



## MANISTEE COUNTY RECREATION COMMISSION

September 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; Bob DeYoung; Jeff Lawrence; Tony Lamb

Members Absent: Robert Schulke

Others Present: Kristyn Malkowski, Recording Secretary; Katie Mehl, Manistee County Zoning Administrator/Planner I; Sarah Herberger, Community Foundation; Bill Kennis, Manistee County Grant Writer; Doug Barry, DNR; Sherry Knoper, Benzie/Manistee Dirtbird's; Tim Knoper, President Benzie/Manistee Dirtbird's; Tim Wheeler, Vice President Benzie/Manistee Dirtbird's; Mark Coe, President Benzie/Manistee Snowbirds; Les Beldo, Village of Kaleva Trustee

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

Approval of the September 5, 2023, meeting agenda.

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

Approval of the August 7, 2023, meeting minutes.

**There was a motion by Ms. Cudney supported by Mr. Lawrence to approve the August 7, 2023, meeting minutes. All in favor, motion carried.**

Public Comment: Mr. Coe introduced the members of the Benzie/Manistee Dirtbirds. Their mission is to establish and maintain trail systems for ORV's and to integrate them with other existing ORV trail systems. Mr. Knoper stated that there are 140 miles of proposed trail routes and 100 miles of that is in Manistee County. The main purpose of this committee is to ensure all ORV riders know their rights on these trail systems. He is asking for support and collaboration with the Manistee County Recreation Commission. The commission is grateful for all their hard work and is excited to work together on future projects.

Staff Reports: Ms. Mehl presented the following updates/statements.

- Updated commission from meeting with DNR (Alex McBride and Scott Slavin), Manistee County Community Foundation (Sara Herberger & Lora Heintzelman), and Networks Northwest (Rob Carson). Good meeting with all players that brought clarity to what the DNR would support and what projects we are anticipating.
- Updated commission on going to the Village of Kaleva Council Meeting where they were very supportive of the idea of working with the Rec Comm to pursue a MCCF grant for planning and engineering for bathroom facilities/trail head on Kaleva owned property. Council took action to have the president sign an agreement giving Rec Comm permission to apply for a grant on their behalf for the specific property in question.
- ORV map has been completed and distributed to Local Units for final review. Will be on website and shared with Commission once confirmation is received from LUGs that everything is accurate.
- Shared quote from engineer firm that Kaleva typically works with (Fleis & Vandenbrink), let everyone know I would seek at least one more quote before putting together the grant application.
- Began to update conversations with Doug Barry from DNR, he was on Zoom, so he took over and updated what he was thinking. Has \$5,000 in grant funds to spend, would like to spend it on Chief parking area, wanted support of commission.

Mr. Barry requested support from the Recreation Commission for the DNR to use \$5,000 of DNR funding for the creation of a gravel parking lot on DNR owned property adjacent to Chief Road.

**There was a motion by Ms. Batzer, supported by Ms. Cudney, for the DNR to use \$5,000 of DNR funding for the creation of a gravel parking lot on DNR owned property adjacent to Chief Road.**

**All in favor, motion carried.**

Friends of Smart Trails Report: Ms. Cudney referenced the August 14, 2023, Friends of SMARTrails meeting minutes and the September 14, 2023, meeting agenda (Appendix A).

Old Business: No old business.

New Business: Ms. Mehl requested a motion and support for the agreement between the Village of Kaleva and Manistee County Recreation Commission. This agreement allows for the Commission to apply for a grant from the Manistee County Community Foundation to fund planning activities on the Village property/trailheads. Ms. Mehl stated the Village would like to see the funds go towards the planning and engineering of bathroom facilities (Appendix B).

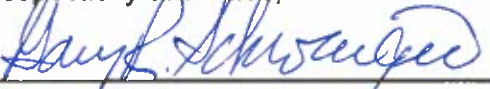
**There was a motion by Ms. Cudney, supported by Mr. Schwaiger, to have Mr. Beldo sign the agreement as described and mentioned above.**

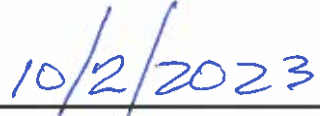
**All in favor, motion carried.**

Other Items: Tony Lamb introduced himself to the Recreation Commission. The commission is excited for Mr. Lamb to bring his experience and insight to the existing and future projects.

Mr. Beldo adjourned the meeting at 6:45 PM. Next meeting will be on October 2, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Gary Schwaiger, Recreation Commission

  
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Date