Mecosta County Park Commission
Commission Meeting

The October 21st, 2025, Commission Meeting of the Mecosta County Park Commission was called to order at the Mecosta County Services Building at 5:00 PM by the Commission Chairman, Mr. Stanek.

Roll Call

Members Present: Mr. Griffith, Mr. Hatkowski, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Lambrix, Mr. Zimmerman, Mrs. Bradstrom, Mrs. Strong, Ms. Miller, Mr. Vogel, Mr. Stanek.
Members Absent: None
Others Present: Jeff Abel – Superintendent, Taylor Jutila – Operations Director, Jaydin Johnson – HR, Marketing & Events Manager, Angelina Braley – Administrative Clerk.

Approval of Agenda

Agenda stood approved as presented.

Approval of Minutes

Mrs. Bradstrom motioned, Mrs. Strong second, to approve the minutes of September 16th Park Commission Meeting. Motion carried.

Public Comment

None

Little River Schoolhouse – Linda Howard

Mrs. Howard presented information regarding suggested repairs for the Little River Schoolhouse located in School Section Lake Park. Estimates for repairs range from $1,600 and up plus labor.
Mr. Vogel motioned, second by Mrs. Strong, to approve spending up to $1,600 in material repairs for the Schoolhouse. Motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote

Reports & Updates

Superintendent's Updates

The Superintendent updated the Commission on 21 current and completed projects including;

- **Davis Bridge Project**: The ADA Kayak Launch was installed and is functional at this time. It will be removed shortly for winterization and prior to the reservoir drawdown. The project continues with progress being made on the fishing pier as well as grading. Paving is expected in the last week of October.
- **Davis Grant Reimbursement:** The first project reimbursement from the DNR has been received in the amount of $141,066.12.
- **Modern Cabin Electrical SS:** The superintendent met with an electrician to evaluate placement of two new cabins at School Section Park. It was determined that the primary spots for selection will not work for the cabins due to electrical load. Sites 78 and 79 have been finalized as the cabin installation locations. Quotes will be sought for concrete pad installation.
- **Hardy Dam Drawdown:** Is set to begin on November 4th.
- **Sale of Consumers Energy Dams:** No new updates have been provided.
- **Family Group Camp Electrical:** The Superintendent met with an electrician to review the potential for electrical improvements within the Family Group Camp cabins at School Section Lake Park. A quote is being requested from the contractor for the installation of 4 electrical outlets per cabin.
- **COA Van:** The Commission on Aging contacted us with an offer to transfer one of their used vans over to us for use in our operations. We have expressed interest for Paris Park to supplement our summer tubing operations.
- **Water Testing:** White Pine Valley Recreation Area start up Nitrate, Nitrite and bacterial testing have been completed, with the new well now being approved for public consumption.
- **2026 Event Calendar:** Was presented to the Commission.

- **MET Transfer –** $100,000 in approved MET funding from the County Board of Commissioners was transferred into our Park Commission account.
- **Historic Sign at School Section –** Replacement of the historical sign located by the stone pavilion at School Section has been cancelled due to feedback received from the public.

Year to Date Revenue Report
The YTD revenue report was reviewed and approved as presented.

Save the Ponds – Organization update
Mr. Hatkowski updated the commission members on current initiatives of the Save The Ponds committee. Jaydin Johnson and Rick Hatkowski recently participated in an interview with WCMU Public Media, which can be found on the Save the Ponds website and page on Facebook.

Incident/Accident Reports
Total: 3 Requiring EMS/Officer assistance: 1

Correspondence

Workers Comp Refund – Has been received in the amount of $7,348.

Committee Actions

Masterplan
- **2026-2030 Master Plan Draft**: The Master Plan draft is in the final stages of internal review. The draft plan will be posted for a 30-day public notice period soon. Final steps will include a public hearing on the plan during the December Park Commission meeting with adoption of the plan by the Commission to follow.

Personnel
- **Work Camper Payment Plan:** Due to the rise of minimum wage the Commission is no longer able to offer work campers pay reductions to cover their seasonal campsite expenses. As an alternative, a work camper agreement has been created to offer installment payments as a staff member works throughout the season. The plan includes 5 payment deadlines at 20% of the seasonal rate per payment until the full seasonal amount is received.

Building & Grounds
- **Security Fence – DNR Wildlife, Law, Mecosta Parks:** MiDNR Wildlife division has proposed adding a security fence to the Administration storage area in Paris to increase security of their stored items. This fence would be a benefit to the county parks as well, adding security to prevent losses of equipment and vandalism.
  Mr. Hatkowski motioned, second by Mr. Griffith to approve the installation of a security fence at the Administration storage area. Motion passed unanimously.
  Mr. Hatkowski motioned, second by Mr. Griffith to approve consideration of a $5,000 contribution to funding of security fence if necessary for construction. Motion passed unanimously with a roll call vote.

Financial

Financial Report – Revenue & Expenses, Year-To-Year, Cash Spreadsheet
Reports were reviewed, discussed, and stood approved as presented.

Approval of Bills
Mrs. Bradstrom motioned, second by Mr. Griffith to accept the bill packets in the amounts of $24,736.01, $29,061.95, $28,566.38 and $3,590.83 . Motion carried.

Public Comment

No public comment.

Other Business

Next monthly Commission meeting is scheduled for 5 PM, Tuesday, November 18th, 2025, at the Mecosta County Services Building.

Adjourned: 5:54 PM.