

# Parks and Lands Committee

*Joseph Allen*

***Bernie Blackmore, Chairman***

*Mike Crawford*

## MINUTES February 4, 2010

Members Present: Bernie Blackmore and Mike Crawford

Members Absent: Joe Allen

Staff Present: Pete Garwood

Others Present: Mike Meriwether and Eileen Wallick

### **1. Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.**

### **2. Public Comment**

David Peterson introduced himself as the new Helena Township Clerk.

### **3. Grass River Natural Area (GRNA) Update**

Melynda Bagley, Interim Director, and Deborah Hershey, the new GRNA Director, joined the meeting. Ms. Hershey was introduced to the other meeting attendees.

Ms. Bagley inquired about how to make the GRNA entrance road a year-round road instead of seasonal. She was told to contact the Road Commission.

Ms. Bagley informed the Committee of the upcoming events at the GRNA.

### **4. Petoskey Stone Festival**

Christy Roman, Antrim Conservation District Director joined the meeting. Ms. Roman indicated she was there in place of Linda Gallagher. Ms. Roman requested that vendors participating in the Petoskey Stone Festival be given a discount if they want to stay at Barnes Park.

**Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Bernie Blackmore, to recommend the Board of Commissioners give the Petoskey Stone Festival vendors who camp at the park during the Festival a \$5.00 a night discount for Friday and Saturday nights on Memorial Day weekend, only. Motion Carried – Unanimous.**

### **5. GRNA/ORV Issues**

This is an issue that first came up a few months ago. Individuals are riding their ORVs in the GRNA and have also set up a paintball area with bunkers and other places to hide. After it was discussed last, there was some confusion regarding who the participants might be.

Melynda Bagley gave an update on the last action on this issue. Sheriff Bean and Undersheriff Pratt joined the meeting. Undersheriff Pratt indicated Officer Tilley, as the Recreation Officer, has been put on regular patrol of the area. Undersheriff Pratt was looking for direction on the issue.

At this point, the GRNA Staff and the Sheriff Department agree upon who is likely the responsible party. The Sheriff will send an officer to talk to the resident who appears to be the perpetrator. They will then pursue enforcement action if the verbal discussion is unsuccessful.

## **6. Barnes Park Update**

Eileen Wallick gave an update on Barnes Park.

## **7. Firewood Bids**

Chairman Blackmore opened the bid from Ricky and Tommy Staff of Redneck Wood. The bid was for \$2.70 per bundle. The other bids were Rusty Barnes at \$2.75 per bundle and Kip E. Drake at \$1.00 per bundle.

Ms. Wallick has met with the low bidder for the firewood for Barnes Park. She said that his firewood bundles did not meet specifications.

**Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Bernie Blackmore, to accept the bid from Rusty Barnes at \$2.75 per bundle based on his past performance. Motion Carried – Unanimous.**

## **8. Forestry Update**

The second Moeke Lumber Mill has closed. The first Moeke Mill and Meeders Lumber Mill had previously closed. Mr. Meriwether indicated it represents a loss of about 40 to 50 jobs. There may be another company looking to purchase one of the Moeke Mills.

Mr. Meriwether indicated there will be another caterpillar outbreak this summer. Some landowners will be spraying. Mr. Meriwether advises against it. Mr. Meriwether has bid out a 12 acre cut on the Hawk Lake. The cut will take place this summer. About 10,000 seedlings will be replanted there.

Mr. Meriwether distributed a letter from the State agreeing to release the Reverter Clause on 22 of the County's parcels. The Reverter Clause required that if the County ever used it for anything but forestry purposes it would revert back to the State. The release means that the County will not have to be concerned about that on the 22 parcels.

Mr. Meriwether is assisting John Strehl with the cutting of the trees in the airspace right of way for the airport.

## **9. Parks Advisory Update**

Mr. Meriwether reviewed where he is at with the Parks and Recreation Plan which is now being renamed the Parks, Recreation and Forestry Plan.

Mr. Meriwether reviewed a parks and recreation funding mechanism he is trying to put together. Mr. Meriwether is calling it a Charter Fund. Mr. Meriwether indicated the plan will meet the requirements of the DNRE for a Parks and Recreation Plan but will also address other needs of the County.

