

**CASS COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
120 N. Broadway St – Conference Room
December 9, 2021**

9:00 a.m. – CALL MEETING TO ORDER –President Kucklick

INVOCATION –

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Commissioner Kring

ROLL CALL –

Director Wyman – P
Bruce Campbell - A
Annie File - P

David Kring - P
Fritz Kucklick - P
Lyndon Parrish - P

Robert Parrish - P
Jaimie Stafne - P
Jeff VanBelle - P

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion: Commissioner Stafne
Second: Commissioner L. Parrish

APPROVAL OF MINUTES –

Motion: Commissioner Van Belle
Second: Commissioner Stafne

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS –

Blair Garceau, Birch Lake Homeowners Association
Scott Williams
Matt Newton, Deputy County Administrator

PUBLIC COMMENT –

1. Ms. Garceau is concerned about the DNR being involved with fixing the boat launch at Birch Lake.
 - a. Director Wyman assured Ms. Garceau that the DNR does not want to take over the boat launch at Birch Lake. They are much more equipped to make the temporary fix in the spring, with the permanent repair scheduled for the fall of 2022.

COMMITTEE REPORTS –

1. Deputy Administrator Newton reported that Cass County has received \$5 million of the AARPA funds, with another \$5 million to be received in the future (May/June).
 - a. County Commissioners involved are Dyes, Marchetti and Jones / category 3.
 - b. Commissioner Van Belle to chair the Parks Board committee to look into it.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Director Wyman

1. Was presented.
 - a. 2021 Graham Woodhouse Award / MEANDRS Stewardship Award

BUDGET – Director Wyman

1. Will be part of the audit process the first part of January.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. Dark Sky
 - a. Looking at April for Michigan Dark Sky month.
 - b. The astronomical society has requested Memorial Day Weekend for their event at Lawless.
 - i. General consensus is that the park is traditionally very busy that weekend on its own.
 - ii. Commissioner R. Parrish will suggest a weekend in June to the group.
 - c. Progress is being made with Notre Dame regarding the observatory, Commissioner R. Parrish will contact them to set up a meeting.

- i. Sub committee was appointed of Commissioners R. Parrish, L. Parrish, Kucklick, and File.
- d. Hosted a display at the Conservation District meeting.
- e. Put out the quarterly newsletter.
- f. Reported that he can confirm bobcats residing in Lawless.

2. Lawless Master Plan

Motion by Commissioner L. Parrish to approve the Dr. Lawless Master Plan

Second: Commissioner Stafne

Approved by unanimous vote

3. Russ Forest Lease

Motion by Commissioner Stafne to approve the Five-Year Lease for Russ Forest Park from Michigan State University.

Second: Commissioner File

Approved by unanimous vote

NEW BUSINESS

1. Grants

- a. Will be working with Marcie from SWMPC for DNR grant process.

2. Meeting times/days

- a. It was decided to keep the meeting dates as the second Thursday of the month, and the time to be 9:00 a.m.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENT/ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Commissioner VanBelle mentioned the MEANDRS group is possibly looking to have the Dowagiac River reclassified to navigable now.
- Commissioner R. Parrish announced the celestial event for the 12th & 13th.

Adjournment:

Motion: Commissioner Stafne

Second: Commissioner File

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Respectfully submitted,
Patty Dohm
Recording Secretary

Next regular meeting January 13, 2022