

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.



Staff
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MINUTES

PARKS AND GREENSPACE COMMISSION

Friday, July 9, 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 8:34AM

Members Present: Tim Machowicz, Chuck Nelson, Phil Hanses, James Graham, Kevin Holt, Natalie Elkins, Roni Christmas, Dwight Washington

Guests Present: Sheila Moore, Kelcie Sweeney, Joe Wright

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

- A. Approval of July 9, 2021, Agenda
Moved by Roni Christmas, seconded by Natalie Elkins, to approve the July 9, 2021, meeting Agenda. Motion carried.
- B. Approval July 9, 2021, Per Diems
Moved by Roni Christmas, seconded by Dwight Washington, to approve the July 9, 2021, meeting Per Diems. Motion carried.
- C. Approval of June 4, 2021, Meeting Minutes
Moved by Chuck Nelson, seconded by Roni Christmas, to approve the June 4, 2021, meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

II. Public Comments Non-Agenda Items

Sheila Moore from the Mid-Michigan District Health Department reported they continue to complete water quality testing each week. Motz County Park had a 30-day average of 11.3 for Geometric Mean (per Sheila under 150 is a good number). The program will be reported through - <https://www.egle.state.mi.us/beach/> - Michigan BeachGuard System - Home (state.mi.us). Following this report a discussion was had about the Park Lake and Lake Victoria surface water quality testing and results.

Kelcie Sweeney mentioned the Clinton Conservation District reported the Friends of Looking Glass River and CCD are providing a river clean-up at Riverside Park on July 18th. Sheila Moore will be present to provide information a surface water quality. Kelcie also reminded that on June 20th they are hosting the Mid-Michigan State of Our Waters Webinar.

V. Old Business (moved up Old Business in the agenda, to be after Public Comments as approved by PGSC)

Moved by Roni Christmas, seconded by Natalie Elkins, to move Old Business after Public Comment on the July 9, 2021 Agenda. Motion carried.

A. Clinton Lakes Improvements

- a. Kyle Thornton introduced Joe Wright from Spicer Group and they discussed the Clinton Lakes Improvement Project coming in over budget with some “post-covid prices”. A lengthy discussion was had with concerns on the project being over budget and only having a single contractor submit a bid. Following the discussion, the PGSC asked County Staff to work with Spicer Group to put together alternative options on the project for the Board of Commissioners.

Moved by Chuck Nelson, seconded by Roni Christmas, to authorize Clinton County Staff provide three options to the Board of Commissioners for the final approval; include Option One – Full Bid as presented; Option Two – Grant Scope without paving road; Option Three – Grant Scope without paving east parking lot. Motion carried.

III. Coordinator’s Report – Kyle Thornton

- A.** Kyle Thornton thanked Joe Wright for coming to the Parks and Greenspace Commission Meeting. Then he reported Corey Zverina went to the CISMA Meeting with him on July 8th at the Ingham Conservation District. Following Gillian Chirillo mentioned the Storywalk was installed, and the first stories in place. Corey Zverina reported they are still working on mile markers around the trails and the boot brush station on Clinton Lakes has been landscaped and the Motz boot brush station will be completed later today. Lastly, Kyle wanted to give a thank you to the park staff of Gillian Chirillo, Corey Zverina, Nathan Spitzley, Owain Braddock, Christine Adamo and Jonathon Helms for all the great work they are doing at the parks this summer.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Water Based Recreation – Phil Hanses & Chuck Nelson

- a. Phil Hanses reported the log jam in Eagle Township that was discussed at the last PGSC meeting was removed after over eight hours of work on the Looking Glass River. He noted that it was a massive log jam that has been there for years, and landowners are satisfied as they see the effects.
- b. Chuck Nelson mentioned the upcoming webinar - State of Our Waters in Mid-Michigan.

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

- County-wide NMF Plan / Trails Advisory Council
 - FMCIS Trail
- a. Tim Machowicz reported he talked to Barry, and they completed some tree clearing after the last set of storms. Kyle mentioned that Allen Martin took a crew of the Martin Family to clear trees in part of Clinton County CIS trail after some of the storms.

C. Universal Access – Dwight Washington & Pat Jackson

- a. Nothing to report

D. Finance Committee – Tim Machowicz

- a. Tim Machowicz reported the budget looks as expected at this point in the year. Kyle mentioned now halfway through the year 37.7% of the budget has been spent. Tim asked about overtime on the budget, Kyle reported that yes, some rangers have worked longer and received some overtime hours.

E. Grassland Committee – Chuck Nelson & Jim Graham

- a. Chuck Nelson and Jim Graham noticed in the grassland some thistles are starting to grow heavy in the cool season grass and wondered about options to mow. Kelcie Sweeney said it's too late to mow, but she's working with Kurt Wolf to get them treated with Milestone Herbicide Spray. The goal is to spray these in the fall or early spring.
- b. Kyle Thornton reported that Kurt Wolf did get the food plot planted this week.
- c. Chuck Nelson also noticed the north side of the grassland is not showing the cottonwood trees and is the side that was mowed a few years ago.

F. Southern County Park Search Team – Chuck Nelson, Tim Machowicz, Phil Hanses, and Dave Pohl

- a. Nothing to report, except tours will be discussed in new business.

G. Health Committee – Dwight Washington & Pat Jackson

- a. Dwight Washington mentioned July 24th there will be a walk/stretch event at Sleepy Hollow State Park to encourage people to get out in the park and exercise.

V. Old Business

B. Clinton Lakes Improvements

- a. **Moved by Roni Christmas, seconded by Natalie Elkins, to move Old Business after Public Comment on the July 9, 2021 Agenda.** Motion carried.

VI. New Business

A. Wood Road Property

- a. Kyle Thornton presented the maps provided by Doug Riley and The Community Development Department of a property on Wood Road. The property is about 100 acres that includes both a lake and some woods. The maps included both a boundary map and soil map. A discussion followed about some possibilities of this ground if developed into a park, such as the muck soils, the grading of the shoreline and access to a large population. This was followed by a discussion looking towards the future and if we keep growing more parks this also means the operations and maintenance expenditures of The Parks and Greenspace Department and Clinton County will keep increasing.

B. Property Tours

- a. Todd Campbell mentioned Kyle is providing opportunities for the Parks and Greenspace Commission to visit the properties on both Pratt and Wood Road. Kyle Thornton followed by passing around the sign-up sheet with multiple days available to the board members to schedule a time to visit these properties.

C. Exotic Plant Watch Monitoring

- a. Kyle Thornton mentioned we are partnering with CISMA with a new program to monitor lakes once a year for invasive species. July 22-23 is the scheduled date for plant watch monitoring if we can obtain of volunteers enough to complete the program.

D. Waterfowl Hunt

- a. Kyle Thornton mentioned the options of fall waterfowl hunt needs to be explored with the Clinton Lakes Improvement Project scheduled to start after Labor Day. Options were discussed such as offering a limited hunt, changing to an evening or weekend hunt, and keeping hunters out of the construction zone.

VII. Public Comments – Agenda Items

- A. Kelcie Sweeney mentioned the CISMA is planning on doing some treatments along the CIS Trail for Japanese Knotweed and Phragmites. They are in the process of putting these projects out for bid. Kelcie also mentioned the CCD is willing to partner with Clinton County on putting future grants together.

VIII. Adjournment –Next Meeting:
Friday, August 6, 2021, at 8:30 am
Motz County Park

Moved by Chuck Nelson, seconded by Roni Christmas to adjourn the meeting until Friday, August 6, 2021. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 10:23AM