## **10. Parks Liability Review**

The Committee reviewed a letter from the County insurance carrier regarding the County parks and changes that could be made to reduce the County's liability. The letter will be addressed at the next meeting as well.

The Elk Rapids Pavilion will be taped off with yellow "CAUTION" tape until further review.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

# Parks and Lands Committee

*Joseph Allen*

***Bernie Blackmore,  
Chairman***

*Mike Crawford*

## MINUTES March 4, 2010

Members Present: Bernie Blackmore, Joe Allen, and Mike Crawford

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Joe Meyers and Pete Garwood

Others Present: Mike Meriwether, Eileen Wallick, Todd Vigland, Debbie Hershey, Matt McDonough,

### **1. Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.**

### **2. Public Comment**

None

### **3. Grass River Natural Area (GRNA) Update**

Debbie Hershey gave an update on events at GRNA (attached).

Mike Crawford spoke on getting the gate opened at the Speet property for the ice fisherman shanties and work on the easement with the Nold Property.

Debbie indicated that GRNA is requesting a Board of Commissioner be on the Grass River façade sub-committee.

**Motion by Bernie Blackmore, supported by Joe Allen, to recommend the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners appoint Mike Crawford to the Grass River Façade Adhoc Committee. Motion carried – unanimous.**

### **4. Elk Rapids Dam Beach**

Bob Peterson joined the meeting and spoke on the Elk Rapids Dam Beach improvements.

**Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Joe Allen, to recommend the Board of Commissioners support the project with funding from 2009. Motion carried – unanimous.**

### **5. Barnes Park Update**

Eileen Wallick gave an update and indicated that she would like to start one (1) employee on April 5, 2010 to help with Barnes Park reservations.

**Motion by Joe Allen supported by Mike Crawford to recommend to Administration Committee to let one (1) park employee start on April 5, 2010. Motion carried – unanimous.**

## **6. Forestry/Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Update**

Mike Meriwether gave an update and indicated that the County would be clear cutting 11 acres of pine at Hawk Lake. He feels the County will receive at least \$15,000 from the cut. Mike Meriwether indicated that he would need to get \$3,000 from the Forestry Fund to replant the area.

**Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Joe Allen, to take up to \$3,000 out of the Forestry Fund to replant the 11 acre Hawk Lake property. Motion carried – unanimous.**

Mike Meriwether spoke on how the VanKeulen Corporation would be purchasing Burt Moeke's sawmill.

Mike Meriwether spoke about the Parks & Recreation Plan being worked on.

## **7. Michigan Maps Online Advertisement**

**Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Joe Allen, to recommend the Board of Commissioners approve the ad for Michigan Maps Online for \$295 as amended. Motion carried – unanimous.**

## **8. Glacial Hills Pathway and Natural Area**

Pete Garwood discussed the Glacial Hills Pathway and Natural Area. He indicated that the State would like to have the issue regarding the Commercial Forestry Reserve Act (CFR) settled by a non-legislative solution. Pete Garwood and Matt McDonough indicated that the State would work with the County on bringing the cost down. Discussion ensued over the solution to get the land acquisition finished.

**Motion by Joe Allen, supported by Mike Crawford, to recommend the Board of Commissioners approve spending an amount not to exceed \$28,000 to get Glacial Hills Pathway and Natural area property out of the CFR program. Motion carried – unanimous.**

## **9. Elk Rapids Pavilion Issue**

Discussion ensued over the pavilion at Elk Rapids and whether or not to rebuild it or to tear it down.

**Motion by Joe Allen, supported by Mike Crawford, to tear the pavilion at Elk Rapids down for now, to figure out what we can do in the future. Motion carried – unanimous.**

## **10. Signage for 911 at County Parks**

Discussion ensued over whether to put signs in the County parks with an address for 911. No action was taken.

## **11. Fire Wood Bids**

Discussion ensued over the firewood bids. The Committee decided that due to inaccuracies, the County will bid out the firewood again.

**Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Joe Allen, to recommend the Board of Commissioners rebid the firewood contract. Motion carried – unanimous.**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

# Parks and Lands Committee

*Joseph Allen*

***Bernie Blackmore,  
Chairman***

*Mike Crawford*

## MINUTES April 6, 2010

Members Present: Bernie Blackmore and Mike Crawford

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Joe Meyers and Pete Garwood

Others Present: Mike Meriwether, Eileen Wallick, and Debbie Hershey

### **1. Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.**

### **2. Public Comment**

None

### **3. Barnes Park Firewood Suppliers Bid Openings**

The Committee opened up bids for firewood (attached).

Redneck Woods = \$3.30

Rusty Barnes = \$2.70

Cottage garden = \$2.25

Discussion ensued over the bids and the sample bundles provided with the bids.

**Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Bernie Blackmore, to approve Rusty Barnes bid for one year at \$2.70. Motion Carried – Unanimous.**

### **4. Grass River Natural Area (GRNA) Update**

Debbie Hershey gave an update on events at GRNA (attached).

### **5. Barnes Park Update**

Eileen Wallick gave an update on activities at Barnes Park (attached).

### **6. Forestry Update**

Mike Meriwether gave an update on activities of the Forester (attached).

Mike Meriwether presented a bill for site preparation for the Hawk Lake property.

**Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Bernie Blackmore, to recommend the Board of Commissioners approve the invoice from R.W. Gallatin for \$656.50 for site preparation at the Hawk Lake Property. Motion Carried – Unanimous.**

Discussion ensued over Noteware's Landing and the Emerald Ash Borer infestation. Mike Meriwether presented the Committee with three quotes to take care of the problem (attached).

Mike Meriwether indicated that Bruce Banwell and Northern Tree could only chip up to an 8 inch diameter tree whereas Ralph Hines could chip up to an 18 inch diameter tree.

**Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Bernie Blackmore, to recommend the Board of Commissioners approve the quote from Ralph Hines to cut and chip the trees on-site at Noteware's landing for \$1,600. Motion Carried – Unanimous.**

Discussion ensued over why Central Lake Schools is getting paid to plant trees on County property. The Committee discussed getting other schools involved in the future.

## **7. Various Matters**

Discussion ensued over the future of the Day Park due to the letter from the Michigan Municipal Risk Management Authority (MMRMA) (attached).

**Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Bernie Blackmore, to recommend that the Buildings and Grounds Committee recommend to the Board of Commissioners to remove the Playground equipment at Elk Rapids Day Park. Motion Carried – Unanimous.**

Debbie Hershey indicated that she will bring to the next meeting the rules for land acquisition provided from the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy.

Discussion ensued over the different things that GRNA is waiting on from the County's Legal Counsel. The Committee discussed the Reverter Clauses on Grass River and the easement issues on the Nold property.

**Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Bernie Blackmore, to recommend County Legal Counsel work on the Reverter Clause and the Easement issues on the Nold Property. Motion Carried - Unanimous.**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

# Parks and Lands Committee

*Mike Hayes*

***Bernie Blackmore,  
Chairman***

*Mike Crawford*

## MINUTES May 6, 2010

Members Present: Bernie Blackmore, Mike Hayes, and Mike Crawford

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Joe Meyers and Pete Garwood

Others Present: Mike Meriwether, Eileen Wallick, Roger Anger, and Debbie Hershey

### **1. Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.**

### **2. Public Comment**

None

### **3. Grass River Natural Area (GRNA) Update**

Debbie Hershey, Grass River Director, gave an update on activities at GRNA (attached). The Committee decided to have the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board look at the land acquisition procedures and bring it back to the next meeting.

### **4. Barnes Park Update**

Eileen Wallick gave an update on activities at Barnes Park (attached). Discussion ensued over the proposed Wetzel Lake rules. A suggestion was made to add “no camping” to the list of proposed rules.

**Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Mike Hayes, to recommend the Board of Commissioners approve the following rules for Wetzel Lake pending Legal Counsel has no issues with them:**

- **Pets must be under immediate Control on a leash not exceeding six (6) feet in length.**
- **Pets are not allowed on the beach.**
- **Owners are responsible for the cleanup and disposal of dog/animal messes.**
- **NO glass containers.**
- **NO fires other than those in picnic grills.**
- **NO Motor Vehicles are allowed to drive beyond the parking area.**

**Motion Carried – Unanimous.**

**Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Mike Hayes, to Recommend the Board of Commissioners accept the quote from JKW Salvage for \$300 for the removal of the Elk Rapids Day Park playground equipment. Motion Carried – Unanimous.**

Discussion ensued over the Elk Rapids Day Park and resurfacing the parking lot.

