

**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**  
Kyle Thornton  
Parks and Greenspace  
Coordinator

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# MINUTES

## PARKS AND GREENSPACE COMMISSION

Friday, September 10, 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 Hanses, James Graham, Natalie Elkins, Dwight Washington, Pat Jackson, Dave Pohl, Roni Christmas

Guests Present: Kelcie Sweeney, Jill Detwiler, Sheila Moore

Staff Present: Kyle Thornton, Todd Campbell, Corey Zverina

- A. Approval of September 10, 2021, Agenda  
**Moved by Roni Christmas, seconded by Dave Pohl, to approve the September 10, 2021, meeting Agenda.** Motion carried.
- B. Approval September 10, 2021, Per Diems  
**Moved by Pat Jackson, seconded by Dave Pohl, to approve the September 10, 2021, meeting Per Diems.** Motion carried.
- C. Approval of August 6, 2021, Meeting Minutes  
**Moved by Natalie Elkins, seconded by Pat Jackson, to approve the August 6, 2021, meeting Minutes.** Motion carried.

## II. Public Comments Non-Agenda Items

Jill Detwiler introduced herself to the PGSC Board as the new Water Resources Coordinator with the Clinton Conservation District.

Sheila Moore reported the surface water quality testing with the Health Department is now complete for the summer. MMDHD is planning to complete the same lakes in Clinton, Gratiot, and Montcalm Counties with the possibilities of adding a few additional lakes in 2022. Sheila also reported she has been working with the CCD on a separate project with Lake Victoria along with an education/outreach program for lake residents and pumping septic tanks.

Kelcie Sweeney reported the Clinton Conservation District is hosting their Native Plant Sale at the Motz Park Garage on October 1<sup>st</sup>. CCD is working with Rose Lake to host a woody invasive workshop on October 7<sup>th</sup> from 6-7:30pm. Attendees will be able to build a dauber for applying pesticides.

## III. Coordinator's Report – Kyle Thornton

- A. Kyle Thornton reported most of the staff has returned to school, yet Corey Zverina has agreed to stay this fall to work on some project such as creating an online park survey. He also mentioned they plan to replace some picnic table tops this fall. Additionally, Kyle reported the clean-outs that have raised above the cement around the bathhouse are scheduled to be fixed on September 16<sup>th</sup>. Lastly, he mentioned that after September 19<sup>th</sup> the bathhouse at Motz Park will start to get winterized.

## IV. Committee Reports

- A. Water Based Recreation – Phil Hanses & Chuck Nelson
  - a. Phil Hanses reported a contractor has started clearing the Looking Glass River again upstream of Chandler Road. He also had the opportunity to explore the Looking Glass River from a boat as he entered the river at Babcock Landing and floated upstream. Phil has heard from kayakers that they have been able to enter the Looking Glass River in Shiawassee County at M-52 and been able to float all the way to Babcock Landing in Clinton County. Phil announced the upcoming Friends of the Maple River meeting in September.
- B. Non-Motorized Facilities – Chuck Nelson & Dave Pohl
  - County-wide NMF Plan / Trails Advisory Council
  - FMCIS Trail
  - a. Tim Machowicz reported he was in contact with Barry about some fallen trees on the CIS Trail. Tim has removed those trees to clear the trail after the storms. Kyle

Thornton reported he has put together a social media posting and showed the example of the Fowler Depot on the CIS Trail. He gave thanks to Natalie Elkins for coming up with the idea and will start spotlighting different recreation/greenspace areas in Clinton County each month.

C. Universal Access – Dwight Washington & Pat Jackson

- a. Dwight Washington was reminded how accessible the parks are as he completed the DALMAC in his ride starting at MSU going past AgroLiquid.

D. Finance Committee – Tim Machowicz

- a. Kyle Thornton reported past September 19<sup>th</sup> PGSC staff will be back down to himself and Corey Zverina.

E. Grassland Committee – Chuck Nelson & Jim Graham

- a. Chuck Nelson mentioned the cottonwood trees in the grassland need treated. Per the request of Tim Machowicz at the August PGSC Meeting, Kyle Thornton has investigated some options for treating and removing the cottonwoods in the grassland. Kyle reported he is working with Kurt Wolf to obtain a grant to help treat and remove the cottonwoods in the grassland has an option. He has also talked to Chad Thelen about options with groups such as Pheasants Forever. Additional conversations took place with Kelcie Sweeney to see if he should complete brush hogging the cottonwoods yet this fall. Tim asked how much the project is expected to cost and Kyle reported the Chad Thelen was estimating at least \$2,000 to complete the treatment and removal of the cottonwoods in the grassland. During conversations Tim and Chuck suggested maybe a hands-on dauber workshop in the spring of 2022 for treatment and removal of the cottonwoods.

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

- a. Dave Pohl reported that the Board of Commissioners appreciated the comments provided by Tim Machowicz and Chuck Nelson on the Wood Road property. This followed a discussion about the mission and future of the Clinton County Park systems. Kyle Thornton reported no score has been received yet from the DNR on the Pratt Road property for the Trust Fund Grant. He also mentioned before Gillian Chirillo left for Utah, she completed a 2021 Survey of Forested Ecosystems of the Pratt Road Property. The survey will be provided to the PGSC Board at a later meeting. Kyle also reported per request of the Board of Commissioners he will be completing a water sample of the Wood Road Property. Lastly, he has heard from Dewitt Charter Township there is a non-profit looking into the options of purchasing the Wood Road property.

G. Health Committee – Dwight Washington & Pat Jackson

- a. Nothing to report.

## **V. Old Business**

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

- a. Kyle Thornton reported construction has started on the Clinton Lakes Improvements Project.

### **B. Exotic Plant Watch Monitoring**

- a. Kyle Thornton thanked the Clinton Conservation District and CISMA for completing the lake monitoring. They reported no invasive species in the three Clinton County Park lakes.

## **VI. New Business**

### **A. October PGSC Meeting**

- a. PGSC determined to keep meeting at Motz Park's Larry Martin Pavilion for the October 1<sup>st</sup> meeting.

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

- A. Kelcie Sweeney mentioned the grassland should receive a fall burn in 2022 or 2023. This could be split into quadrants or thirds.

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

Friday, October 1, 2021, at 8:30 am  
Motz County Park

**Moved by Dave Pohl, seconded by Roni Christmas to adjourn the meeting until Friday, October 1, 2021.** Motion carried.  
Meeting adjourned at 9:37AM