



CLERK

Lindsey Marquardt
(231) 723-3331

CONTROLLER/ADMINISTRATOR

Lisa Sagala
(231) 398-3504

MANISTEE COUNTY RECREATION COMMISSION

Monday, June 5, 2023
6:15 P.M.

Manistee County Board of Commissioner's Room
and via Zoom

MINUTES

Members Present: Wayne Beldo, Chair; Margaret Batzer, Vice Chair; Gary Schwaiger, Secretary; Linda Cudney; Devin Wegner; Eleanor DeYoung; Robert Schulke; Bob DeYoung; Jeff Lawrence;

Members Absent: Bryan Dunlop;

Others Present: Kristyn Malkowski, Recording Secretary; Katie Mehl, Manistee County Zoning Administrator/Planner I; Mike Szokola, Manistee County Planning Director

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

Approval of the June 5, 2023, meeting agenda.

There was a motion by Ms. DeYoung, supported by Mr. Lawrence, to approve the June 5, 2023, meeting agenda. All in favor, motion carried.

Approval of the May 1, 2023, meeting minutes.

There was a motion by Mr. Schulke, supported by Ms. Batzer to approve the May 1, 2023, meeting minutes. All in favor, motion carried.

Public Comment: No public present.

Trail Champions: No update at the time.

Staff Reports: Mr. Szokola did not have an update besides the items under "Old Business".

Friends of Smart Trails Report: Ms. Cudney referenced the May 8, 2023, Friends of SMARTrails meeting minutes and the June 12, 2023, meeting agenda (Appendix A). At the next Friends of SMARTrails they will be discussing fundraising ideas to reach a possible goal of \$15,000 towards costs of the preliminary engineering studies for the Thompsonville to Kaleva Trail. There is hopeful

collaboration with the MDNR and the county grant writer. Ms. Batzer stated the Recreation Commission will apply for grants on behalf of the Friends of SMARTrails group. Mr. Szokola agreed and wanted to remind the commission to base their projects/plans around the Recreation Plan.

Mr. Beldo requested that members of the commission should consider volunteering at the Manistee County Summer Festivals. Ms. Cudney will disburse a summer festival calendar for the commission to review the dates (Appendix B).

Ms. Cudney asked the commission if they were aware of the state regulations or how they enforce the rules for the use of E-Bikes. Mr. Schwaiger reminded the commission that he provided reference material at the October 4, 2022, recreation Commission meeting. His material came from www.michigan.gov/dnr/things-to-do/hike-and-bike/ebikes.

The commission had questions/concerns regarding the allowed uses on the Chief to Kaleva trail. Attention was brought to equestrian and motorized use (including E-Bikes). Mr. Szokola would like the commission to research what uses are allowed within the EDA grant. Once the Snowbirds complete their improvements, the maintenance will be turned over to the state and the enforcement will be turned over to the MDNR.

Old Business:

Minger Grant Update: Mr. Szokola stated that the contract between the Manistee County Planning Department and the City of Manistee was not renewed, leaving more time in the office to staff the recreation manager position. The position will not be filled until September so the commission will have to apply for funds at a later date. Mr. Szokola suggested to the commission that the Minger Grant funds can go towards county recreation projects that are based around the already established Recreation Plan.

Railroad Relocation Update: The Manistee County Grant writer was able to secure a second grant in the amount of \$426,000. The funds will be used to move the Railroad Relocation project forward. Mr. Szokola will keep the commission updated with future movements.

Parks & Recreation Manager Update: Ms. Mehl will now be the Parks & Recreation Manager, putting a hold on asking to fund the position. 50% of her time will be to help the Recreation Commission.

County ORV Map: No update at this time.

Dam Update: There was discussion at the last dam meeting regarding the economic repercussions that Manistee County felt would be possible if the dams were removed. Mr. Szokola presented the ideas and the letter in opposition to the removal and Tippy and Hodenpyl Dam. Ms. Batzer felt that Manistee County's opposition should be known on the state and federal levels.

