



## MANISTEE COUNTY RECREATION COMMISSION

Monday, December 5, 2022  
6:15 P.M.

Manistee County Courthouse & Government Center  
Board of Commissioners Meeting Room and via Zoom

### MINUTES

Members Present: Chair Wayne Beldo, Margaret Batzer; Erin Secord; Linda Cudney; Gary Schwaiger; Devin Wegner; Eleanor DeYoung; Bryan Dunlop; Robert Schulke

Members Absent:

Others Present: Mike Szokola, Manistee County Planning Director; Claire Richards, Friends of Smart Trails; Mark Coe, DNR (via zoom); Sara Herberger; Community Foundation

Mr. Beldo called the meeting to order at 6:15 PM, roll call was taken.

Approval of the December 5, 2022, meeting agenda. Mr. Beldo requested to amend the agenda by adding the following items: Request for Planning Department to create an updated ORV Map for Manistee County; Discussion regarding the fate of Hodenpyl & Tippy Dams; Recreation Commission Appointments

**There was a motion by Dr. Batzer supported by Dr. Dunlop, to approve the amended December 5, 2022, agenda as stated. All in favor, motion carried.**

Approval of the November 7, 2022, meeting minutes.

**There was a motion by Ms. Cudney, supported by Dr. Dunlop to approve the November 7, 2022, meeting minutes, as stated. All in favor, motion carried.**

Public Comment:

Trail Champions: Mr. Coe stated they have been working on trail maintenance and preparation for the upcoming snowmobile season. The snowmobile trails opened on December 1, 2022. The Trail Champions/Snowbirds are looking for ORV access by townships, to see what land

could eventually be used for possible ORV routing around the County. An updated ORV Trail Map was requested as it would be very beneficial to the public.

**Staff Reports:** Mr. Szokola stated that communication regarding the trail systems, has been strong between Manistee County, Manistee County Community Foundation, and the Manistee County Grant Administrator. Mr. Szokola would like to begin collaboration with the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians Tribe in hopes to work together on expanding trail systems.

**Friends of Smart Trails Report:** Ms. Cudney presented the minutes from the last Friends of Smart Trails Meeting that was held on November 14, 2022. (APPENDIX A). The next meeting agenda has been created for December 12, 2022 (APPENDIX B).

**Old Business:**

**Spark Grant Update:** The deadline for the Spark Grant is set for December 19, 2022, which lands before the Board of Commissioners meeting. Mr. Szokola requested there be a motion by the Recreation Commission to authorize the submission of the Spark Grant Application. The application will request for grant funds up to \$1 million with no dollar matching amount. If the Spark grant is awarded, the Board of Commissioners will have to approve the acceptance of the funds.

**There was a motion by Dr. Batzer supported by Ms. Secord to authorize the submission of the Spark Grant Application. The application is requesting for grants up to \$1 million, with no dollar matching amount.**

**A roll call vote was taken:**

**Yeas: 9 (Beldo; Batzer; Secord; Cudney; Schwalger; Wegner; DeYoung; Dunlop; Schulke)**

**Nays: 0**

**Absent: 0**

**Motion carried.**

Mr. Szokola and Rob Carson, Network Northwest, stated that the Spark Grant can be utilized for engineering, which could lay out the most sufficient trail possibilities. Bill Kennis, County Grant Administrator, wanted the commission to know that there are other grant opportunities available. There was a list presented to the Commission for review (APPENDIX C).

**Rail Relocation Update:** Mr. Szokola stated communication is expected sometime in January or February 2023.

**Parks & Recreation Manager Update:** Currently waiting for the Minger Grant Application process to begin in January 2023.

**Friends of SMARTrails Newsletter Article Update:** The newsletter has been issued to the public and can be found on the SMARTrails website and/or Facebook Page (APPENDIX D). Ms. Cudney thanked Dr. Batzer for her time in writing the Planning Commission article.

**New Business:**

**County ORV Map:** Since the creation of the previous Manistee County ORV map, the US Forest Service and multiple townships/villages has allowed ORV use on their roads. The

Recreation Commission, Trail Champions, Snowbirds, Convention of Business Bureau and SMARTrails are requesting an updated Manistee County ORV Use Allowance map. Mr. Szokola stated there will have to be collaboration between the County Planning Department, the US Forest Service and each township and village involved, to ensure proper data is being analyzed and mapped out. The Recreation Commission is recommending that the Planning Commission and Board of Commissioners direct the Planning Department to perform the update to the Manistee County ORV Use Map.

**There was a motion by Mr. Beldo, supported by Dr. Batzer, to recommend the Planning Commission and Board of Commissioners to direct the Planning Department to perform the update to the Manistee County ORV Use Map.**

**All in favor, motion carried.**

Dam Update: Mr. Beldo wanted the Commission to be aware that discussions regarding Tippy Dam will take place on Tuesday, December 13, 2022, at 2:00 PM. The discussion will be between Township Supervisors and Representative John Roth. Dr. Batzer stated that the Board of Commissioners has approved a letter of support in opposition of the removal of Tippy Dam. Mr. Beldo felt the Recreation Commission should do the same. Dr. Batzer requested there be a motion for the Recreation Commission to submit a letter of support in opposition to the removal of Tippy Dam and Hodenpyl Dam.

**There was a motion by Dr. Batzer, supported by Mr. Schwalger to request a motion for the Recreation Commission to submit a letter of support in opposition of the removal of Tippy Dam and Hodenpyl Dam.**

**All in favor, motion carried.**

Recreation Commission Appointments: Ms. Secord wanted to remind the Commission that board appointments are coming due and to be aware of the application deadlines. Mr. Beldo and Ms. Cudney will send in their application for reappointments.

Other Items from Committee Members: Ms. Secord stated that she will be resigning as secretary for the Recreation Commission. She wanted the Commission to know that it has been a pleasure to work with everyone. She is excited to see what the future will hold and cannot wait to come back and visit Manistee County. The Commission thanked Ms. Secord for all her exceptional work she has put forth into Manistee County and wished her well in her new adventures.

Mr. Beldo adjourned the meeting at 7:07 PM. Next meeting will be on January 23, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

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Recreation Commission Secretary

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Date