## **5. Forestry Update**

Mike Meriwether gave a report on Hawk Lake and spoke on the spraying for tent worms by private property owners.

Mike Meriwether showed the Committee videos of the most recent timber cut at the Hawk Lake Property.

Joe Meyers informed the Committee of a parcel of land adjacent to a landlocked parcel in Lake of the Woods. Joe Meyers indicated that he would bring more information to the next meeting.

## **6. Various Matters**

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

# Parks and Lands Committee

*Mike Hayes*

***Bernie Blackmore,  
Chairman***

*Mike Crawford*

## MINUTES June 3, 2010

Members Present: Bernie Blackmore, Mike Hayes, and Mike Crawford

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Joe Meyers and Pete Garwood

Others Present: Mike Meriwether, Eileen Wallick, and Debbie Hershey

### **1. Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.**

### **2. Public Comment**

None

### **3. County Property Oil and Gas Issue**

Charlie Koop, Legal Counsel, entered the meeting to discuss the issue of the oil and gas leases for the County. Discussion ensued over oil and gas drilling process. Mr. Koop indicated that he recommended that the County hire a consultant to handle these issues

**Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Mike Hayes, to recommend the Board hire a consultant to handle the recent oil and gas leasing issues. Motion carried – unanimous.**

### **4. Grass River Natural Area (GRNA) Update**

Debbie Hershey, GRNA Director, gave her update to the Committee. Ms. Hershey discussed updating the signs on the boardwalk and the broken water fountain. Ms. Hershey also talked about the classes that GRNA is offering this year. Discussion ensued over the joint meeting of the County Board of Commissioners and Grass River Natural Area Board tonight.

### **5. Barnes Park Update**

Eileen Wallick, Park Manager, discussed the events at Barnes Park and events at the other parks and lands.

Ms. Wallick indicated that the playground equipment at the Elk Rapids Day Park has been removed.

The Committee allowed Ms. Wallick to do her budget at the August meeting.

### **6. Forestry Update**

Joe Meyers, Associate Planner, handed out a letter from Barb Vezino about the tent worms at her property. Mike Meriwether indicated that there is nothing to be done and they are cyclical, non-invasive species and is nothing we can do about it.

Mike Crawford spoke about an issue on County land on Vandermark Road that is being used for a shooting area for the Sheriff's Department.

Mike Meriwether indicated that the pavilion has been removed at Elk Rapids Day Park.

Mike Meriwether indicated that he was going to try to sell the ash off of the County forests.

Joe Meyers spoke on the tax foreclosed parcel in Lakes of the North that would give us access to a landlocked parcel in Star Township.

**Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Mike Hayes, to recommend the Board of Commissioners approve using the first right of refusal to acquire the property in Lakes of the North at a cost not to exceed \$600. Motion carried – unanimous**

Mike Crawford spoke on changing the structure of the parks.

The Committee directed the Coordinator/Planner Office to contact Charlevoix County about a boat launch on Lake Michigan.

## **7. Various Matters**

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

# Parks and Lands Committee

Mike Hayes

**Bernie Blackmore, Chairman**

Mike Crawford

July 1, 2010

Members Present: Bernie Blackmore, Mike Crawford and Mike Hayes

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Joe Meyers, Laura Sexton, Danell Doucette, Pete Garwood

Others Present: Stan Moore, Debbie Hershey, Eileen Wallick

## **1. Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.**

## **2. Public Comment**

None

## **3. Miscellaneous Parks Budgets**

### Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

**Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Mike Hayes, to recommend the Board of Commissioners reduce the membership to seven (7) people. Motion carried – unanimous.**

**Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Mike Hayes, to approve the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board budget as amended for submittal to the Finance Committee. Motion carried – unanimous.**

### Noteware's Landing

**Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Mike Hayes, to approve the Noteware's Landing budget as presented for submittal to the Finance Committee. Motion carried – unanimous.**

### Cedar River Natural Area (CRNA)

**Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Mike Hayes, to approve the Cedar River Natural Area budget as presented for submittal to the Finance Committee. Motion carried – unanimous.**