There was a motion by Ms. Batzer and supported Mr. Lawrence, to send the opposition letter of the removal of the Tippy and Hodenpyl Dams, to the following: Governor, State Representatives, State Senate, US Representatives, US Senate; Department of Energy; the National Department of Interior; Chamber of Commerce; and the E.P.A Director.

All in favor, motion carried.

New Business: Spark Grant: Ms. Mehl informed the committee that the deadline for the second round of the SPARKS grant is due June 26, 2023. The Planning Commission will not apply for the second round but hopes to apply for round three. Ms. Mehl suggested that the commission consider projects that are based around any existing infrastructure on land that is already owned by local municipalities. Ms. Mehl referenced the Spark Scoring Guidance and will provide information to the commission (Appendix C). Dates for the third round have not been released.

Oak Hill Park Revitalization - Letter of Support: Mr. Szokola is requesting a motion to approve a letter of support for the Oak Hill Park Revitalization project. The Spark grant deadline is June 26th.

There was a motion by Ms. Batzer, supported by Ms. Wagner, to send a letter of support to the Oak Hill Park Revitalization project. All in favor, motion carried.


Spirit of the Woods – Letter of Support: Ms. Wegner would like to create a letter of support for the new infrastructure at the Spirit of the Woods in Dickson Township.

There was a motion by Ms. Batzer and supported by Mr. Schulke, to create a letter of support for the new infrastructure at the Spirit of the Woods in Dickson Township. All in favor, motion carried.

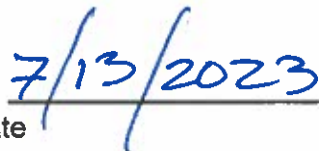
Other Items from Committee Members: Mr. Szokola wanted the commission to be aware of other trail funding opportunities (Appendix D).

Mr. Beldo adjourned the meeting at 7:12 PM. Next meeting will be on July 11, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,



Gary Schwaiger, Recreation Commission



Date



**Friends of SMARTrails
Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 8, 2023
Kaleva Community Center
6:00 PM**

Board Members Present: Rob Carson, President; Karen Kolk, Vice-president; Linda Cudney, Secretary; Jacque Erdman, Treasurer; Mark Coe, Zachary Pawlowski, Dave Myers.

Board Members Absent: Elaine Gibbs, Claire Richard.

Guests: Jan Myers, Wayne Beldo

- I. **Call to Order** The meeting was called to order at 6:01 P.M. by Rob Carson, president.
- II. **Consent Agenda** It was motioned and supported to accept the consent agenda. AIF. Motion carried.
 1. **April 10, 2023 Board Minutes**
Motioned by Dave Myers, supported by Mark Coe to accept the minutes from the April 10, 2023 meeting. AIF. Motion Carried.
 2. **Treasurers Report and Payment of Bills**
Jacque Erdman presented the financial report. It shows we still have \$8,239.16 in the Manistee County Community Foundation account. We will need to close this account out. One bill this month to Pro Web Marketing for \$25.00. Jacque is working on getting this as an auto pay, so a check will not have to be written each month. Jacque is still working on the \$34.58 discrepancy in paypal. Linda motioned to accept the Treasurers report and payment of bills, Zach seconded it. AIF.
- III. **New Business :**
 1. **Trail Maintenance**
Mark Coe asked about maintenance of the trails in the summer months, as the Snowbirds do the winter maintenance. The Snowbirds do maintenance a month before and a month after snowmobile season, so leaves a few months open. It was discussed about having a policy or MOU for the summer maintenance between the Snowbirds and SMARTrails. Rob will check with Scott Slavin to see if this needs to be cleared with the state. Dave Myers stated that he is ready to help out and just needs some direction. It was suggested to have Mark Coe get ahold of Dave for summer maintenance. If it was a serious or major repair, the DNR should be contacted first.
 2. **Chief Trailhead**
There was discussion on the Chief Trailhead. The grant was submitted and on file with the Minger Foundation, but will need engineered drawings. May have to talk to Scott Slavin

with the DNR regarding this project.

IV. Old Business

1. Update of Website

Zach reported the website is a work in progress. He has updated pictures of the Board of Directors of SMARTrails. Still have issues with Google.

