November 10, 2025

IOSCO COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION MINUTES

Board-In Person

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

Absent: Scott Wesley.

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

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

Approval of Minutes:

Hayward motions to approve October 13, 2025, 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 – Plainfield Township Community Grant Reimbursement Request

Fred Lewis, Plainfield Township Supervisor, is requesting reimbursement for the pickleball court project. Leslie motions to reimburse Plainfield Township and Hayward seconds.

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

Jamie Carruthers-Soboleski, County Controller/Finance Director – City of Whittemore Community Grant Reimbursement Request

Bob Leslie, Mayor of the City of Whittemore, is requesting reimbursement for security updates to the Whittemore park. Strauer motions to reimburse the City of Whittemore and Hayward seconds.

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

Gary Blaser, Chairperson – Snowmobile/ORV Facebook Page

The Sand Lake groomers would like to have a Facebook page separate from the County to post grooming schedules. Carruthers-Soboleski informed the board that this is against County policy. If the Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission would like to post the grooming schedules, then it can be posted on the County website. All information can be sent to Murphy or Zachary Klosowski-Lorenz, IT Director. This information is already needed by Murphy to send it to the DNR according to the grant handbook. Hayward motions to put the grooming schedule on the County website and not on a Facebook page and Loeffler seconds.

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

Jamie Carruthers-Soboleski, County Controller/Finance Director – Discuss FY 2026 Grants

The FY 2026 snowmobile grant is about $30,000.00 less than FY 2025. If the board would like to utilize the same amount of funding, then the millage fund will have to cover the additional costs. The board will groom normally and come back in January/February to review the budget and proceed accordingly.

Committee Reports:

Bike/Hiking Trails

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

Snowmobile/ORV Trails

Gary Blaser, Chairperson – 2015 Tractor Repairs

Ken Foster, Oscoda resident/Retired groomer – Repaired the 2015 tractor's drag and fixed the Diamond Mower hydraulic lines. The lines were damaged and had to be rewired.

Park Development

None.

Develop Iosco: Tourism and Recreation Committee

No one is involved in this committee.

Dam Prosperity Committee

McArdle – There is a meeting to introduce the tentative new owners. Murphy will email the board with the meeting details.

Public Comments and Concerns:

Blaser, Chairperson – ORV funding cannot be used with snowmobile funding. Can grade and re-sign using ORV funding.

K. Foster, Oscoda resident/Retired groomer – Bids for grooming the Oscoda trails. Blaser would like to have at least three back-up groomers.

Payment of Bills and Per Diems:

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

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:54 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. Monday, December 8, 2025. Motioned by Strauer and seconded by Hayward. 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	November 2025	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	November 2025	Park Cameras and Fencing	$25,000.00