

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

1327 E. Townsend Rd • St. Johns, MI 48879
www.clinton-county.org

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

MINUTES

PARKS AND GREENSPACE COMMISSION

Friday, May 6, 2022, AT 8:30 A.M.
Clinton County Courthouse
Board of Commissioners Boardroom
100 E. State Steet, 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 8:32 AM

Members Present: Tim Machowicz, Chuck Nelson, Dave Pohl, James Graham, Natalie Elkins, Pat Jackson, Kevin Holt, Roni Christmas, Phil Hanses

Guests Present: Jill Detwiler-Clinton County Conservation District, Christine Adamo- Clinton County PGS Intern, Jared Harmon- Mid-Michigan Land Conservancy, Katie Hafner- Clinton County Conservation District

Staff Present: Todd Campbell, Kyle Thornton

- A. Approval of May 6, 2022, Agenda
Moved by Roni Christmas, seconded by David Pohl, to approve the May 6, 2022, meeting Agenda. Motion carried.
- B. Approval May 6, 2022, Per Diems
Moved by Pat Jackson, seconded by Kevin Holt, to approve the May 6, 2022, meeting Per Diems. Motion carried.
- C. Approval of April 1, 2022, Meeting Minutes
Moved by Dwight Washington, seconded by Kevin Holt, to approve the April 1, 2022, meeting Minutes. Motion carried.

II. Public Comments Non-Agenda Items

- A. Jill Detwiler from the Clinton County Conservation District reported the tentative date and location of annual meeting (June 27, Agri-liquid HQ).
- B. Katie Hafner from the Clinton County Conservation District informed the commission of a forestry meeting on June 2, which is being held in hopes to recruit more forestry assistants for the county. They will also offer 24 free 2-hour forestry consultations.
- C. Jared Harmon from the Mid-Michigan Land Conservancy reported that his organization is interested in doing more outreach in the coming years with the goal of acquiring easements of farmlands, wetlands, and forests to open these natural areas to public usage and protection.
- D. Christine Adamo, the Clinton County Parks and Green Spaces Intern introduced herself.

III. Coordinator's Report – Kyle Thornton

- A. Kyle Thornton offered his appreciation to the Granger Green Team as well as Jon Morrison from the Drain Commission and his 4H group for volunteering at Motz and Clinton Lakes Parks doing spring cleaning on Earth Day. He then reported that the parks are at full staff capacity and mentioned the various start dates and training events of the ranger staff members.
- B. Kyle mentioned that on June 24th there will be ribbon cutting ceremony of the Clinton Lakes improvement, of which the Commission members will be invited to.
- C. Kyle informed the Commission that, after receiving a call from a woman claiming that her dog contracted the bacteria, Giardia, from Clinton Lakes Dog Beach, he will be getting the water tested specifically for this type of bacteria and closing the beach until further notice.
- D. Kyle passed along the message that he received from Sheila Moore to be cautious of the current bird flu being carried by falcons, waterfowl, geese, domestic fowl, etc.

IV. Committee Reports

- A. Water Based Recreation/Surface Water Quality – Phil Hanses & Chuck Nelson
 - a. Phil Hanses reported that the Looking Glass River Intercounty Drainage Board met and approved additional work to be done on the river this year. The river will be cleared of log jams and fallen trees from the Dewitt-Olive Township line to the Livingston County line by the end of this year.
 - b. Chuck Nelson reported that with our current wet spring, septic tanks are leaking into rivers and lowering property values. He informed the committee of a statewide push for regulations beginning with a state level awareness campaign.
- B. Non-Motorized Facilities – Chuck Nelson & Dave Pohl
 - County-wide NMF Plan / Trails Advisory Council

- FMCIS Trail
 - a. Dave Pohl reported that he spoke with Ron Gunderson who mentioned that at their last Trails Authority meeting, they were looking at how they could reorganize the group and are now considering a 7-county authority on trails. He then handed out the original proposal Interlocal Agreement with the Fred Meijer Trail Management Council from Clinton County for everyone to review and look over.
 - b. Chuck Nelson reported that Dakota Hewlett confirmed that the Fred Meijer CIS trail made ARPA list for highest priority for trails, meaning its renovation is prioritized, although the timing is still unsure.

- C. Universal Access – Dwight Washington & Pat Jackson
 - a. Nothing to report

- D. Finance Committee – Tim Machowicz
 - a. Tim Machowicz reported that this year's budget is on track, and they are now in the process of preparing next year's budget.
 - b. Kyle Thornton mentioned that a goal for the future budget is to grow the department with personnel. Once the department acquires the Pratt Road Property, the department will need to expand with additional personnel.

- E. Grassland Committee – Chuck Nelson & Jim Graham
 - a. Chuck Nelson reported that the committee is ready for the controlled burn in the grassland, and the weather the following week looks great for the possibility for a successful burn.

- F. Southern County Park Search Team – Chuck Nelson, Tim Machowicz, Phil Hanses, and Dave Pohl
 - a. Kyle Thornton reported that Joe Wright with Spicer Group is working on getting information and plans developed/gathered to return first draft to the department, which will include the design and cost.

- G. Health Committee – Dwight Washington & Pat Jackson
 - a. Kyle Thornton discussed the availability and accessibility of AED/Defibrillators in the park.

V. Old Business

- A. Clinton Lakes Dog Beach Rules
 - a. Kyle Thornton reported that the Board of Commissioners approved the amendments to the ordinances of the new dog beach rules.

B. Clinton Lakes Scale House Demo

- a. Kyle Thornton reported that the scale house has been demolished and the well has been capped.

C. Environment Site Assessment – Wood Road Property

- a. Kyle Thornton reports that the environmental site assessment has been completed on the Wood Road Property, and in phase 1 of the assessment, results are sufficient. He then provides the executive summary to the Commission members to look over and opens the floor to discussion on the matter.
- b. The amount of effort required to make the property effective and sustainable is a concern of the Parks and Green Space Commission members and the PGSC is unsure about moving forward with the Wood Road project, as the Clinton County is already moving forward with the Pratt Road Property.

VI. New Business

A. Clinton Lakes Improvement- Ribbon Cutting

- a. Kyle Thornton mentioned the Ribbon Cutting ceremony which he discussed earlier in the meeting.

B. Clinton Lakes Improvement- Boardwalk

- a. Kyle Thornton discussed the tentative plan for a small boardwalk (30 ft long, 6 ft wide) on the Clinton Lakes Beach to extend accessibility, costing about \$6,000 from the Clinton Lakes Improvement Project funds.

C. Clinton Lakes Master Plan

- a. Tim Machowicz reported that there is more to be done within the Clinton Lakes Improvement Plan.
- b. Tim Machowicz suggested compiling a list of remaining projects to stay on task.

VII. Public Comments – Agenda Items

- A. Nothing to Report

VIII. Adjournment –Next Meeting:

Friday, June 3, 2022, at 8:30 am
Motz County Park
4630 Dewitt Road
St. Johns, MI 48879

Moved by Chuck Nelson, seconded by Pat Jackson to adjourn the meeting until Friday, June 3, 2022. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned at 9:36 AM.