January 12, 2026

IOSCO COUNTY PARKS AND RECREATION MINUTES

Board-In Person

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

Absent: Sue Reilly.

Vacant: One Position.

Also Present: Jamie Carruthers-Soboleski, County Controller/Finance Director; **Kathleen Murphy**, Board Secretary/Housing Director; **Dan Piorkowski**, Groomer; **John McBain**, Trailriders Representative

The organizational 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 McArdle seconds. All ayes; motion carried.

Yearly Selection of Officers – Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary

McArdle motions to elect Blaser as Chairperson and Hayward seconds.

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

Hayward motions to elect McArdle as Vice-Chairperson and Leslie seconds.

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

Blaser motions to elect Murphy as Secretary and Leslie seconds.

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

Approval of Minutes: **December 8, 2025**

Loeffler motions to approve December 8, 2025, minutes with amendment under Dam Prosperity Committee Loeffler's comment and Blaser seconds. All ayes. Motion carried.

Public Matters and Concerns:

None.

Unfinished Business:

None.

New Business:

Kathleen Murphy, Board Secretary/Housing Director – Approval of Bylaws

The bylaws have not changed since last year.

Loeffler motions to approve the bylaws as presented and Hayward seconds.

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

Jamie Carruthers-Soboleski, County Controller/Finance Director – Reimburse the City of East Tawas for Community Grant Award

The City of East Tawas has submitted a $15,867.72 reimbursement request. The award was for fencing and dog clean up stations for the dog park. The request is under the $25,000.00 originally requested.

Loeffler motions to approve reimbursing the City of East Tawas for their Community Grant project and Blaser seconds.

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

Kathleen Murphy, Board Secretary/Housing Director – MISORVA Membership Dues

The MISORVA membership dues have not changed from last year of $35.00.

Hayward motions to approve the MISORVA membership dues and Blaser seconds.

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

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

There are two grants that will allow Iosco County Parks and Recreation Commission to send up to four individuals to the 2026 Groomer Workshop in Sault Ste. Marie. Blaser and Dan Piorkowski, groomer, will be attending. Blaser will ask the other groomers if they would like to attend. Strauer motions to allow up to four individuals to attend the 2026 Groomer Workshop and Leslie seconds.

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

Committee Reports:

Bike/Hiking Trails

None.

Snowmobile/ORV Trails

Blaser – **Tractor Repairs** – Piorkowski repaired the flat tire on the 2005 tractor. **Call from MDOT** – They are going to repair the 5 Channel bridge. MDOT wanted information on the bridge. The historical significance and value of the bridge was discussed by the board. **Vehicle** – Blaser is looking to purchase a side-by-side for the Sand

Lake groomer barn. Blaser will bring back quotes for the board to review. Anything over $5,000.00 will have to go to the Iosco County Board of Commissioners for approval.

Park Development

None.

Develop Iosco: Tourism and Recreation Committee

Loeffler would like this taken off of the agenda and Blaser seconds. All ayes. Motion carried.

Dam Prosperity Committee

The sale of the dams is still pending. The liability will be on the purchaser. Strauer will contact Representative Hoadley to ask what happens if the purchaser files for bankruptcy.

Public Comments and Concerns:

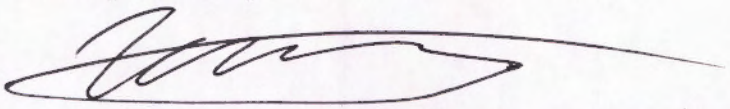
None.

Payment of Bills and Per Diems:

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

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 3:32 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. Monday, February 9, 2026. 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	25-Nov	Pickleball	$25,000.00
AuSable	24-Dec	25-Jan	Bike Path	$25,000.00
City of East Tawas	25-Mar	26-Jan	Dog Park	$15,867.72
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	25-Nov	Park Cameras and Fencing	$25,000.00