Mecosta County Park Commission
Commission Meeting

The August 18, 2026, Commission Meeting of the Mecosta County Park Commission was called to order at the Mecosta County Services Building at 5:00 p.m. by Chairman Bill Stanek.

1. **Roll Call:**
   Members Present: Mrs. Bradstrom, Mr. Hatkowski, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Lambrix, Mrs. Strong, Mr. Vogel, Mr. Zimmerman and Mr. Stanek
   Members Absent: Mr. Griffith and Ms. Miller
   Others Present: Jeff Abel – Superintendent, Taylor Jutila – Operations Director, Jamie McConnell – Operations Manager, Brenda Goldammer – HR, Marketing and Events, and Kimberly Erickson – Administrative Office Clerk

2. **Approval of Agenda**
   The agenda was approved as presented with the addition of the event application/request as item 4a on the agenda.

3. **Minutes of July 21st Park Commission meeting**
   Mr. Vogel motioned, supported by Mrs. Bradstom, to approve the minutes of the July 21, 2026, MCPC meeting. The minutes were approved as presented.

4. **Public Comment*** (comments regarding current agenda items)
   None

   a. Event Application – Trunk or Treat event at Paris Park

      Mrs. Strong motioned, supported by Mr. Lambrix, to approve the event application. Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Reports and Updates**
   a. **Superintendent's Updates**
      - Davis Bridge Project **–** Re-paving was completed with all new lines painted. Two areas of erosion control are expected to be completed soon at which time the project will be complete.
      - MDOT Davis Bridge Work **–** MDOT and their contractors will be using Davis Bridge in an approved agreement with us and Consumers Energy to complete necessary work on M-20 (Davis Bridge). They will be launching and loading barges from the park along with diver boats and equipment. The upper gravel area of the park will be used for staging rip rap and boulders, which will be driven onto M-20 and lowered into place over the railings. This is expected to start Monday August 17th and be completed by Sept. 3rd. There will be minimal disturbance to park users, and the park will remain open through the entirety of the work.
      - Buckhorn Creek Project **–** Bridge is in with asphalt re-paved on both sides. Small touch up grading will take place and sealing of the bridge concrete.
      - MET Application for STP **–**$250,000 has been received in transfer for the Save The Ponds project.

- FEMA Dragon Application **–** Next step in this process is to create bid documents for engineering of the repair and future mitigation efforts. I will be working with Melanie (County Finance) and Patrick (County Emergency Management) on the creation of these documents and the bid process.
- Seasonal Camper Packets – Have been distributed to SS, MG, and Paris Parks. We will begin accepting Seasonal Deposit and Winter Storage forms and payments on August 18th with an acceptance deadline of September 10th. We will hold the seasonal camper lotteries for these three parks on Sept. 16th so everyone will know the status prior to our parks closing for the year.
- DNR Retirement – Pete Kailing has retired as the head DNR Wildlife representative in their Paris Office, Rachel Kanaziz has moved to the other side of the state, so there are all new people at the Paris Office. Currently it appears that they will keep operating at this location, but they are in discussions on what the future might hold during the transition.
- Camis Pay & Reservation Software Renewal – We are currently having meetings with our reservations provider on the potential to switch to them for all credit card processing in order to be more streamlined in our operation and save in credit card expenses. They are preparing a cost comparison for us for credit card expenses and a renewal proposal for our software as our contract expires this year.
- 2027 Budget – Should be approved during our September Meeting, which will require a number of committee meetings in the coming weeks.

b. YTD Revenue Report

The report was reviewed and discussed

c. Save The Ponds – Organization Update

Mr. Hatkowski discussed the Groundbreaking event with a proposed date of September 18. He asked the Commissioners to review the press release and flyer in their meeting packet.

Mr. Hatkowski motioned, supported by Mrs. Bradstrom, to approve the event proposal and date of the Groundbreaking event. Motion carried unanimously.

d. Merrill-Gorrel, Paris, & Brower Park Meet and Greet Reports

Mr. Stanek commented that he was impressed with the surveys this year. He attended most of the events and was pleased with the comments.

e. Brower Park 2027 Seasonal Camper Lottery Report

The lottery ran smoothly and 120 campsites were awarded for 2027 with 38 campers being placed on the wait list.

6. **Committee Actions**

a. **Finance**

i. Weed Control/Fish Stocking School Section Lake

The Superintendent commented on his discussion with the School Section Lake Property Owners Association regarding weed management for the lake. The property owners association is recommending that MCPC pay 15%, which is approximately $1,750 per year for a three year period.

Mrs. Bradstrom motioned, supported by Mr. Vogel, to pay $1,750 per year for a three-year period to help with the weed management fees for the lake.

ii. Save The Ponds – Phase 2 Bid Review/Approval

Mr. Hatkowski and the Superintendent had several conversations with Cliff Youngs on the materials that would be used for the project. It was determined that the steel sheeting would be the best material to use.

Mr. Lambrix motioned, supported by Mr. Hatkowski, to approve the bid from Cliff Youngs for Phase 2 of the Save the Ponds Project at an amount of $158,000. Motion carried unanimously.

iii. Save The Ponds – Groundbreaking Event

Mr. Lambrix motioned, supported by Mrs. Bradstrom, to approve the date of September 18 and to approve waiving the vehicle fees for the Save the Ponds groundbreaking event. Motion carried unanimously.

iv. Roof Removal/Replacement Quotes – School Section

This item will be brought back for the September 15, 2026 MCPC meeting.

v. 2027 Travel – RV Show & Mparks Conference

Mrs. Bradstrom motioned, supported by Mrs. Strong, to approve the Superintendent and Operations Director to attend the RV Show in January 2027 and the MParks Conference in February 2027 and to approve their stay at the venue hotels. Motion carried unanimously.

7. **Financial**
   a. **Financial Report** – Rev & Expenses, Year-to-Year, Cash Spreadsheet
      Reports were reviewed and discussed.

   b. **Approval of Bills**
      Mr. Lambrix motioned, supported by Mr. Vogel, to approve the bills listed and submitted in the amounts of $23,417.05, $21,263.76, $40,804.19, $148,895.95. Motion carried unanimously.

8. **Public Comment*** (general comments)
   None

9. **Other Business**:
   A. Scheduling of Budget Meetings (Personnel, Masterplan, & Finance)
      The Superintendent will email proposed dates to the committees.
   B. Next Meeting is Sept. 15th, 2026, at the County Services Building in Big Rapids.

10. Adjournment at 5:40 p.m.