2. EDA Update

Rob met with the engineering firm and the RFP's were done. The proper posting was done. The RFP was presented to EDA to approve the engineering firm (Gourdie Fraser). Interviewing was May 1, 2023 with Scott Slavin and Rob Carson. Drafted with minor changes and the EDA has adjusted the timeline. The Trail will likely not be built this year. Permits need to be issued and to secure the building of the bridge, and you cannot construct the trail in the winter, as snowmobiles are using it. It looks like it will be a go May 1, 2024 for sure.

3. Strategic Plan Update

The marketing committee met and worked on the Strategic Plan some more and worked on the wording of the "Trail Segment Description and Improvement Need" to shorten up the paragraphs on that. Claire is working on it and hopes to have it done to go over at the next meeting.

4. Summer Festivals

The group went over the summer festival dates. It was decided to hold the National Trails Day event at Northern Naturals again this year. Jacque is contacting Northern Naturals. Linda will help after their clean up day at Cleon. Jacque contacted Spirit of the Woods for a booth there also. Because of so many dates, it will not be possible to attend all of them so went through the most important ones.

V. Other Business

1. Recreation Commission Update

Linda and Wayne Beldo reported on the Recreation Commission meeting. Items discussed were the Parks and Recreation Manager was dependent on the outcome of the City Of Manistee meeting as County Planning is doing the zoning and if they decide to do it inhouse, then it will free up some time for someone in the planning department; also the County ORV map still has a few villages and Townships that have not responded; and there will be another meeting at the Kaleva Community Center on May 26, 2023 to discuss the removal of Tippy Dam and Hodenpyle Dam to the attention of Senator Hoitenga.

2. Marketing Committee Update

Linda, Zach, Claire and Jacque met on Thursday, March 23, 2023 and worked on the revisions to the Strategic Plan, went thru the festival dates for 2023, Claire worked on a survey for our quarterly newsletter and to hand out at summer festivals, checking with the County Rec Commission to see if they want to put something in the newsletter, checking on a better tri-fold board to put the Park to Park map on and make it easier to read, along with the trail segment description. Also, Zach was looking at routes for National Trails Day and Linda was contacting Charles Kraus to see if they would like to be part of the event for National Trails day, along with the Friends of the Betsie Valley Trail, if we do the event in Thompsonville.

VI. Comments/Correspondence

- 1. E-Bikes** were discussed regarding riding on hiking and biking trails. There are state regulations, but how are they enforced for the different E bikes. Possibly the County Recreation Commission can look into it.

2023 Festival Dates

National Trails Day	June 3, 2023	Saturday
Manistee Forest Festival	June 29-30 July 1-2-3-4	Th-Fri-Sat-Sun-Mo-Tu
Kaleva Heritage Days	July 15-16, 2023	Saturday & Sunday
Arcadia Days	July 21-22-23, 2023	Friday, Saturday, Sunday
Onkama Days	August 4-5-6-7, 2023	Friday, Sat., Sun, Mon
Copemish Days	August 4-5-6, 2023	Friday, Saturday, Sunday
Run The Pier	August 12, 2023	Saturday
Manistee County Fair	August 15-19, 2023	Tues, Wed, Thu, Fri, Sat
Minnehaha Brewhaha	September 2-3, 2023	Saturday
Brethren Days	September 2-3-4, 2023	Friday, Saturday, Sunday
Rusty Fish 100	October 14, 2023	Saturday
Victorian Festival?		

- Sent as reference material 6.12.23
- Appendix C - 6.5.23 Min.

From: Mike Szokola
To: Kristyn Malkowski
Cc: Katie Mehl
Subject: FW: Spark Scoring Guidance
Date: Monday, June 5, 2023 7:33:06 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Kristyn,

Please share the following with the Recreation Commission.

Today, DNR has posted informational resources for the Spark grant application to the [Spark Grants DNR](#) page. These resources provide additional scoring guidance and include:

- Spark Scoring Guidance - Video
 - Spark Scoring Guidance – PDF of powerpoint slides from the video
 - Spark Scoring Guidance – Consolidated PDF of the score report from the video

Based upon the number of applications in process and ongoing efforts within other DNR recreational grant programs, staffs' ability to provide additional individual feedback and guidance will be limited.

