

Chair
Tim Machowicz, Citizen Rep.

Vice-Chair
Chuck Nelson, Citizen Rep.

Secretary
Phil Hanses, Drain Commissioner

Members
Dwight Washington, BOC Rep.
Dave Pohl, BOC Rep.
Roni Christmas, Planning Comm. Rep.
Kevin Holt, Road Comm. Rep.
James Graham, Citizen Rep.
Pat Jackson, Citizen Rep.
Natalie Elkins, 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, March 5, 2021 AT 8:30 A.M.

JOIN VIA TELEPHONIC CONFERENCE: Dial 1.929.205.6099 ~ MEETING ID: 825 5561 8255

OR VIDEO CONFERENCE: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82555618255>

PURSUANT TO PA 228 of 2020, DUE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

I. Call to Order - Declaration of Quorum

Chair Tim Machowicz declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 8:31AM

Members Present: Tim Machowicz (Ovid Township), Chuck Nelson (Victor Township), Phil Hanses (St. Johns, MI), Dave Pohl (Dallas Township), Natalie Elkins (Victor Township), James Graham (Greenbush Township), Patricia Jackson (Olive Township), Roni Christmas (Homestead, FL), Kevin Holt (Dewitt Township), Dwight Washington (Bath Township)

Guests Present: Seth Gibson, Barry Culham

Staff Present: Kyle Thornton, Craig Longnecker, Todd Campbell

- A. Approval of March 5, 2021 Agenda
Moved by Pat Jackson, seconded by Roni Christmas, to approve the March 5, 2021 meeting Agenda. Motion carried.
- B. Approval March 5, 2021 Per Diems
Moved by Pat Jackson, seconded by Roni Christmas, to approve the March 5, 2021 meeting Per Diems. Motion carried.
- C. Approval of February 5, 2021 Meeting Minutes
Moved by Natalie Elkins, seconded by Roni Christmas, to approve the February 5, 2021 meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

II. Public Comments Non-Agenda Items

No Public Comments

III. Coordinator's Report – Kyle Thornton

- A. Kyle Thornton reports it has been a busy month, attended virtual trainings sessions from The CISMA about Invasive Species. He mentioned that he is three-quarters of the way through the class with MSU Extension. Lastly it was reported that Kyle Thornton and Kam Washburn had an interview on Fox 47 News with Lauren Shields about the Pratt Road Acquisition Property.

IV. Committee Reports

- A. Water Based Recreation – Phil mentioned he met with a member from The Friends of the Looking Glass River. Their membership is growing and becoming more active trying to remove log jams to open the river throughout Clinton County. He also mentioned things are looking promising with activity of the group, but they are looking for some additional help.

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

- County-wide NMF Plan / Trails Advisory Council
- FMCIS Trail

Barry Culham reported cleaning around the trail in the Cities of Ovid and St. Johns is starting. More to come on the spring clean-up day, expected to be around Earth Day in April. St. Johns Boy Scouts want to help with spring clean-up on the trails. Barry mentioned he is meeting with tree removal folks around Muir. Chuck Nelson mentioned The FMCIS Trail Authority should invite the DNR trail coordinator for our region to clean-up day to see the trail firsthand and need for tree removal assistance. Then Natalie Elkins mentioned conversations she has had with the forestry division at the DNR. Natalie and Barry are making arrangements to start the conversation with the forestry division and trails division.

Kyle Thornton reported he had a meeting with the Tri-County Regional Planning Commission to be brought up to speed from the pre-Covid meeting about trails between Clinton, Ingham and Eaton Counties.

Lastly on trails, Barry mentioned anyone who wants to join the Trail Authority meetings can email cistrail@gmail.com for Zoom access. Craig Longnecker and Todd Campbell mentioned meetings inside the courthouse remain limited at this time.

- C. Universal Access – Dwight Washington

Dwight Washington and Kyle Thornton mentioned that universal access has nothing new to report.

D. Finance Committee – Tim Machowicz

Tim Machowicz and Kyle Thornton reported the year-to-date budget is solid.

E. Grassland Committee – Chuck Nelson/Jim Graham

Jim Graham reported the geese are getting use out of the grassland. Chuck Nelson mentioned it is a good time to look through Grassland for woody vegetation that has developed. Kyle Thornton reported he has received communication from Project Wingspan that we have moved into phase 2 of consideration of the grant. Also, he mentioned that Seth Gibson has connected him with Chad Thelen about the 2-acre lot next to the barns. Chad is going to be preparing a quote for clean-up and re-seeding of the lot.

F. Southern County Park Search Team – Kyle Thornton reported the Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund (MNRTF) Grant for the Pratt Road Property Acquisition has one more document to upload into the DNR system and should be submitted before March 15th.

G. Health Committee – Dwight Washington

Dwight Washington reported that Ellen Link has started an online petition - Citizens Request for Action on the Climate Crisis in Clinton County. Tim Machowicz mentioned Ellen and Terry Link (former County Commissioner) have coordinated the Laingsburg Recycling since the beginning stages.

