

**CASS COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**1st FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM/ACROSS FROM PARKS OFFICE
120 N. BROADWAY ST.
CASSOPOLIS, MI 49031**

May 8, 2025

4:00 P.M. - CALL MEETING TO ORDER - President Parrish

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Commissioner Parrish

ROLL CALL – Secretary Dohm

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

PUBLIC COMMENT

COMMITTEE REPORTS

DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Director Wyman

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Dark Sky Update
- LWCF Update

NEW BUSINESS

- Stevens Park
- June Meeting Location
- Garlic Mustard Pull

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT / ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Next regular meeting June 12, 2025. Please call 445-4456 if you cannot attend.

**CASS COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Room 130
120 N. Broadway – Cassopolis, MI 49031
April 10, 2025**

4:00 p.m. – CALL MEETING TO ORDER –President Parrish

INVOCATION – Commissioner Bailey

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – President Parrish

ROLL CALL –

Director Wyman – P	Sam Barrera – P	Annie File –P	Lyndon Parrish -P
Jamie Stafne –P	Jayne Bailey – P	Fritz Kucklick - P	
Joyce Sheteron-Locke - P	Robert Parrish –P	Jeff VanBelle – P	

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to accept: Commissioner Kucklick

Second: Commissioner L. Parrish

Approved

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to accept: Commissioner Kucklick

Second: Commissioner Stafne

Approved

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Director Wyman

1. Was presented.
2. Trees down from the storm, cleaning trails.
3. MEANDRS mtg tonight. The quote for mileage signs to the next bridge along the Dowagiac River is \$65 per sign/22 signs.
4. The river is all but cresting at Dodd.
5. Russ West is very rough looking with the logging but it will not be open until it is safe. Volinia Outcome School has volunteered to help clean it.
6. The big cherry tree that went down at Stevens is being cleaned up by a neighboring volunteer.
7. Will be having a meeting with DNR to see if they can try to stabilize the launch at Harman.
8. Jay is doing lots of work with the downed trees and repairs.
9. A talented gentleman worked on the antique Ford tractor in trade for wood.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Dark Sky

- a. April 15 & 16 will be presenting at Penn Harris Madison.
- b. April 22 will be interviewed on channel 16 at their noon broadcast.
- c. Thankful for the Governor’s and the BOC for supporting Dark Sky Week.
- d. Wants a sign at the entrance of Lawless to shut off lights as they drive in, as it is very bothersome to the dark sky viewers.
- e. Stated that there are too many lights in the park.

2. LWCF Update

- a. Close to getting it to DNR for approval.
- b. Coming in a bit over budget. Hoping that the Road Commission helping along with Jay and Director Wyman taking the siding off the walls of the Schug will help save quite a bit of money.
- c. Commissioner VanBelle reported on problems South Bend Parks was having with the control panels for their splash pads so that Director Wyman could contact them in hopes of avoiding the same problems here.

3. The Friends of the Cass County Parks

- a. Have money to work with to help the parks.
- b. Hoping for more musical acts, maybe the end of August.
- c. The office was contacted by someone wanting to redo their will and in doing so wants to include the parks. Director Wyman pointed them toward The Friends.

4. Special Events

- a. After the Spring Egg-Stravaganza we have the Lawless 50 bike race, Sandhill Crane ½ Marathon, and Harvest Fest.

NEW BUSINESS

1. By-Laws

1. Since a signed copy of the 2008 by-laws couldn't be found, we need to resign them.

Motion by Commissioner Stafne to sign a new original of the by-laws.

Second: Commissioner Kucklick

Motion Passed

2. Turf Care

1. Five bids were submitted for mowing the parts of the parks that the Parks Department doesn't. Matt's Lawn Care, LLC was the low bid.

Motion by Commissioner Stafne to accept the low bid of Matt for mowing for 2025.

Second: Commissioner File

Motion Passed

3. L.P. Tank

1. A gentleman talked to Director Wyman offering \$400 for the L.P. tank that was left at Dodd.
2. Director Wyman wants to make sure the tank is safe before selling, and that we can sell it.

4. Point Park

1. There is an oak tree limb that could fall on the neighboring property's garage.
2. The owner is saying that the township/research indicates that the county does not own the park. He is contacting a lawyer to research it further. Director Wyman and Equalization Director, Tami Steward indicated that the plat says it's "public property".

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. Household Hazardous Waste is April 25 at the Road Commission.
2. April 24 at 5:30 will be a presentation on light pollution on Cass County's u-tube channel.

Motion to adjourn: Commissioner L. Parrish

Second: Commissioner VanBelle

MEETING ADJOURNED

Respectfully submitted,
Patty Dohm
Recording Secretary

Next regular meeting May 8, 2025 in the first-floor meeting room across from the parks office. Please call 269-445-4456 if you cannot attend.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT CASS COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION

May 8, 2025

Dr. Lawless:

- Continue working with OCBA concerning construction drawings for the LWCF project at Lawless Park.
- Hosted Troop 593 from Edwardsville
- Hosted NIMBA workday
- Hosted garlic mustard workday with CISMA SWxSW.
- Host two Dark Sky nights.
- Patty and Robert represented Cass County Parks at a community event hosted by Heritage Southwest.
- Hosted Spring Easter Event.

Dodd:

- Tested negative during routine water testing.
- Attended MEANDRS organization meeting.
- Hosted two cabin rentals

Russ Forest:

- Hosted two shelter reservations.
- Beginning to clean-up after two days of storms.

Stevens Memorial Park:

- Worked with volunteers to clean up large amounts of woody debris.
- Working with a local community member on a potential donation to the park.
- Mowed

Sears Park:

- Continue to encourage fishermen to purchase an annual park pass.
- Mowed

Harmon Park East / West:

- East Harmon is closed for the season.
- Continue to encourage fishermen to purchase an annual park pass.
- Mowed

It seems like a broken record, but Jay and Jodi continue to spend a lot of time clearing up woody debris. Russ west is still closed and will continue to be closed until we can get it cleaned up and the electricity re-connected. I had a chance to help the crew last week and we finished cleaning up Veterans Park and Stevens Park. The good news is we have plenty of wood to burn for the next five to ten years I'd say. Reservations for the shelters and cabins have also started so add prepping for those dates to the list of things the crew must keep up with. Our mowing program is in full swing as well.

Patty and Robert did a fantastic job representing the parks at the community outreach event hosted by Cassopolis Schools and Helping Hands. I always appreciate the after-hours and weekend dedication of our team members as they volunteer to represent our parks within the community. We are getting asked more and more to be a part of community outreach events. Patty and the entire team did a wonderful job during our Spring Egg-Stravaganza Event at Dr. Lawless. More than 300 visitors enjoyed fun activities, food, family time and more than 4,000 eggs filled with candy. The annual park pass sales are showing no signs of slowing down with shelter and cabin rental in full swing.