October 13, 2025

IOSCO COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION MINUTES

BOARD-IN PERSON

Commissioners Present: Jane Hayward, Bob Leslie, Brian Loeffler, Jim McArdle, Fred Strauer, Scott Wesley, Gary Blaser, Benjamin Brewer

Absent: Sue Reilly, Jerry Smith.

Vacant: None.

Also Present: Jamie Carruthers-Soboleski, County Controller/Finance Director; Kathleen Murphy, Board Secretary/Housing Director; Dan Piorkowske, Groomer; Michael Hoppe, Groomer; Ken Foster, Oscoda resident

Meeting called to order by Gary Blaser, Commission Chairperson, 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*:

Hayward motions to approve September 8, 2025, minutes and Leslie seconds. All ayes. Motion carried.

Public Matters and Concerns:

Gary Blaser, Chairperson – Introduce Michael Hoppe. He is a new groomer in the Sand Lake area.

Unfinished Business:

None.

New *Business*:

Jamie Carruthers-Soboleski, County Controller/Finance Director - Baldwin Township Community Grant Reimbursement Request

Christopher Martin, Baldwin Supervisor, is requesting reimbursement for the sidewalk to the Point.

The following roll call was carried: Ayes: Brewer, Strauer, Wesley, Loeffler, Leslie, McArdle, Hayward, Blaser. Nays: None. Absent: Smith, Reilly

Gary Blaser, Chairperson – Hale Trailblazers Donated a Post Hole Digger to Iosco County

The Hail Trailblazers donated a post hole digger out of their trail funds to the Sand Lake groomer barn. It is gas-run and it was received today.

Kathleen Murphy, Board Secretary/Housing Director – FY 2026 Groomer Workshop

The Groomer Workshop will be held in February 2026. The Parks and Recreation Commission usually sends three individuals to this event. It was cancelled last year after the hotel that was hosting the event was under a ransom attack. The County's information was not at risk. It is unclear if the DNR will cover sending individuals to this event.

The FY 2026 ORV and Snowmobile grants have not been received. Blaser and Murphy have also not heard back about the $4,000.00 grant amendment request. The DNR lost the grant amendment request and Richard Kennedy, MDNR Parks and Trails Division, states that the grant amendment can be reimbursed under a different budget line item within the DNR.

Committee Reports:

Bike/Hiking Trails

- **McArdle – Scenic By-ways workshop on November 5, 2025, in AuSable for committee members.**

Snowmobile/ORV Trails

- **Blaser – Brushing on trl 645 and trl 6. Working on for a week. The new drag is working amazingly. The back blade just came in. The quote was sent into the DNR to see if they would cover the cost. Erik Dorsey, Michigan Parks and Recreation Division, stated that the DNR does not have any more funds for equipment reimbursement requests.**

Park Development

- **Loeffler – Dog Park – The project looks finished. There are no signs stating that it was funded by the County Parks and Recreation Commission. It looks great.**

- **Carruthers-Soboleski – Dog Park – They have not requested reimbursement yet.**

- **Blaser – Plainfield Township Community Grant Request – Put signs up for the Pickle Ball Court. Should be receiving a reimbursement request soon.**

Develop Iosco: Tourism and Recreation Committee

None.

Dam Prosperity Committee

Carruthers-Soboleski – Consumers Energy has approved the sale of the 13 dams. They are now waiting for FERC's and MPSC's approval. Nothing will change for the current license.

Loeffler – The new buyer is supposed to honor the Parks and Recreation permits under the current license. This could change during the license renewal.

Public Comments and Concerns:

Strauer – Questions regarding the new buyer of the 13 Consumer Energy Dams.

Carruthers-Soboleski – The new buyer is an independent power producer and has less restrictions than Consumers Energy. They still have to follow FERC license requirements.

Ken Foster, Oscoda resident – Current grant deadline. Special maintenance for brushing.

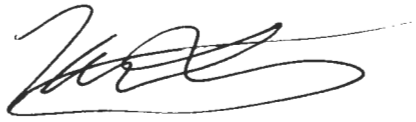
Blaser – Tractor issue and FY 2026 grant amendment

Payment of Bills and Per Diems:

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

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:38 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. Monday, November 10, 2025. Motioned by Strauer and seconded by Brewer. All ayes; motion carried.

Respectfully:



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

Community	Date Requested	Date Completed	Project	Amount
Plainfield	23-Dec	23-Jul	Pavilion	$25,000.00
Iosco Ag. Society	22-Dec	23-Sep	Campground/Grandstand	$25,000.00
Whittemore	23-Oct	23-Oct	Playground	$25,000.00
Whittemore	24-Oct	24-Oct	Playground Equipment	$25,000.00
Alabaster	24-Sep	24-Dec	Porta Potty Enclosure	$4,744.00
Iosco Ag. Society	24-Sep	25-Jul	Bathroom Livestock Building	$24,700.00
Plainfield	24-Dec		Pickleball	$25,000.00
AuSable	24-Dec	25-Jan	Bike Path	$25,000.00
City of East Tawas	25-Mar		Dog Park	$25,000.00
City of Tawas City	25-May		Music Park	$25,000.00
Oscoda	25-May		Benches for Beach Park	$25,000.00
Baldwin Township	Jun-25	Oct-25	Sidewalk to the Point	$25,000.00
Whittemore	Jul-25		Park Cameras and Fencing	$25,000.00