V. Old Business

A. Clinton Lakes Improvement Project

Moved by Roni Christmas, seconded by Dave Pohl, to un-table PGSC discussion of the approval the final designs. Motion carried.

- a. Kyle Thornton addressed the discussion on the kayak launch being universally accessible and developing two dog parks (one for small and one for large dogs) from the February PGSC Meeting. He mentioned the second dog park would increase the dog park budget by an additional \$15,000. Kyle reported the 2019 LWCF Grant was submitted with a walk-in Kayak Launch as one of the scope-items, not a Universal Access Kayak Launch. The cost difference between the two kayak launches is about \$15,000 for a walk-in launch and \$50,000 for a universal kayak launch. Following this the board discussed the Clinton Lakes Improvements Project and the current design with the dog park and kayak launch.

Moved by Natalie Elkins, seconded by Pat Jackson, to approve the final design for the Clinton Lakes Improvement Project. Motion carried.

B. PGSC Sub-Committee Appointments

- a. Water Based Recreation/Surface Water Quality
 - i. Phil Hanes and Chuck Nelson
- b. Non-Motorized Facilities
 - i. Chuck Nelson and Dave Pohl

- c. Universal Access
 - i. Dwight Washington and Pat Jackson
- d. Finance Committee
 - i. Tim Machowicz
- e. Grassland Committee
 - i. Chuck Nelson and Jim Graham
- f. Southern County Park Search Team
 - i. Chuck Nelson, Tim Machowicz, Phil Hanses and Dave Pohl
- g. Health Committee
 - i. Dwight Washington and Pat Jackson

C. Fish Stocking

- a. Kyle Thornton reported that after conversations with Brian Gunderman from the DNR restocking of bluegills from Lake Ovid is not an option. Brian mentioned the transplanting application from Lake Ovid would be denied. He also advised Clinton County that bluegills reproduce effectively and recommended we restock without bluegills. Kyle Thornton also mentioned he received quotes for fish surveying and would cost upward of \$10,000. Chuck Nelson and Seth Gibson recommended restocking without bluegills and suggested not surveying the fish this year. Tim Machowicz received confirmation from Tom Olson; that most of the fish caught in the lakes on the last survey were bluegills.

Moved by Dave Pohl, seconded by Chuck Nelson, to approve the restocking of fish as presented. Motion carried.

VI. New Business

A. Summer Park Rangers

- a. Kyle Thornton reported both internship and ranger applications have started to be received. Plus, as of right now (weather permitting) the plan is for summer staff to start May 10th and open the parks May 17th.

B. Portuguese Water Dogs – Water Trails

- a. Elaine Suter from the Portuguese Water Dog Club of America – Request to move the water competition from 2021 to 2022. Due to COVID-19, the Portuguese Water Dog Club of America was not able to host the 2020 events and has pushed everything back a year. The new dates would be August 18,19,20,21 of 2022 for use of Big Clinton Lake for the event.

Moved by Kevin Holt, seconded by Dwight Washington, to approve The Portuguese Water Dog Club of America to move the scheduled event in Clinton Lakes County Park and use of Big Clinton Lakes from 2021 to 2022. The dates the Club would be using Clinton Lakes County Park and Big Clinton Lake includes August 18, 19, 20, 21 of 2022. Motion carried.

C. Water Surface Quality – Chuck Nelson and Seth Gibson

- a. Chuck Nelson started a lengthy discussion about water surface quality. Highlights that Chuck mentioned included, Phil Hanses report to Victor Township about water quality of Lake Victoria; looking holistic solutions to maintain and improve; including

maintaining of Looking Glass River and Maple River; importance of water-based recreation.

- b. Seth Gibson of Clinton Conservation District followed explaining the study completed in 2014 concerning E. coli. Followed with the pushback from the 2017 release of data. Since 2017 a smaller sub-committee developed focusing on public education; exploring funding for repairs of septic tanks; USDA announced plans to start a grant opportunity/program for septic repairs.
- c. Kevin Holt mentioned concerns as things are not always black and white, but sometimes clear as mud. Seth agreed and understood Kevin's points and said the committee is looking into the grey area; instead of everything just being "black and white". Kevin agreed that surface water quality is important, as we all want to drink clean water.
- d. Following this discussion, we talked about human sewage (with concerns of old waste runs that are straight pipes into fields) being one example of E. coli; along with lawn fertilizers, agriculture run off and education for the public.
- e. Lastly, a discussion was had on the regulations between Clinton County and Shiawassee County compared with septic system maintenance and time of seller transfer inspections.

VII. Public Comments – Agenda Items

- D. No public comments.

VIII. Adjournment –Next Meeting:

Friday, April 2, 2021 at 8:30 am
Zoom

Moved by Chuck Nelson, seconded by Dave Pohl to adjourn the meeting until Friday, April 2, 2021. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 10:23AM