

CASS COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION REGULAR BOARD MEETING

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

May 7, 2026

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

INVOCATION

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - Commissioner Locke

ROLL CALL – Secretary Dohm

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

PRESENTATION

PUBLIC COMMENT

COMMITTEE REPORTS

DIRECTOR’S REPORT - Director Wyman

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Dark Sky Update**
- LWCF Update**
- WiFi**

NEW BUSINESS

- Proposed Data Center**
- June Meeting Location**

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT / ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

Next regular meeting June 4, 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

April 9, 2026

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

INVOCATION – Commissioner Parrish

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 -P

Jeff VanBelle - P

Joyce Sheteron-Locke - P

Robert Parrish –P

Tami Stewart - A

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion to accept: Commissioner Parrish

Second: Commissioner Barrera

Approved

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion to accept: Commissioner Barrera

Second: Commissioner Bailey

Approved

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS –

Administrator Rentfrow, Ambrosia Neldon, Commissioner Langley

COMMENTS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

DIRECTOR’S REPORT – Director Wyman

1. Was Presented

- a. Coach Ron Gunn’s hiking club at Lawless was rained out, so it will be this weekend.
- b. During our Spring Egg-Stravaganza 7-8 crates of food items were collected and donated to Helping Hands.
- c. Attended and spoke at Edwardsburg Middle School’s Career Day.
- d. Many thanks to Cass County Road Commission that moved brush at Russ Forest with heavy equipment.
- e. Getting ready to open the West side of Russ Forest.
- f. Dodd water testing – negative
- g. Improvements will be going on at Veteran’s Park thanks to the DAR and Pokagon Band

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Dark Sky

- a. Did an interview with Jim Mischler of WNDU.
- b. Talk at Edwardsburg library for Dark Sky.
- c. Taught 2 PHM classes

- d. Will be on the county's U-tube live feed.
- e. Thanks to Scott & Jay for helping control the headlights on the viewing field.
- f. Dark Sky Resolution from the Governor.
- g. Possibility of a Michigan license plate with Dark Sky

2. LWCF Update

- a. Moving forward with a vote in front of the BOC using the Bombardie bequest at tonight's BOC meeting.
- b. Will be meeting with DNR to see if removing the splash pad we are still allowed the use of all the grant monies.

3. Veteran's Park

- a. Covered in the Director's Report.

4. Wi-Fi

- a. Administrator Rentfrow has given permission to go forward with the much-needed Wi-Fi at Lawless. Meeting with MEC at Lawless, coordinating with IT.

NEW BUSINESS

1. SMC

- a. Presentation at SMC, very well received. Very positive comments.

2. Life Scout

- a. Had a Life Scout reach out wanting to do a project at Lawless. Will be meeting to discuss and finalize.

3. Jeep Rally

- a. The Michiana Jeep Club will be gathering at Lawless on April 25 to start their rally.
- b. The club is a great partner, bringing 20+ jeeps to our Trunk-n-Treat portion of our Harvest Fest.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Commissioner Barrera

SECOND: Commissioner Parrish

MEETING ADJOURNED

Respectfully submitted,
Patty Dohm
Recording Secretary

Next meeting will be May 7, 2026. Please let us know if you cannot attend.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

CASS COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION

May 7, 2026

Dr. Lawless:

- Hosted one scouting troop.
- Hosted Ron Gunn re-scheduled hiking group.
- Cut many trees off all trails during extremely windy conditions.
- Hosted NIMBA trail cleaning day.
- Hosted Michiana Jeep Club benefit rally.
- Assisted Cass County Conservation District with their annual tree sales.
- Hosted one Dark Sky viewing night.
- Hosted one reservation.
- Water testing.
- Mowed and trimmed.
- Met with MEC and Vice-President Parrish to discuss Wi-Fi installation.

Dodd:

- Water testing.
- Hosted one reservation.
- Hosted Great Head Start field day.
- Mowed and trimmed.

Russ Forest:

- Repaired fencing.
- Removed woody debris from hiking trails.
- Repaired signage.
- Water testing.
- Mowed and trimmed.

Stevens Memorial Park:

- Closed for the season.
- Mowed and trimmed.

Sears Park:

- Trash removal.
-

Harmon Park East / West:

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

Veteran's Memorial Park:

- Removed woody debris
- Mowed and trimmed.

Jay and Jodi continue to spend much of their time keeping up with trees down and maintaining the parks as visitation increases as the weather gets warmer. Throwing the beginning of the mowing season into the mix and being busy is an understatement. Projects on the horizon include replacing decking boards, roof maintenance and painting.

Reservations and general inquiries over the phone are really ramping up, so Patty continues to be busy with those. She has started the summer newsletter and replenishing all the copies of our maps and other park literature that visitors seem to use a great deal. We are working together on getting more familiar with grant details and other park operations including the budget.