NFWF that is expiring. The spring tree sale is coming up with orders due by March 13, 2023, and the CCD annual meeting is June 6<sup>th</sup> at AgroLiquid.

## **III. Coordinator's Report – Kyle Thornton**

- A. Kyle Thornton mentioned he has been updating the Parks and Green Space Resources page on the website, he mentioned additional information for the resource page can be emailed to Coordinator Thornton.
- B. K. Thornton reported the summer park ranger position has been posted to the Clinton County website and Handshake.
- C. Coordinator Thornton mentioned Able Eyes (the company who completed the 360-degree filming of Motz Park) has expanded the company into AbleVu. With AbleVu, current Able Eyes customers can expand services with adding photos and descriptions to the 360-degree views on a new platform.

## **IV. Committee Reports**

- A. Water Based Recreation/Surface Water Quality – Phil Hanses & Gary Boersen
  - a. Phil Hanses reported the dredging of Lake Victoria has been completed with two channels of about 3500 cubic yards of organic material removed.
  - b. P. Hanses mentioned helicopter inspection of the project area on the Looking Glass River might have to wait until spring, as timing didn't work between pilot's schedules and weather. The best time to complete the inspection is after a fresh snow without the river freezing over.
  - c. Dwight Washington opened the discussion about the property south of Park Lake in Bath Township, mentioning the Township has an interest to build a park or nature preserve, yet public access to the property remains the issue. Phil Hanses explained how Clinton County acquired property and easements to build the dike for controlling water levels of Park Lake. Additional discussion was had about a petition circulating

from a few residents requesting Clinton County Road Commission abandon a section of Webster Road east of Park Lake.

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

- County-wide NMF Plan / Trails Advisory Council
- FMCIS Trail
- a. David Pohl reports from Barry Culham, that he is in talks with a vendor for wood removal from the CIS Trail.
- b. Chuck Nelson, mentioned he talked to Bob Wilson, chair of the Michigan Trails Advisory Council and he is willing to come talk during a Parks and Green Space Commission Meeting. C. Nelson, mentioned the new State Trails Coordinator would be another good speaker at a PGSC Meeting. D. Pohl mentioned the trail authority has seen struggles with getting a quorum, due to the structure. D. Washington reported another trails speaker might be Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, with their work on bike trails in the region.

C. Universal Access – Dwight Washington & Pat Jackson

- a. Pat Jackson provided updates on the CCRESA - Clinton County Career Connections (Pave Your Own Path) and how employers can register for the career fair, resume review, and break-out sessions.

D. Finance Committee – Natalie Elkins

- a. PGSC Chair Elkins reported 2023 is tracking within budget. Coordinator Thornton provided a 2022 YTD budget report showing Parks and Green Space Department went just over budget spending 100.3% of the 2022 budget.

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

- a. Chuck Nelson mentioned the grassland committee is meeting with members of the Clinton Conservation District and Fish and Wildlife Service about seeding for the 2-acre lot near the barns. Katie Hafner from CCD provided a protentional site plan of the 2-acre lot, showing the different plots of seed and tentative schedule for land preparation and seeding.
- b. Kurt Wolf mentioned the demonstration site, provides opportunities for future on-site workshops and local land owners to walk through the sites to see the different native grasses. Jan Motz mentioned the opportunity of adding QR codes to the signs to make them interactive.
- c. Chuck Nelson reported the burn for the northern half of the grassland is planned for late April or early May (weather depending).

- d. Dwight Washington mention on the signs for the demonstration site to remember the audience and possibly make them more inclusive and to reach a broader audience by making them kid friendly signs.

F. Health Committee – Dwight Washington & Pat Jackson

- a. Pat Jackson discussed the option of Clinton County RESA hosting the Healthy Community Day at Motz Park in May of 2023. Healthy Community Day provides opportunities for RESA students to provide stations (potentially on the path around the lake) such as blood pressure screening, home security, and personal safety.
- b. Dwight Washington mentioned having RESA students come to a PGSC meeting either before or after the event to report out about the Healthy Community Day.

**V. Old Business**

A. Clinton Lakes Master Plan & Five-Year Plan

- a. Coordinator Thornton mentioned at the latest MACPRO Meeting he was able to see the Jackson County most recent Five-Year Plan and Master Plan as an example.

B. Clinton Lakes Dog Beach

- a. Thornton mentioned unfortunately Clinton County has not received a response on the Clinton Lakes Dog Beach permit from EGLE. Discussion was had about contacting local representatives. John Fuentes commented that County Administration and Parks and Green Space staff will discuss a game plan.

C. Pratt Road Property

- a. Coordinator Thornton mentioned trail maps can be submitted to him. Discussion was had about taking mini groups to the property as weather gets nicer.
- b. K. Thornton mentioned that Ben and Bernie from Central Excavating are working to submit additional documentation to EGLE for the dewatering permit. Central Excavating has started moving equipment and materials off the property. Construction on the site is not expected to start until EGLE permit has been received, to allow for Central Excavating to complete all construction during the same timeframe.

D. Master Plan – Five Year Plan (continued)

- a. Dwight Washington reported Bath Township is in the process of updating their Five-Year Plan for \$15,000. Dwight opened discussion to see if Bath Township spending the money would allow for additional grants. Additionally, options of Clinton County providing educational help to local townships and communities looking for Five-Year Plans.

## **VI. New Business**

- A. MDNR Spark Grant – Round 1
  - a. Coordinator Thornton reported an update from Clay Summers (Executive Director of Mparks) that MDNR is delayed in announcing round one of the Spark Grant award winners due to receiving over 462 applicants requesting \$285-million dollars of funds with \$15-million dollars available for round one. Which is causing a delay in round two and round three of grant applications.
  
- B. CCRESA - Clinton County Career Connections (Pave Your Own Path)
  - a. See Universal Access section in Committee Reports for discussion.

## **VII. Public Comments – Agenda Items**

- A. No additional public comments

## **VIII. Adjournment** –Next Meeting:

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

**Moved by Pat Jackson, seconded by Natalie Elkins to adjourn the meeting until Friday, March 3, 2023.** Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 AM.