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**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, Pat Jackson and

Natalie Elkins, Citizen Rep.



# Clinton County Parks and Greenspace Commission

**Clinton County**  
Parks and  
Green Space

**Staff**

Kyle Thornton  
Parks and Greenspace  
Coordinator

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100 E. State Street, Suite 1500 • St. Johns, MI 48879  
www.clinton-county.org

Phone: 989.224.5128 • Fax: 989.224-5102  
Email: parks@clinton-county.org

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## MINUTES

Friday, May 1, 2020 (8:30 am)

**VIA TELEPHONIC CONFERENCE**

**Dial 1-253-215-6833 US**

**ZOOM Meeting ID: 991 1885 0035**

**PER STATE EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 2020-15 CONCERNING OMA AND COVID-19**

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

Chair Tim Machowicz declared a quorum present and called the meeting to order at 8:37AM

Members Present: Tim Machowicz, Chuck Nelson, Phil Hanes, Dwight Washington, Dave Pohl, Kevin Holt, Pat Jackson, Natalie Elkins

Guests Present: Barry Culham, Seth Gibson

Staff Present: Kyle Thornton and Jerry Jaloszynski

A. Approval of May 1, 2020 Agenda

**Moved by Chuck Nelson, seconded by Natalie Elkins, to approve the May 1, 2020 meeting Agenda.** Motion carried.

B. Approval May 1, 2020 Per Diems

**Moved by Dave Pohl, seconded by Natalie Elkins, to approve the May 1, 2020 meeting Per Diems.** Motion carried.

C. Approval of March 6, 2020 Meeting Minutes

**Moved by Chuck Nelson, seconded by Phil Hanes, to approve the March 6, 2020 meeting Minutes.** Motion carried.

### II. Public Comments Non-Agenda Items

Seth Gibson from the Clinton Conservation District reported with the recent Executive Orders from the Governor of Michigan and the freezing of DNR Grants Funds the CCD is unsure what this means for the project. The CCD has warm season grass seed available to

donate to the parks staff for the grassland at the park. Chuck mentioned that maybe between Pheasants Forever and the County Maintenance Department, maybe we could get the two acer plot near the road ready for planting the seed. Kyle said he would check with Rob Wooten from the Maintenance Department to see possibilities. Seth mentioned the seed is currently stored at Rose Lake and work on getting it to St. Johns.

Seth also reported the annual tree sale from the CCD was canceled due to COVID-19. Tim mentioned that Ingham County Conservation District was still offering the tree sale if anyone is still interested in getting some trees.

Seth reported that Zack Pitman the new Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area Coordinator with the Ingham Conservation District has been temporarily laid-off. Zack hopes to return to the ICD once post COVID-19 and Stay Home, Stay Safe Executive Orders allow.

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

- A. Kyle reported that Clinton County is still under State of Emergency and the Courthouse is still under stay home "shut down" status. The county has limited staff working in the courthouse and has a goal to start slowly opening up as soon as May 18<sup>th</sup>.
- B. Kyle has been paired with DNR Grant Coordinator Lindsay Ross in the MPARKS Mentor Program.

### **IV. Committee Reports**

#### **A. Water Based Recreation – Phil Hanses**

Phil reported a stop log was removed to help with the Park Lake flooding. The goal is to reposition the stop log back in the dam soon, he is working with the County Road Commission to see if the culvert under Park Lake Road might need replaced.

Chuck has produced a show that is being aired on PBS called No Silver Bullet (<https://youtu.be/ojxShR3pniU>), which features Sleepy Hollow State Park and both Clinton Lakes and Motz Parks.

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

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

Chair Barry Culham reported he has been working with the Drain Commission to repair a few culverts on the trails (once Stay Home, Stay Safe Executive Orders allow). One of the culverts is in St. Johns and the other is located in Fowler. St. Johns DPW has cleaned some signs that were vandalized with graffiti. This process is removing some of the reflective paint off the signs, so signs will have to be replaced. Barry reported the DNR has not allowed mowing along the trail yet.