### Antrim Creek Natural Area (ACNA)

**Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Mike Hayes, to approve the Antrim Creek Natural Area budget as presented for submittal to the Finance Committee. Motion carried – unanimous.**

### Parks Fundraiser

**Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Mike Hayes, to approve the Parks Fund Raiser budget as presented for submittal to the Finance Committee. Motion carried – unanimous.**

### Glacial Hills Pathway and Natural Area (GHPNA)

**Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Mike Hayes, to approve the Glacial Hills Pathway and Natural Area budget as presented for submittal to the Finance Committee. Motion carried – unanimous.**

Wetzel Lake

**Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Mike Hayes, to approve the Wetzel Lake budget as presented for submittal to the Finance Committee. Motion carried – unanimous.**

**4. MSUE Budget Request**

Stan Moore presented the budget for the MSU Extension.

**Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Mike Hayes, to approve the MSUE budget and Capitol Outlay as presented for submittal to the Finance Committee. Motion carried – unanimous.**

**5. Antrim Conservation District Appropriation Request**

**Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Mike Hayes, to approve the Antrim Conservation District Appropriation as presented for submittal to the Finance Committee. Motion carried – unanimous.**

Mike Crawford discussed the Soil Erosion program.

Petoskey Stone Festival (PSF) Budget

Postponed until August meeting.

**6. Forestry Program**

Mike Meriwether discussed his Budget and the 2011 activities.

**Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Mike Hayes, to approve the Antrim Conservation District Forestry Appropriation as presented for submittal to the Finance Committee. Motion carried – unanimous.**

**7. Antrim County Fair**

Discussion ensued over the Antrim County Fair.

**Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Mike Hayes, to approve the Antrim County Fair Appropriation as presented for submittal to the Finance Committee. Motion carried – unanimous.**

**8. Watershed Center**

**Motion by Mike Hayes, supported by Mike Crawford, to approve the Watershed Center Appropriation as presented for submittal to the Finance Committee. Motion carried – unanimous.**

**9. Conservation Resource Alliance (CRA)**

Amy Beyer presented what CRA is doing.

**Motion by Mike Hayes, supported by Mike Crawford, to approve the Conservation Resource Alliance Appropriation as presented for submittal to the Finance Committee. Motion carried – unanimous.**

**10. County Property Oil and Gas Issue**

Charlie Koop, Legal Counsel, entered the meeting, and discussed the Oil and Gas issues on County Property.

**Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Mike Hayes, to go into closed session to discuss a negotiation strategy for leasing out property and allow Mike Meriwether, Charlie Koop, and Joe Meyers to stay for the closed session. Motion carried – unanimous.**

Closed session started at 11:35 a.m.  
Closed session ended at 11:45 a.m.

**11. Grass River Natural Area (GRNA) Update**

Debbie Hershey, GRNA Director, gave an update on the activities at GRNA. Discussion ensued over the building location.

**12. Barnes Park/Budget/ Update**

Eileen Wallick, Barnes Park Manager, presented the Barnes Park budget.

**Motion by Mike Hayes, supported by Mike Crawford, to approve the Barnes Park budget and Capitol Outlay as amended for submittal to the Finance Committee. Motion carried – unanimous.**

Elk Rapids Day Park

Eileen Wallick gave an update on the Elk Rapids Day Park.

**Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Mike Hayes, to approve the Elk Rapids Day Park Budget as presented for submittal to the Finance Committee. Motion carried – unanimous.**

Eileen Wallick discussed the activities at Barnes Park.

**13. Forestry/Parks and Recreation Update**

Mike Meriwether talked about how he will be cutting County ash trees on Wednesday July 8, 2010 on Dickerson Road, and what is involved in the sawing cost and timbering cost.

**14. Public/Member Comment**

None

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 a.m.

# Parks and Lands Committee

*Mike Hayes*

***Bernie Blackmore,  
Chairman***

*Mike Crawford*

## MINUTES August 5, 2010

Members Present: Bernie Blackmore, Mike Hayes, and Mike Crawford

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Joe Meyers

Others Present: Mike Meriwether, Eileen Wallick, and Debbie Hershey

### **1. Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.**

### **2. Public Comment**

Laura Sexton, County Clerk, spoke to the Commissioners on how Antrim County is going to be involved in a large recount for the County regarding the primary elections.

