May 11, 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, Gary Blaser.

Absent: None.

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 McBain**, Hale Trail Riders representative; **Jeremy Spaw**, Iosco County Agricultural Society representative; **Eric Strayer**, Charter Township of AuSable Superintendent;

The regular meeting was called to order by Board Secretary/Housing Director, Kathleen Murphy, at 3:00 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes: **April 13, 2026**

McArdle motions to approve April 13, 2026, and Hayward seconds with a correction. All ayes. Motion carried.

Public Matters and Concerns:

McArdle – On the corner of Gallion and Monument, there is a pile of trash in the middle of the trail.

Hayward – Someone was camping on the trail and left trash behind.

Jamie Carruthers-Soboleski County Controller/Finance Director – Some unhoused individuals are living in the forest.

Unfinished Business:

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

During the last meeting, the board decided to table the matter until Chairperson Blaser was present. Carruthers-Soboleski recommends following the County attorney's advice and making the groomers County employees. The creation of groomer positions and the pay rate would need to go to the Full Board of Commissioners. The groomers would have to work no more than 28 hours per week and would report directly to Blaser and Carruthers-Soboleski. The Parks and Recreation Commission would have to pay for FICA and ESTA. Carruthers-Soboleski will contact the attorney to discuss if there are special circumstances where the groomers can work more than 28 hours per week.

Blaser motions to take the creation of four groomer positions to be part-time, non-union employees to follow minimum wage for non-maintenance work and $18.00 per hour for maintenance work and Hayward seconds.

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

New Business:

Jeremy Spaw, Iosco County Agricultural Society President – Community Grant Application

Spaw would like to utilize Community Grant funding if received to purchase a new sound system and a visual time clock for the horse arena. The sound system is at least 40 years old and is falling apart. The grant funds would not be able to be paid until July.

Reilly motions to approve up to $17,291.50 to the Iosco County Agricultural Society for their proposed Community Grant Application to be paid in July and Blaser seconds.

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

Eric Strayer, Charter Township of AuSable Superintendent – Community Grant Application

Strayer would like to utilize funding to purchase a tractor to keep the bike path and township paths clear of snow in the winter and gravel in the spring/summer. The township would cover $20,800.00 of the cost. The tractor would have to be used for recreational purposes for the same percentage as the Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission Community Grant purchase amount.

Riggs motions to approve the Charter Township of AuSable's Community Grant application up to $25,000.00 and Hayward seconds.

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

Committee Reports:

Bike/Hiking Trails

McArdle – Oscoda Township is working on a grant to take the bike path from Old Orchard Park to Lumberman's Monument.

Snowmobile/ORV Trails

Blaser – FY 27 ORV brushing and signing will be done by the USDA-FS. Snow permit costs are increasing.

Park Development

None.

Dam Prosperity Committee

McArdle – Email from MISORVA states that the purchase is still being reviewed by FERC and EGLE.

Public Comments and Concerns:

Loeffler – Snow blowing on the bike paths – Liability questions.

Payment of Bills and Per Diems:

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

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. Monday, June 8, 2026. Motioned by Strauer and seconded by Hayward. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully:

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

Next meeting: Monday, June 8, 2026 - 3pm

Community	Date Requested	Date Completed	Project	Amount
Iosco Ag. Society	Dec-22	Sep-23	Campground/Grandstand	$25,000.00
Whittemore	Oct-23	Oct-23	Playground	$25,000.00
Plainfield	Dec-23	Jul-23	Pavilion	$25,000.00
Alabaster	Sep-24	Dec-24	Porta Potty Enclosure	$4,744.00
Iosco Ag. Society	Sep-24	Jul-25	Bathroom Livestock Building	$24,700.00
Whittemore	Oct-24	Oct-24	Playground Equipment	$25,000.00
Plainfield	Dec-24	Nov-25	Pickleball Courts	$25,000.00
AuSable	Dec-24	Jan-25	Bike Path	$25,000.00
City of East Tawas	Mar-25	Jan-26	Dog Park	$15,867.72
City of Tawas City	May-25		Music Park	$25,000.00
Oscoda	May-25		Benches for Beach Park	$25,000.00
Baldwin	Jun-25	Oct-25	Sidewalk to the Point	$25,000.00
Whittemore	Jul-25	Nov-25	Park Cameras and Fencing	$25,000.00
Iosco County Historical Society	Apr-26		Replace HVAC/Furnace Systems	$25,000.00
Iosco Ag. Society	May-26		Replace Sound System and Visual Time Clock	$17,291.50
AuSable	May-26		Purchase Tractor	$25,000.00