June 8, 2026

IOSCO COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION MINUTES

Board-In Person

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

Absent: Jane Hayward.

Vacant: None.

Also Present: Kathleen Murphy, Board Secretary/Housing Director; **Jamie Carruthers-Soboleski**, County Controller/Finance Director; **Dan Piorkowski**, Groomer; **Michael Hoppe**, Groomer

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 Leslie seconds. All ayes; motion carried.

Approval of Minutes: **May 11, 2026**

Riggs motions to approve May 11, 2026, minutes and McArdle seconds. All ayes. Motion carried.

Public Matters and Concerns:

None.

Unfinished Business:

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

After the last meeting, Blaser raised concerns regarding health benefits and unemployment benefits. Carruthers-Soboleski contacted the County labor attorney. There are three options for the board to consider:

1. Contract the work out. The Iosco County Road Commission were contacted to see if they would be interested in the work.
2. Have the groomers individually register as an LLC and obtain insurance. This will allow the County to use the groomers as independent contractors.
3. Hire the groomers as employees.

Each option was discussed by the board. Murphy will create a report for how many hours each groomer worked quarterly. Carruthers-Soboleski will contact the County labor attorney regarding the report to get more information on unemployment benefits.

New Business:

Sue Reilly, Plainfield Township Clerk – Community Grant Application

Plainfield Township would like to utilize Community Grant funding if received to purchase new fencing around the pickleball court, five picnic tables, and a new swing set for the playground. The grant funds would not be able to be paid until November.

Strauer motions to approve up to $23,510.00 to Plainfield Township for their proposed Community Grant Application to be paid in November and Riggs seconds.

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

Jamie Carruthers-Soboleski, County Controller/Finance Director – City of Tawas City Music Park

The City of Tawas City's music park is finished, and it looks great. However, Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission is not listed as a sponsor on their sponsorship sign. They have not asked for reimbursement yet. Carruthers-Soboleski will contact Annge Horning,

City of Tawas City, to find out what is going on. They will not be reimbursed until one of our sponsorship signs goes up.

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. They have money dedicated to go to the project. The City of East Tawas has a new design for their US-23 project. The sidewalk will be part of the bike trail. The sidewalks will be improved to accommodate the new usage.

Loeffler – Bike Path call from resident – Electric bikes are being used on the bike path and are going too fast with discussion from the board.

Snowmobile/ORV Trails

Blaser – The trails were groomed before Memorial day and will be groomed this week.

Park Development

Strauer – Van Etten Lake Dam – Four trees on the Parks and Recreation Commission property need to be removed and erosion measures put in place. The tree removal is estimated to cost between $10,000.00 and $14,000.00. The USDA may have a grant that will help pay for the project. Strauer will contact USDA on behalf of the County.

Dam Prosperity Committee

None.

Public Comments and Concerns:

None.

Payment of Bills and Per Diems:

Loeffler motions to pay the bills and per diems for the month of June and Blaser seconds. All ayes. Motion carried.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:07 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. Monday, July 13, 2026. Motioned by Strauer and seconded by Riggs. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully:

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

Next meeting: Monday, July 13, 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
Plainfield	Jun-26		Park Improvements	$23,510.00