### **3. Petoskey Stone Festival Budget Request**

Christy Roman, Antrim Conservation District Director, presented the Petoskey Stone Festival Budget.

**Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Mike Hayes, to recommend the Finance Committee approve the Petoskey Stone Festival Budget and recommend the Board of Commissioners approve appropriating \$500 to the 2011 Festival. Motion carried – unanimous.**

### **4. Grass River Natural Area (GRNA) Update**

Debbie Hershey, Director of the GRNA, gave an update on Grass River and presented the Appropriation Request (attached).

Discussion ensued over the request.

Discussion ensued over the structure of GRNA.

**Motion by Mike Hayes, supported by Bernie Blackmore, to recommend the Finance Committee approve the Appropriation for Grass River Natural Area. Motion carried – Yea: Mike Hayes, Bernie Blackmore; No: Mike Crawford.**

### **5. Lakes of the North Property**

Discussion ensued over the Lakes of the North Property that Antrim County bought from the County Treasurer. The Committee asked Mike Meriwether to attend the next Lakes of the North board meeting to discuss the property/lot.

### **6. Barnes Park Update**

Eileen Wallick, Barnes Park Manager, gave an update on Barnes Park (attached).

## **7. County Forestry Update**

Mike Meriwether presented an update on the Forestry (attached). Discussion also ensued over the Elk Rapids Day Park Pavilion replacement for 2011.

Joe Meyers informed the Committee that Legislation to exempt the County from paying the Commercial Forestry Reserve (CFR) release has stalled in the State senate. Mr. Meyers indicated that the Grand Traverse Regional Land Conservancy has indicated they would like to try to raise the difference between the costs of what has been committed to pay to release the property in March and what it would cost to release the property.

**Motion by Mike Hayes, supported Mike Crawford, to reaffirm our commitment to not exceed a cost of \$28,000 to pull the Glacial Hills Pathway and Natural Area out of the Commercial Forestry Reserve program. Motion carried – unanimous.**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

# Parks and Lands Committee

*Mike Hayes*

***Bernie Blackmore,  
Chairman***

*Mike Crawford*

## MINUTES September 2, 2010

Members Present: Bernie Blackmore and Mike Hayes

Members Absent: Mike Crawford

Staff Present: Joe Meyers

Others Present: Mike Meriwether, Eileen Wallick, and Debbie Hershey

### **1. Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.**

### **2. Public Comment**

None

### **3. Grass River Natural Area (GRNA) Update**

Debbie Hershey, Grass River Director, gave her update on events at GRNA (attached)

### **4. Barnes Park Update**

Eileen Wallick, Park Manager, discussed the events at Barnes Park (attached)

### **5. Forestry Update**

Mike Meriwether, Forester, spoke on how he spent the past month helping private property owners. Mike Meriwether also indicated that he widened the Cedar River Natural Area trail.

### **6. Various Matters**

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.

# Parks and Lands Committee

*Mike Hayes*

***Bernie Blackmore,***  
***Chairman***

*Mike Crawford*

## MINUTES October 7, 2010

Members Present: Bernie Blackmore and Mike Hayes

Members Absent: Mike Crawford

Staff Present: Joe Meyers

Others Present: Mike Meriwether, Eileen Wallick, and Debbie Hershey

### **1. Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.**

### **2. Public Comment**

None

### **3. Grass River Natural Area (GRNA) Update**

Debbie Hershey, Grass River Director, gave her update on events at GRNA (attached).

### **4. Barnes Park Update**

Eileen Wallick, Park Manager, discussed the events at Barnes Park (attached).

### **5. Forestry Update**

Mike Meriwether informed the Committee that he sold around 120 logs off the Hawk Lake Property for contractors building log cabins. He indicated that he received \$100 per log and the contractors have hired John Puroll to do the cutting.

Mike Meriwether also spoke on the private land management he has been doing. He informed the Committee that when he was under the grant from the State of Michigan, he could not mark trees for a commercial cut. Now that he is under County contract, he can. He also informed the Committee that while he is not charging for this service, he was asking the landowners for donations for the Conservation District to provide the service.

