

**Chair**  
Tim Machowicz, Citizen Rep.

**Vice-Chair**  
Chuck Nelson, Citizen Rep.

**Secretary**  
Phil Hanes, 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.



**Staff**  
Kyle Thornton  
Parks and Greenspace  
Coordinator

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# MINUTES

## PARKS AND GREENSPACE COMMISSION

Friday, June 4, 2021 AT 8:30 A.M.

**Motz County Park**  
**4630 N. Dewitt Rd., St. Johns, MI 48879**

### I. Call to Order - Declaration of Quorum

Chair Tim Machowicz declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 8:33AM

Members Present: Tim Machowicz, Chuck Nelson, Phil Hanes, James Graham, Patricia Jackson, Kevin Holt, Natalie Elkins, Dave Pohl, Roni Christmas, Dwight Washington

Guests Present: Sheila Moore, Kelcie Sweeney

Staff Present: Kyle Thornton, Todd Campbell, Corey Zverina, Gillian Chirillo

- A. Approval of June 4, 2021, Agenda  
**Moved by Pat Jackson, seconded by Dave Pohl, to approve the June 4, 2021, meeting Agenda.** Motion carried.
- B. Approval June 4, 2021, Per Diems  
**Moved by Roni Christmas, seconded by Natalie Elkins, to approve the June 4, 2021, meeting Per Diems.** Motion carried.
- C. Approval of May 7, 2021, Meeting Minutes  
**Moved by Phil Hanes, seconded by Pat Jackson, to approve the May 7, 2021, meeting Minutes.** Motion carried.

### II. Public Comments Non-Agenda Items

Kelcie Sweeney mentioned the Clinton Conservation District will host their annual meeting/open house at Motz County Park on June 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2021, and some of the events being planned. Kelcie also reported they have received a grant to help the Friends of the Looking Glass with river clean-up (clean-up on July 18<sup>th</sup>). Kelcie announced on July 20<sup>th</sup> the CCD will be hosting Clinton, Montcalm and Gratiot State of Our Waters Webinar in Mid-Michigan as an online (zoom) format, registration is currently available.

Shelia Moore from the Mid-Michigan District Health Department mentioned the grant they received from EGLE to complete surface water quality testing will run weekly for 10-12 weeks. The beaches selected in Clinton County for this year include Motz Park, Lake Ovid (Sleepy Hollow State Park) and Park Lake. MMDHD is also completing beach monitoring in Gratiot and Montcalm counties. The program will start the week of June 7, 2021. The program will be reported through - <https://www.egle.state.mi.us/beach/> - [Michigan BeachGuard System - Home \(state.mi.us\)](#).

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

- A.** Kyle Thornton reported the parks are open and up and running. All six staffed members completed a full day of ranger danger training offer by the Clinton County Emergency Operations Director Tom Helms. He briefly introduced staff members present Corey Zverina and Gillian Chirillo. Kyle then reported about the newly installed boot brush station provided by CISMA that he worked on with Corey. Both parks (Clinton Lakes and Motz) have a boot brush station to help prevent the spread of invasives species and diseases. CISMA has also contacted Clinton County about completing aquatic invasives species in the lakes. Next, he reported that he has been working with staff to install the Storywalk around the trail at Motz Park with little success up to this point. Lastly, he reported to the board about some concerns raised about dogs on Big Clinton Lakes beach. With the concerns he has worked with the Administration team to put a strategic plan together for implementing “No Dogs on Big Clinton Beach, effective January 1, 2022”. Guest will be advised to use the new dog beach on Little Clinton Lakes once the Clinton Lakes Improvement Project is complete.
- B.** Tim Machowicz asked for a status report of what is currently completed for water testing. Kyle explained that during season he completes three surface water quality test per month with EGLE. As an example, two samples on Motz and one on Clinton Lakes and then rotates the following month and completes one on Motz and two at Clinton Lakes. Drinking water testing is also completed monthly through the City of St. Johns.

### **IV. Committee Reports**

- A.** Water Based Recreation – Phil Hanses & Chuck Nelson
  - a. Phil Hanses reported that he had a meeting with Eagle Township, the contractor, and landowners to discuss the removal of the log jam downstream from Tallman Road on the Looking Glass River.
  - b. Chuck Nelson reminded the board about the State of Our Waters Webinar in Mid-Michigan coming up in July.