To be considered for the final round, the Authorized Official must change the status to "Submit Application" by 11:59 PM (EST) on June 26, 2023, or it will not be considered for funding in the final round.

This is important that the Third Round will be awarded in "opportunity communities."

Kind Regards,

Mike Szokola
Planning Director
Manistee County
231.398.3527
mszokola@manisteecountymi.gov

Manistee County
Planning Department



Sent as reference material 6.12.23

- Appendix D - 6.5.23
Min

From: [Mike Szokola](#)
To: [Kristyn Malkowski](#)
Cc: [Katie Mehl](#)
Subject: FW: North Region Active Transportation Committee Meeting Items
Date: Monday, June 5, 2023 7:33:11 PM
Attachments: [Trail Funding Opportunities.pdf](#)
[Trust Fund White Paper - W Koppa.pdf](#)
[10 Yr TAP Accomplishments Flier \(002\).pdf](#)
[image002.png](#)

Kristyn,

Please share the following with the Recreation Commission.

Here is some additional trail funding opportunities.
There are many.

Regards,

Mike Szokola
Planning Director
Manistee County
231.398.3527
mszokola@manisteecountymi.gov

Manistee County
Planning Department



Hi everyone,

Thank you for attending the North Region Active Transportation Committee meeting in Gaylord and virtually today. I have attached a couple of items shared at the meeting.

1. **Trail funding opportunities, if you know of additional ones to add to our list, please let me know.**
2. If you have questions on the Trust Fund White Paper, please reach out to Wayne Koppa wkoppa@hotmail.com
3. The 10 Year TAP Accomplishments Flier includes the counties in Michigan that have not received a TAP grant. 10 of the 21 counties in the North Region have not had a TAP grant award!
4. The Michigan Mobility 2045 Active Transportation Plan: A Bold Vision can be found [here](#) and the [Executive Summary](#).
5. Here is another recently developed Regional Active Transportation Plan that was just completed for the [Superior Region](#) last year.

If you know of others who should be part of this group, please let me know, so we can reach out and invite them to the next meeting.

Active Transportation (Non-motorized) Project Funding Sources 5/24/2023

This list is a work-in-progress of available funding sources for implementation of trail, sidewalk, bike lane, and other non-motorized projects in Michigan.

- 1. Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)** - \$28 million available statewide annually. Must address a transportation-related travel need. Minimum of 20% match required. Local road agency must be the applicant. [MDOT - Transportation Alternatives Program \(michigan.gov\)](https://www.michigan.gov/mdot/transportation-alternatives-program)
- 2. Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund** – Must address a recreational related need. Must have a 5-year Parks and Recreation Plan. Maximum development grant is \$300,000. Funds can be used to match TAP. <https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/buy-and-apply/grants/rec/mnrftf>
- 3. MDOT Local Safety Program** – A new element of the Local Safety Program includes funding for vulnerable road users (VRU) which are primarily bicyclists and pedestrians. \$3 million is available for VRU projects in the call for projects. <https://www.michigan.gov/mdot/business/local-government/local-agency-program>
- 4. Safe Streets for All** – Funding for safety action plans and implementation grants. Min award is \$100,000 for safety action plans, requires 20% matching funds. [Safe Streets and Roads for All \(SS4A\) Grant Program | US Department of Transportation](https://www.transportation.gov/safe-streets-and-roads-for-all)
- 5. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funding** – If community experienced demonstrable revenue loss in FY 2020, ARPA funds to replace the lost revenue can be used on transportation projects including trails. Pg 9-10 of this document has additional details. Limited availability: Funding was distributed to local jurisdictions and must be obligated by FY 2024 and spent by FY 2026. <https://home.treasury.gov/system/files/136/SLFRF-Final-Rule-Overview.pdf>
- 6. Act 51 of 1951, 1% for non-motorized** – 1% - Act 51 says recipients can spend a “reasonable amount, but not less than 1%” of the funds it receives on construction/improvement of non-motorized transportation facilities, such as sidewalks, paved shoulders, median refuge islands, and non-motorized paths. <http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-247-660k>
- 7. SPARK Grants – Round 2** – \$23 million in funding to provide safe, accessible, public recreation facilities and spaces to improve people’s health, introduce new recreation experiences, build on existing park infrastructure, and make it easier for people to enjoy both indoor and outdoor recreation. Applications due June 26, 2023. <https://www.michigan.gov/dnr/buy-and-apply/grants/rec/sparkgrants>