Joe Meyers gave an update on the Parks, Lands, and Recreation Plan and asked the Committee to respond within two weeks with any changes so the Plan could be sent to the Board of Commissioners.

Mike Meriwether informed the Committee that he would be closing the Simpson Road property to traffic due to recent problems they are having.

### **6. Various Matters**

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.

# Parks and Lands Committee

*Mike Hayes*

***Bernie Blackmore,  
Chairman***

*Mike Crawford*

## MINUTES November 4, 2010

Members Present: Bernie Blackmore, Mike Crawford, and Mike Hayes

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Joe Meyers

Others Present: Mike Meriwether, Eileen Wallick, Lindsey Banwell, Dan Reszka, Bob Peterson, Patti Celovsky, Bud Hoogerhyde, and Debbie Hershey

### **1. Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.**

### **2. Public Comment**

None

### **3. Beals Lake Property**

Lindsey Banwell spoke on the grant the Antrim Conservation District got for the Beal Lake property that the work that they had done. Mr. Hoogerhyde spoke about how he accessed Beal Lake in prior years and how he currently cannot access the lake with the boulders in the way. The Committee asked the ACD to stagger the rocks for better access, but so a car could not drive down to the water.

### **4. Parks and Recreation Plan (attached)**

**Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Mike Hayes to recommend the Board of Commissioners Review and approve the Parks and Recreation Plan. Motion carried – unanimous.**

### **5. Elk Rapids Dam Beach Issue**

Dan Reszka spoke on the Elk Rapids Dam Beach. Mr. Reszka gave a history on the Dam Beach and the new recommendations for the Dam Beach (attached).

**Motion by Mike Hayes, supported by Mike Crawford, to recommend the Board of Commissioners put together a committee to look at restrictions on the dam beach with village and County Representation. Motion carried – unanimous.**

### **6. Grass River Natural Area (GRNA) Update**

Debbie Hershey, Grass River Director, gave her update on events at GRNA (attached). Mrs. Hershey also spoke on the Conservation Plan for Grass River.

Mrs. Hershey spoke on some tree cutting at the Schuss Mountain Beach Club.

Discussion ensued over the building at Grass River.

### **7. Barnes Park Update**

Eileen Wallick, Park Manager, discussed the events at Barnes Park (attached).

**8. Forestry Update**

Mike Crawford spoke on the potential for new signs for the trails at Cedar River Natural Area as well as removing the misspelled sign on the trail.

**Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Mike Hayes, to ask the Antrim Conservation District to remove the sign from the Cedar River Natural Area that is misspelled.**

**Motion carried – unanimous.**

Mike Meriwether indicated that he was charging an hourly rate for marking trees.

**9. Various Matters**

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

# Parks and Lands Committee

*Mike Hayes*

***Bernie Blackmore,  
Chairman***

*Mike Crawford*

## MINUTES December 2, 2010

Members Present: Bernie Blackmore, Mike Crawford, and Mike Hayes

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Joe Meyers

Others Present: Mike Meriwether, Eileen Wallick, Debbie Hershey

### **1. Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m.**

### **2. Public Comment**

None

### **3. Antrim Conservation District Update**

Christy Roman spoke about the signs at Cedar River Natural Area and distributed quotes for signage throughout the Natural Area.

**Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Mike Hayes, to recommend the Board of Commissioners approve the quote from Karl Beal to build the Trail Head Signs for Cedar River Natural Area for \$900. Motion carried – unanimous.**

### **4. Grass River Natural Area (GRNA) Update**

Debbie Hershey spoke on the fundraising for GRNA and the new interpretive center/building. Mike Crawford spoke on the potential of having a snowshoe race at Grass River.

### **5. Barnes Park Update**

Eileen Wallick handed out her update for Barnes Park. (attached)

### **6. Forestry/Parks and Recreation Advisory Board**

Mike Meriwether gave his report (attached). He also discussed how he will be cutting ash at Dickerson Road. Mr. Meriwether handed out his contract for a timber cut.

The Committee discussed the Parks & Recreation Plan.

**Motion by Mike Crawford, supported by Mike Hayes, to recommend the Board of Commissioners approve the Parks and Recreation Plan. Motion carried – unanimous.**

### **7. Various Matters**

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 a.m.