C. Universal Access – Dwight Washington

Dwight reported signs have been placed on the Northern Tier Trail to remind people of social distancing.

D. Finance Committee – Tim Machowicz

Kyle mentioned due to COVID-19 all capital improvements are temporarily stopped and the seasonal park staff has not been able to start working yet. It was reported that budget cuts could be a possibility.

E. Grassland Committee – Chuck Nelson/Jim Graham

Chuck reported it has been a great spring for growing and we are seeing the rewards of a successful 2019 burn on the grasslands.

F. Southern County Park Search Team

Dave mentioned nothing new to report.

G. Health Committee – Dwight Washington

Dwight mentioned nothing to report at this time.

**V. Old Business**

A. L&WCF Grant

Jerry reported the letter of historical preservations from the State's Historical Office (SHPO) has been received and submitted with the grant. The DNR has acknowledged everything has been received and submitted to the National Parks Service. The county may not hear from the National Parks Service until late fall or spring 2021.

B. MNRF Acquisition Grant

Jerry mentioned the grant has been submitted and found to be administrative complete. Estimated we will receive point value mid-September.

C. Able Eyes

Kyle has reported that contact was signed sent back to Meegan Winters at Able Eyes. We have unfortunately had to postpone the 360 degree filming Motz Park twice due to the Stay Home, Stay Safe Executive Order. Meegan is planning on filming the Parks as soon as possible once COVID-19 allows.

**VI. New Business**

A. COVID-19 – Working from home

Kyle mentioned it is interesting to learn a new position while working from his dining room table. He has been attending multiple hosted by MPARKS that include Aquatic's, MPARKS New Professionals, Directors/Coordinators and Trails. Kyle reported that he has taken this time to review 2019 PGSC Minutes and the 2020 – 2024 Master Plan and proposals from Spicer Group regarding potential Clinton Lake Park Projects. Kyle reported that as the

weather is getting nice trail activity has increased, he has been going to the park a few times a week to empty trash bins and clean the trails. He was happy to report that the park has not seen any vandalism or destruction of property. Each time that he has been to the parks he has disinfected benches and trash and recycling bins. It was also mentioned that the bathrooms and vaulted toilets are still closed at this time following guidance from the DNR and MPARKS.

**B. COVID-19 – Park Operations Summer 2020**

Kyle reported that the County is still in a wait and see to determine the best practice for opening the parks. At this time he is unsure as to when and/or if the parks will fully open for the summer of 2020. He reported that the park rangers orientation scheduled for May 5-6<sup>th</sup> has been postponed. The trails have remained open to allow for outside recreation activities and are seeing an increase in activity. Kyle mentioned the Larry Martin Pavilion at Motz Park has received three cancelations of reservations already. He was happy to report that mowing has started at the parks and the park is prepared to open if social distancing allows. Though the MPARKS meetings Kyle to note that some facilities have already decided not to open for the summer of 2020, as a major question of how to social distance in pools and beaches.

**C. Budget 2021**

Kyle reported that he has started to prepare the 2021 Parks and Greenspace budget and mentioned if any board members have input or suggestions to please send to him by the third week in May. He also pointed out that the 2021 budget could have some unknowns, if there are budget cuts.

**VII. Public Comments – Agenda Items**

Barry reported the trail though St. Johns will be sealed and crack sealed this summer.

Natalie mentioned she was part of a team to put together an educational resource ([www.michigan.gov/NatureAtHome](http://www.michigan.gov/NatureAtHome)) on the DNR website for nature at home. Kyle is going to work on getting this posted to the county website.

**VIII. Adjournment** –Next Meeting: Friday, June 5, 2020 at 8:30 am

Board of Commissioners Room  
Clinton County Courthouse  
100 E. State Street, St. Johns, MI 48879

**Moved by Natalie Elkins, seconded by Dave Pohl to adjourn the meeting until Friday, June 5, 2020.** Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:31AM