- c. Kelcie Sweeney reported Friends of the Maple River will be meeting on June 5<sup>th</sup> at the Elsie Dam for river cleanup.
- B. Non-Motorized Facilities – Chuck Nelson & Dave Pohl
- County-wide NMF Plan / Trails Advisory Council
  - FMCIS Trail
- a. Tim reported Allen Martin has been assisting Barry with checking and monitoring the Clinton County part of the CIS trail.
  - b. Kelcie mentioned that she talked to Barry last week and CISMA’s Strike Team is going to be working on treating some areas of Knotweed and Phragmites on the trail.
- C. Universal Access – Dwight Washington & Pat Jackson
- a. Dwight mentioned he noticed over the pandemic that Clinton Area Transit has been a great resource to get people to and from parks. Kyle agreed and said he has seen the busses in the Motz parking lot.
- D. Finance Committee – Tim Machowicz
- a. Natalie Elkins mentioned how it is great to see a full staff at the parks this summer with businesses struggling to keep employees. Kyle Thornton reported he is meeting with Administration about the 2022 budget next week. Tim asked how the 2022 budget is in comparison to the 2021 and Kyle reported the budgets are similar with a few minor increases of some line items.
- E. Grassland Committee – Chuck Nelson & Jim Graham
- a. Chuck Nelson and Jim Graham noticed in the grassland some cottonwood trees are starting to pop-up. With the increase in cottonwood in the grassland, he suggested a plan be put in place to snip and treat the cottonwoods before they get large.
  - b. Kyle reported that Chad Thelen has mowed the 2-acre lot next to the barns as we are partner with Chad and Pheasants Forever on this area.
- F. Southern County Park Search Team – Chuck Nelson, Tim Machowicz, Phil Hanes, and Dave Pohl
- a. Kyle Thornton will prepare dates to take small groups of the board to the Pratt Road Property to visit the site.
  - b. Tim started a discussion about options with area Clinton County leaders and the current and future County Parks. The Clinton County Economic Alliance was mentioned and partnership opportunities throughout Clinton County. As we look at the future of Clinton County being a great place to live, work, play and grow.
- G. Health Committee – Dwight Washington & Pat Jackson

- a. Dwight Washington mentioned that he was excited to see Sheila from the MMDHD at the PGSC meeting. He also reported that he will be attending and presenting at the National Association for Local Public Health in Grand Rapids in August.

## **V. Old Business**

### **A. Clinton Lakes Improvements**

- a. Kyle Thornton reported the bid opening meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2021.

### **B. Larry Martin Pavilion**

- a. Kyle reported with the Clinton County Board of Commissioners voted to open the Larry Martin Pavilion and playground at Motz County Park. With this, almost every weekend through Labor Day is completely booked.
- b. Kyle Thornton also reported once Clinton County switches to Civic Rec System, reservations and payment will be online and with credit card only. Waste Management and Parks and Greenspace Department will no longer be taking cash or check to complete payments and reservations.

### **C. Fish Stocking**

- a. Kyle Thornton reported the fish have been stocked in all three lakes. He also mentioned that we are still scheduled to receive additional fish in the fall to complete the stocking for the year.

## **VI. New Business**

### **A. Corey Zverina Introduction**

- a. Corey mentioned she is a junior at Michigan State University and is excited to participate on projects around the park such as the boot brush station.

### **B. Gillian Chirillo Introduction**

- a. Gillian mentioned she is a recent graduate of Michigan State University is looking forward to project such as the Grassland and the Pratt Road Property.

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

- A. Kevin Holt mentioned the Road Commission is working with Bingham Township on Dewitt Road to change the road from local to primary. He said this will help with the increased traffic going to and from the Motz and Clinton Lakes County Parks.

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

Friday, July 9, 2021, at 8:30 am  
Motz County Park

**Moved by Natalie Elkins, seconded by Roni Christmas to adjourn the meeting until Friday, July 9, 2021. Motion carried.**

Meeting adjourned at 10:12AM