

Mecosta County Park Commission Commission Meeting

The September 10, 2024, Commission Meeting of the Mecosta County Park Commission was called to order at Mecosta County Services Building at 5:00 PM by the Commission Chairman, Mr. Stanek.

Roll Call

Members Present: Mr. Farrow, Mr. Griffith, Mr. Hatkowski, Mr. Lambrix, Ms. Miller, Mrs. Strong and Mr. Vogel, Mr. Stanek. **Member Absent:** Mrs. Bradstrom and Mr. Johnson. **Others Present:** Jeff Abel - Superintendent, Taylor Jutila - Operations Director, Jaydin Johnson – HR, Events & Marketing Mgr.

Approval of Agenda

Hearing no objections the agenda stands approved as presented.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Vogel motioned, seconded by Mrs. Strong, to approve the minutes of the August 13th Park Commission meeting, August 29th Personnel Committee meeting, September 4th Masterplan Committee meeting, and September 6th Finance Committee meeting. Motion carried.

Public Comment:

No public comment.

Reports and Updates

Superintendent's Updates

The Superintendent updated the Commission on current and completed projects, including:

- Cabin roof repairs have been completed on two cabins each at School Section and Merrill Gorrel.
- Davis Bridge Trust Fund Grant is still waiting on approval and will likely be completed in the Spring 2025.
- Merrill Gorrel is scheduled to have removal and treatment of the invasive Phragmites patch growing along the Gorrel entrance road.
- Brower 2025 Seasonal Lottery was completed with 120 sites assigned. Out of the 141 registered, there was one no show, and 20 drawn to the waiting list. Only one cancellation currently.
- Seasonal packets went out to School Section, Merrill Gorrel, and Paris Park with the deadline of September 27th and lotteries taking place on October 2nd.
- Storm damage created power outages at School Section and Merrill Gorrel. Two large trees also needed to be contracted to be removed from Tubbs Lake Mainland where a camping unit was heavily damaged by a tree falling on it.
- Brower Electrical Upgrade project is scheduled to begin construction in mid-October. It is also being evaluated to add conduit runs while the trenching is being done to easily add any future underground cables.
- The updated agreement with Newago County for new cabins has been received and we are scheduled to receive one cabin in 2025, 2026, and 2027. Cabin locations are yet to be determined.

- Regional vehicle permit sales have been balanced through Sept. with Mecosta County selling 151 passes and Newaygo County selling 82 passes. Transfer of funds is in process.
- Brower Trust Fund grant re-imbusement of \$101,244.34 is expected to be electronically deposited in the coming week.

Year to Date Park Report: Revenue has continued to improve in non-vehicle categories while 2024 Vehicle revenue is showing \$6,597.00 behind from 2023.

Dragon Trail: We received, paid, and have been reimbursement for our final invoice related to trail construction with the trail Grand Opening scheduled for September 27th.

Save the Ponds Group: Next meeting will be hosted Tuesday, September 17th at 3PM at the Mecosta County Parks Administration Office.

Incident/Accident Reports: 2 incidents reviewed.

Correspondence

Mecosta County Board of Commissioners allocated \$50,000 for Phase 1 and \$25,000 for Phase 2 of the Paris Ponds Rehabilitation project.

Committee Actions

Finance

2025 Personnel Budget

Mr. Vogel motioned supported by Mr. Farrow to accept the personnel budget as presented. Roll call vote passed unanimously.

2025 Capital Budget

Mr. Vogel motioned supported by Mr. Griffith to accept the Capital Budget as presented. Roll call vote passed unanimously.

2025 Final Budget Review and Approval

Mr. Vogel motioned supported by Mr. Farrow to accept the Final 2025 budget in its entirety as presented. Roll call vote passed unanimously.

School Section Lake – Project Loan Update

Loan terms as originally designated by the Mecosta County Commission were reviewed. No funds have been requested currently.

Personnel

Full Time Positions Status Update

All full-time positions have been filled. Jaydin Johnson was introduced to the board as the new HR, Events and Marketing Manager. The Administrative Office Clerk new hire is scheduled to start on September 18th. The wages for the two full-time positions were reviewed as Level 6 and Level 8 positions based on the appendix A Mecosta County TPOAM Classifications. Mr. Hatkowski motioned supported by Mr. Vogel to accept the starting wages of \$20.85 for the management position and \$18.15 for the administrative position as presented. Roll call vote passed unanimously.

Financial

Financial Report - Revenue & Expenses, Cash Spreadsheet, Year-to-Year - Reports were reviewed and discussed.

Approval of Bills - Mr. Vogel motioned, seconded by Ms. Miller, to approve the bills in the amounts of \$10,764.40, \$3,279.62, \$36,989.13, \$17,828.18, and \$20,271.29. Roll Call vote passed unanimously.

Public Comment:

Gretchen Johnson - VP of the School Section Lake Homeowner's Association, thanked the Superintendent for the use of the picnic shelter for their annual meeting.

Park Commissioner Lambrix – Noted he has visited the parks and spoken with many of the seasonal staff and has received very positive reports from both customers and our park staff.

Other Business:

Next Monthly Commission Meeting is scheduled for 5 PM, Tuesday, October 15, 2024, at the Mecosta County Services Building.

Campgrounds close on October 6th.

Superintendent is Out of Office September 13th-25th.

Adjourned: 5:35 PM