

CASS COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR BOARD MEETING

**1st Floor Conference Room
Cass County Administrative Building
120 North Broadway St.
Cassopolis, MI 49031**

April 9, 2026

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

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Commissioner Stewart

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**
- **Egg-Extravaganza**
- **Veteran’s Park**
- **WiFi**

NEW BUSINESS

- **SMC**
- **Life Scout**
- **Jeep Rally**

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT / ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Next regular meeting May 7, 2026. Please call 445-4456 if you cannot attend.

CASS COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
1st Floor Conference Room
120 N Broadway
Cassopolis, MI 49031

March 5, 2026

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

INVOCATION – Commissioner Barrera

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Commissioner Parrish

ROLL CALL –

Director Wyman – P	Sam Barrera – P	Annie File –P	Tharan Suvarna - P
Jamie Stafne –P	Jayne Bailey – P	Fritz Kucklick -A	Jeff VanBelle - P
Joyce Sheteron-Locke - P	Robert Parrish –P	Tami Stewart - A	

APPROVAL OF AGENDA WITH MOVING LWCF GRANT TO FIRST ITEM OF BUSINESS

Motion to accept: Commissioner Barrera

Second: Commissioner Parrish

Approved

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to accept: Commissioner Parrish

Second: Commissioner Barrera

Approved

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS –

Administrator Rentfrow and Ambrosia Neldon, Marketing

COMMENTS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

1. LWCF Grant

- a. Much discussion regarding the Tuesday meeting with the Capitol Expense committee and the use of the Bombardie money.

MOTION: Commissioner Stafne – To not only support the use of Bombardie money towards the LCWF grant, but to also request approval of \$125,000 contribution from the County of Cass or Board of Commissioners.

SECOND: Commissioner Bailey

MOTION CARRIED – UNANIMOUS SUPPORT

DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Director Wyman

1. Was Presented

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Dark Sky

- a. Meeting with the Michiana Jeep Club to brainstorm how we can support each other.
- b. Meeting with Edwardsburg Library regarding a donated telescope.
- c. Will be teaching 2 classes at Penn-Harris-Madison
- d. Mini Michiana Star Party – June 11-14
- e. Light pollution presentation on the county’s u-tube channel April 13 at 6:00 pm
- f. Our star party coinciding with the Perseids meteor shower August 11-15

2. Egg-Stravaganza

- a. March 28th from noon until 2:00
- b. We have reached out to area schools for volunteers. We definitely need volunteers to make this event successful.

3. Veteran’s Park

- a. The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) have applied for a grant to redo the tuck pointing at Veteran's Park. They reached out to the Pokagon Band since there are plaques honoring Band members at the park. They hope to assist in purchasing a flag pole, putting in a sidewalk, and parking spots.

NEW BUSINESS

1. SWxSW CISMA

- a. This is the third year that they have been out at Lawless. They were there yesterday (March 4th) removing autumn olive, multiflora rose, and honey suckle.

2. SESC Trade Show

- a. Jay attended specifically to see the project demonstration natural shorelines. We have issues with the natural shoreline on Shavehead eroding.

3. GLPTI

- a. Scott attended this annual event in Angola, IN. Many good seminars. One very interesting fact that was brought up, was the #1 most important thing to visitors of parks is – clean bathrooms.

4. Meeting

- a. Due to a conflict:

MOTION: Commissioner Bailey – to move April's meeting to April 9th at 4:00 p.m.

SECOND: Commissioner Barrera

MOTION CARRIED

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Commissioner Stafne

SECOND: Commissioner Sheteron

MEETING ADJOURNED

Respectfully submitted,
Patty Dohm
Recording Secretary

Next meeting will be April 9, 2026. Please let us know if you cannot attend.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

CASS COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION

April 9, 2026

Dr. Lawless:

- Hosted one scouting troop.
- Hosted Ron Gunn hiking group.
- Cut many trees off all trails during extremely windy conditions.
- Hosted Spring Egg-Stravaganza.
- Park presentation at SMC for Professor Reynolds.
- Hosted invasive species removal.
- Attended Edwardsburg Career Day.
- Hosted one Dark Sky viewing night.

Dodd:

- Water testing.

Russ Forest:

- filled in potholes.
- Fixed washout near bridge.
- CCRC removed brush piles from Russ West.
- Removed woody debris from hiking trails.

Stevens Memorial Park:

- Closed for the season.

Sears Park:

- Replaced signage.

Harmon Park East / West:

- East side closed for the season.
- Removed downed trees.

Veteran's Memorial Park:

- Attended park improvement meeting.

Between the wind and rain, Jay has been busy trying to keep up with trees down and washouts. During rain events, he continues to organize and clean the shop whenever possible. The good news is that our seasonal, part-time employee Jodi, agreed to come back for another season, so she has been lending Jay and hand in clean-up. They are both to be commended for Spring Egg-Stravaganza preparation and support the day of the event. Jay also showed his versatility when he put his plumbing skills to the test fixing the broken water lines when we re-opened the bathrooms at Lawless for the summer.

Patty continues to be busy with annual pass requests with a few reservations and cabin rentals being made as well. As you can imagine, much of her time was spent preparing for the spring egg-stravaganza on the 28th of March, and like Jay and Jodi, Patty and her family played a key role in the success of our event. Thank you to all the park commissioners, students from Edwardsburg and Cassopolis Schools and all the volunteers who contributed to the success of this event. So many smiles and positive comments, and we took more than seven crates of food to Helping Hands in Cassopolis.