April 13, 2026

IOSCO COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION MINUTES

Board-In Person

Commissioners Present: Jane Hayward, Bob Leslie, Jim McArdle, Brian Loeffler, Sue Reilly, Jerry Smith, Fred Strauer, Benjamin Brewer, Jennifer Riggs.

Absent: Gary Blaser.

Vacant: None.

Also Present: Kathleen Murphy, Board Secretary/Housing Director; **Jamie Carruthers-Soboleski**, County Controller/Finance Director; **Dan Piorkowski**, Groomer; **Joel Foster**, Groomer; **Michael Hoppe**, Groomer; **Ken Foster**, Oscoda resident; **John Bain**, Hale Trail Riders representative; **Jeffrey Schlagel**, Iosco County Historical Society Vice-President; **James Miner**, Iosco County Historical Society President; **Cora Hipple**, Iosco County Historical Society Office Manager

The regular meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairperson, Jim McArdle, at 3:00 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda

Brewer motions to approve the agenda and Leslie seconds. All ayes; motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: **March 9, 2026**

Brewer motions to approve March 9, 2026, and Hayward seconds. All ayes. Motion carried.

Public Matters and Concerns:

None.

Unfinished Business:

None.

New Business:

Jamie Carruthers-Soboleski, County Controller/Finance Director – Groomer Discussion

Carruthers-Soboleski contacted the County labor attorney. The attorney agrees that the groomers would be considered employees. The Department of Labor are changing the criteria of what is considered an employee versus an independent contractor. Taking these changes into consideration, the groomers would fall more in line on what an employee is. The Iosco County Board of Commissioners would have to approve the additional groomer positions. Carruthers-Soboleski would like to have the board's opinion on how many hours and the recommended pay of the groomers. The funds would have to come out of either the 208 fund or 274 fund. Current part-time County employees earn between $15 and $19 per hour with no benefits.

Brewer motions to table the matter until Chairperson, Gary Blaser, is present and Loeffler seconds. All ayes. Motion tabled until May 11, 2026.

Kathleen Murphy, Board Secretary/Housing Director – FY 2027 ORV Grant Application

The FY 2027 ORV grant application is due to the DNR on May 1, 2026. This application, which requests $28,940.00, is $8,300.00 more than FY 2026. If needed, the Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission can request a grant amendment by August 15, 2026, if more funds are needed. The DNR would like a schedule for when the trails are groomed and the hours that they are on the trails. This will make it easier to calculate the amount that the commission should be requesting on the next grant.

Hayward motions to approve the FY 2027 ORV grant application to be presented to the Iosco County Board of Commissioners and Riggs seconds.

Carried on the following roll call: Ayes: Leslie, McArdle, Smith, Hayward, Brewer, Reilly, Loeffler, Riggs, Strauer. Nays: None. Absent: Blaser. Vacant: None.

James Miner, Iosco County Historical Society President – Community Grant Application

The grant funds, if awarded, would be utilized to replace two HVAC/furnace systems that are at least 17 years old. The Society will be opening all year round and there are problems keeping the building cool in the summer and warm in the winter. The humidity can destroy important historical artifacts if not properly maintained. The Iosco County Historical Society received five bids. The bid chosen was from a local contractor that will conduct maintenance on the systems for two years at no additional cost. The total cost of the project is $27,680.00.

Brewer motions to approve the Iosco County Historical Society Community Grant application not to exceed $25,000.00 and Strauer seconds.

Carried on the following roll call: Ayes: Leslie, McArdle, Smith, Hayward, Brewer, Reilly, Loeffler, Riggs, Strauer. Nays: None. Absent: Blaser. Vacant: None.

Committee Reports:

Bike/Hiking Trails

McArdle – Scenic By-Way – Oscoda Township is moving forward with Phase 5. They are constructing the next section near River Road in Oscoda. MDOT and the USDA-FS are involved. The path will go from Old Orchard Park to Lumberman's Monument.

Smith – Scenic By-Way – The USDA-FS has issued notice that the contractor has to ~~redo portions of the trail to~~ Iargo Springs. permit for rehab work

Snowmobile/ORV Trails

None.

Park Development

None.

Dam Prosperity Committee

Carruthers-Soboleski – Emergency Meeting with Consumers Energy, Michigan State Police, Emergency Management Coordinator, and Director of Emergency Services – All of the dams are currently open. Consumers Energy assured that there is still plenty of capacity for the rainfall that is predicted. There is some flooding, but the dams are in stable condition. AuSable River dams are at a Level C.

Public Comments and Concerns:

Jeffery Schlagel, Iosco County Historical Society Vice-President – Would the Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission like a Historical Society representative on the commission?

Payment of Bills and Per Diems:

Hayward motions to pay the bills and per diems for the month of April and Leslie seconds. All ayes. Motion carried.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:52 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. Monday, May 11, 2026. Motioned by Hayward and seconded by Brewer. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully:

Kathleen Murphy, Board Secretary/Housing Director
Iosco County Board of Commissioners

Next meeting: Monday, May 11, 2026 - 3pm

Community	Date Requested	Date Completed	Project	Amount
Plainfield	23-December	23-July	Pavilion	$25,000.00
Iosco Ag. Society	22-December	23-September	Campground/Grandstand	$25,000.00
Whittemore	23-October	23-October	Playground	$25,000.00
Whittemore	24-October	24-October	Playground Equipment	$25,000.00
Alabaster	24-September	24-December	Porta Potty Enclosure	$4,744.00
Iosco Ag. Society	24-September	25-July	Bathroom Livestock Building	$24,700.00
Plainfield	24-December	25-November	Pickleball	$25,000.00
AuSable	24-December	25-January	Bike Path	$25,000.00
City of East Tawas	25-March	26-January	Dog Park	$15,867.72
City of Tawas City	25-May		Music Park	$25,000.00
Oscoda	25-May		Benches for Beach Park	$25,000.00
Baldwin Township	25-June	25-October	Sidewalk to the Point	$25,000.00
Whittemore	25-July	25-November	Park Cameras and Fencing	$25,000.00
Iosco County Historical Society	25-April		Replace HVAC/Furnace Systems	$25,000.00