July 13, 2026

IOSCO COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION MINUTES

Board-In Person

Commissioners Present: Bob Leslie, Jim McArdle, Brian Loeffler, Jerry Smith, Jane Hayward, Jennifer Riggs, Gary Blaser.

Absent: Benjamin Brewer, Fred Strauer, Sue Reilly.

Vacant: None.

Also Present: Kathleen Murphy, Board Secretary/Housing Director; **Jamie Carruthers-Soboleski**, County Controller/Finance Director; **Dan Piorkowski**, Groomer; **Michael Hoppe**, Groomer; **Ken Foster**, Oscoda Resident; **John McBain**, Hale Trailrider

The regular meeting was called to order by Board Secretary/Housing Director, Kathleen Murphy, at 3:03 p.m.

Approval of the Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes: **June 8, 2026**

Hayward motions to approve June 8, 2026, minutes and Blaser seconds. All ayes. Motion carried.

Public Matters and Concerns:

None.

Unfinished Business:

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

Carruthers-Soboleski contacted the labor attorney to get clarification

on unemployment benefits. A thorough job description with no guarantee of hours is needed. This will reduce the likelihood that unemployment benefits would be awarded.

New Business:

Jamie Carruthers-Soboleski, County Controller/Finance Director – City of Tawas City Music Park Reimbursement Request; Iosco County Historical Society Reimbursement Request; Iosco County Agricultural Society Reimbursement Request

A sponsor sign has been given to the City of Tawas City to place in the Music Park.

The County previously appropriated $12,000.00 to the Iosco County Historical Society. However, in 2021, the County cut this appropriation, and it has not been reinstated. The Board of Commissioners recommended that they apply to the Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission Community Grant.

The Iosco County Agricultural Society's last grant reimbursement was in July 2025. They can be paid in July 2026. The Agricultural Society is requesting at least two more sponsor signs.

Blaser motions to reimburse the City of Tawas City, the Iosco County Historical Society, and the Iosco County Agricultural Society for their projects and Leslie seconds.

Carried on the following roll call: Ayes: Leslie, McArdle, Smith, Hayward, Riggs, Loeffler, Blaser. Nays: None. Absent: Reilly, Brewer, and Strauer. Abstain: 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. Pedal Across Lower Michigan concluded in Iosco County with a parade in Oscoda. 500 riders. Under the Radar filmed on the by-ways.

Snowmobile/ORV Trails

Blaser – The trail system needs work. Contacted the USDA-FS and have not heard back. Cannot move forward without their approval.

Kathleen Murphy, Board Secretary/Housing Director – FY 2027 Snowmobile grant application has been submitted to the DNR.

Park Development

Carruthers-Soboleski – Update on the tree removal project on park property. This will be handled with the Drain Commission project.

Dam Prosperity Committee

Carruthers-Soboleski – Update on the Iosco County Board of Commissioners' resolution and Consumers Energy latest statement.

Public Comments and Concerns:

Blaser – Is hiring groomer drivers done through the County? Carruthers-Soboleski stated that it would be.

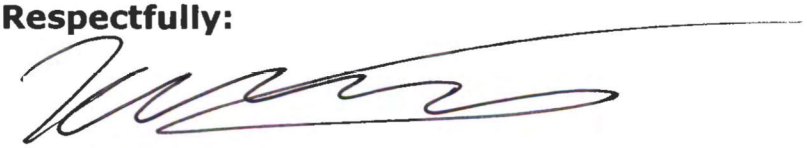
Payment of Bills and Per Diems:

McArdle motions to pay the bills and per diems for the month of July and Hayward seconds.

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

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:15 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. Monday, August 10, 2026. Motioned by McArdle and seconded by Loeffler. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully:



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

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	Jul-26	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	Jul-26	Replace HVAC/Furnace Systems	$25,000.00
Iosco Ag. Society	May-26	Jul-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