Mecosta County Park Commission
Commission Meeting

The September 15, 2026, Commission Meeting of the Mecosta County Parks 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. Griffith, Mr. Hatkowski, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Lambrix, Ms. Miller, Mr. Vogel, Mr. Zimmerman, Mr. Stanek
   Members Absent: Mrs. Strong
   Others Present: Jeff Abel – Superintendent, Taylor Jutila – Operations Director, Jamie McConnell – Operations Manager, Brenda Goldammer – HR, Marketing and Events Manager, and Kim Erickson – Administrative Office Clerk

2. **Approval of Agenda**
   The agenda was approved as presented.

3. **Minutes of the August 18th Park Commission Meeting**
   Minutes of the August 31st Personnel Committee Meeting
   Minutes of the September 9th Masterplan Committee Meeting
   Minutes of the September 10th Finance Committee Meeting

   Mr. Vogel motioned, supported by Mr. Griffith to approve all committee minutes and Commission meeting minutes as presented. Motion approved unanimously.

4. **Public Comment**
   None

5. **Reports and Updates**
   a. **Superintendent's Updates**
      - **Davis Bridge Project –** Is officially complete. Final pay app was received Sept. 10th. Once the contractor has been paid, we will initiate the closure of the DNR Trust Fund Grant.
      - **MDOT Davis Bridge Work –** Was all completed without issue and the bridge was re-opened.
      - **Buckhorn Creek Project –** Only item remaining is sealing of the concrete deck on the bridge.
      - **FEMA Dragon Trail Repairs –** Bid documents for engineering services have been finalized and published. The bid advertisement is being run in the newspaper, on social media, on our website, and has been sent directly to engineering firms we are familiar with or have worked with in the past. WMMBA has also shared the documents with firms that we have worked with in the past and Newaygo County Parks shared the information on their pages. The FEMA project dollars cover 75% of project expenses with the 25% match coming from the County. We are hopeful that most of the match will come from remaining Dragon Trail funds being held in Newaygo County.

- **Seasonal Camper Packets –** The acceptance deadline was September 10th. We will hold the seasonal camper lotteries for these three parks (School Section, Paris, Merrill/Gorrel) on Sept. 16th so everyone will know their status prior to our parks closing for the year on October 4th.
- **Projects Starting –** As we prepare to close the parks for the season the two major projects that are getting ready to take off are the School Section Pavilion/Bathhouse/Playground project and the Ponds Restoration Project.
- **Paris Contents List –** The contents list from the Paris Office Fire has been submitted to the insurance company. Total value of lost contents submitted was $20,603.31.
- **Conservation District Tree Sale & Paris Parking Lot –** Fall Tree Sale take place at Paris Park Sept 25th-26th. With the upcoming groundbreaking ceremony on the 18th, and a ribbon cutting on the 25th, the tree sale on the 25th, and construction taking place, we plan to open the main parking lot for the rest of the operating season starting the morning of the 18th and continuing into the off-season.

b. YTD Revenue Report
The report was reviewed and discussed

c. Incident/Accident Reports
The report was reviewed and discussed

d. Save The Ponds – Organization Update
Mr. Hatkowski commented on the groundbreaking ceremony at 3:00 p.m. and the activities that will follow from 6:00-9:00 p.m. in the Park. The committee will have food trucks, carnival games, a live band and a few other activities.

e. Seasonal Camper Deposits Report – School Section, Merrill Gorrel and Paris
The report was reviewed and discussed

f. School Section Construction Schedule
The schedule was reviewed and discussed

g. MERS Statement Reports
The report was reviewed and discussed

6. Committee Actions

a. Finance

i. 2027 Personnel Budget Review
Mr. Vogel motioned, supported by Mr. Lambrix to approve the personnel budget as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

ii. 2027 Capitals Budget Review & Approval
Mr. Zimmerman motioned, supported by Mr. Vogel to approve the capitals budget as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

iii. 2027 Final Budget Review & Approval
Mr. Vogel motioned, supported by Mr. Lambrix to approve the final budget as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

iv. **Camis Contract Renewal/Camis Pay**
The Superintendent commented on the current contract and proposed 2027 contract.

Mr. Vogel motioned, supported by Mr. Griffith to approve the Camis contract for a three-year renewal with the option to renew for two additional years. Motion carried unanimously.

The Superintendent commented on Camis Pay, the cost savings the parks would receive from "bundling" these services and the annual fee to add this service to the Camis contract.

Mr. Hatkowski motioned, supported by Mr. Vogel to approve the addition of Camis Pay to the Camis contract. Motion carried unanimously.

v. **School Section Art Barn roof replacement**
The Superintendent commented on the three bids received for tearing off the roof on the Beach bathhouse and pavilion and replacing the roof on the art barn. The lowest bid was received from Mr. Lambrix for a total of $9,000.

Mr. Lambrix abstained from the vote. Mr. Vogel motioned, supported by Mr. Griffith to allow Mr. Lambrix to abstain. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Hatkowski motioned, supported by Mr. Vogel to approve the bid from Lambrix Serv-All for $9,000 for removal of the Beach bathhouse roof and replacement of the art barn roof. Motion carried. One no vote (Zimmerman).

vi. **Certified Playground Inspector Course – Renewal**
The Superintendent and the Operations Director commented on the renewal of the CPSI certification. It is a requirement to have a certified playground inspector for the parks. If the Operations Directors wasn't certified, then the Park Commission would need to hire out this service each year.

Mr. Lambrix motioned, supported by Mr. Vogel to allow the Operations Director to attend the CPSI course in Royal Oak to renew her certification. Motion carried unanimously.

b. **Masterplan**
i. **2027 Vehicle Permit Designs**
The Superintendent discussed the five permit designs presented to the Commission.

Mr. Griffith motioned, supported by Mr. Lambrix to choose Option #5 for the 2027 seasonal permits. Motion carried unanimously.

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

b. Approval of Bills

Mr. Vogel motioned, supported by Mr. Griffith to approve the bills listed and submitted in the amounts of $7,435.75, $25,741.82, $14,908.81 and $38,320.53. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Public Comment

Mr. Lambrix commented that he was approached by a citizen who complained about dogs/pets being allowed at School Section Lake. He asked if there had been any issues this season. The Superintendent and Operations Director responded that there were no major issues this season and that in general issues related to pets being allowed in the park have been less than the issues related to pets that occurred when pets were prohibited.

9. Other Business

A. Save The Ponds – Groundbreaking Ceremony – Sept. 18th
B. School Section Lake – One Room Schoolhouse Event – Sept. 19th
C. Buckhorn Creek Ribbon Cutting Event – Sept. 25th, Paris
D. Modern Campgrounds Close – Oct. 4th
E. Next Meeting is October 20th at the County Services Building in Big Rapids
F. Superintendent Out of Office – Sept. 19th – Oct. 1st

10. Adjournment at 5:33 p.m.