Michigan Department of Natural Resources Trust Fund

Issue: The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Trust Fund (TF) application criteria works against small population counties.

Facts bearing on the issue

1. Small population counties do not have parks and recreation , county offices or township offices able to manage and pre-fund projects required, by the TF.
2. County Road Commissions (CRC) are not recognized by the TF as governmental agencies, who in a small population county, are the only county agency with the skill set and funding to pre-fund and perform significant TF projects with engineering and construction expertise.
3. MDNR contends CRC's are not authorized to build recreation trails when in fact Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and CRC's using Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) funds have constructed 50 miles of Iron Belle Trail and other trails statewide.
3. The TF is authorized in the state constitution but the definitions of what qualifies as a local unit of government is identified in Michigan Act 451 where County Road Commissions could be added as an eligible applicant.

Pros and Cons of making County Road Commissions eligible TF applicants.

1. Pro. Small population counties would be capable of managing and prefunding projects in the scope of TF parameters being competitive with larger counties.
2. Pro. Trust Fund retains scoring, approval/denial authority on applications.
3. Pro. Trust Fund would have agencies with significant project construction experience available to optimize the best value with Trust Fund dollars.
4. Con. None.

Remedy.

Add County Road Commissions as eligible applicants in Act 451 for TF projects.

Michigan Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)

The First 10 Years



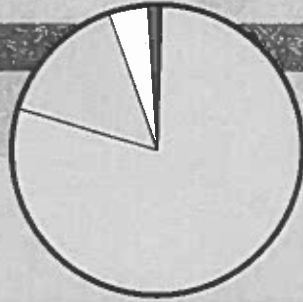
ACCOMPLISHMENTS SPANNING FISCAL YEARS 2013-2022

Funding provided for

348 Projects in **226** Communities in **61** Counties

TAP Investment

\$208 m



- ◆ \$164m in facilities
- ◆ \$32.9m in Safe Routes to School projects
- ◆ \$8.7m in historic preservation projects
- ◆ \$1.7m to acquire right of way for future trails
- ◆ \$0.4m for water quality improvements

- ▶ \$131.2m for bike/walk facilities
- ▶ \$18.2m for Iron Belle Trail
- ▶ \$14.6m for streetscapes to improve safety

- ▶ 139 schools
- ▶ \$29.5m for infrastructure
- ▶ \$3.4m for non-infrastructure

- ▶ \$3.3m for preserving 7 historic bridges
- ▶ \$1.5m for preserving 3 historic buildings
- ▶ \$2.9m for preserving 5 brick streets
- ▶ \$0.6m to restore a historic steam locomotive
- ▶ \$0.3m for statewide bridge survey

TAP-Funded Miles

- 558.5 miles of bike/walk facilities
- 101.3 miles of Iron Belle Trail
- 79.6 miles of sidewalk/pathways to schools
- 15.8 miles of streetscapes
- 13.3 miles of right of way acquired for future trails
- 1.1 miles of restored brick streets

Miles 100 200 300 400 500 600 700

TAP Project Map

Received TAP funding

▶ Leveraged \$95.7m in matching funds ▶ Support for 2,602+ Michigan jobs

For more information, visit www.Michigan.gov/TAP

Data includes TAP investments by MDOT, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, Grand Valley Metropolitan Council, Genesee County Metropolitan Planning Commission, Tri-County Regional Planning Commission, Kalamazoo Area Transportation Study, and Southwest Michigan Planning Commission/Niles-Buchanan-Cass Area Transportation Study.

