September 14, 2026

IOSCO COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION MINUTES

Board-In Person

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

Absent: Fred Strauer and 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; **Kevin Voltz**, Groomer; **John McBain**, Hale Trailblazers; **Jen Pintar**, Wellness Warriors; **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: **August 10, 2026**

Hayward motions to approve August 10, 2026, minutes and Leslie seconds. All ayes. Motion carried.

Public Matters and Concerns:

None.

Unfinished Business:

None.

New Business:

Jamie Carruthers-Soboleski, County Controller/Finance Director – Charter Township of AuSable Reimbursement Request

Eric Strayer has submitted the Charter Township of AuSable's community grant reimbursement request for the purchase of a tractor. They have placed the partial sponsorship of the tractor on their website and in their newsletter. Blaser has a sticker that can be placed on the tractor. Brewer motions to approve the reimbursement of $25,000.00 and Riggs seconds.

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

Jamie Carruthers-Soboleski, County Controller/Finance Director – FY 2027 Estimated Budget

The board discussed FY 2025 actual figures and how much was transferred from the 208 fund to the 274 fund and how much community grant funds were awarded. The current balance of the 208 fund is approximately 1,070,000.00.

Brewer motions to budget $10,000.00 in the 208 fund to be transferred if needed to the 274 fund and Hayward seconds.

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

Blaser motions to budget $150,000.00 for community grant requests and Brewer seconds.

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

Committee Reports:

Bike/Hiking Trails

McArdle – Moving ahead on the scenic by-way. McArdle will attend the meeting on Tuesday. The grant that the Township of Oscoda was hoping to receive this year is being pushed back until next year.

Snowmobile/ORV Trails

Blaser – Discussed permit data for snow and ORV seasons. ORV has no funds for maintenance or equipment.

Hayward – Porta john discussion on Rea Road.

Park Development

The Parks and Recreation Master Plan expires in 2027. Carruthers-Soboleski will put out RFPs.

The park purchased with grant funds in Oscoda cannot be sold back to the DNR. It needs to be developed. There is no funding for Parks and Recreation staff from the County's general fund. Property use will be considered during Parks and Recreation Master Plan process.

Dam Prosperity Committee

Carruthers-Soboleski received an email stating that Consumers Energy accepted MPSC's 60-day extension on a ruling on the sale of the dams.

Public Comments and Concerns:

Eric Strayer, Charter Township of AuSable Superintendent – Thank you from the AuSable Board.

Payment of Bills and Per Diems:

Hayward motions to pay the bills and per diems for the month of September and Riggs seconds. All ayes; motion carried.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:37 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. Monday, October 12, 2026. Motioned by Blaser and seconded by Strauer. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully:

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