

Parks and Lands Committee

Mike Hayes

***Bernie Blackmore,
Chairman***

Mike Crawford

MINUTES February 3, 2011

Members Present: Bernie Blackmore, Gene Dawson, and Brenda Ricksgers

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Joe Meyers

Others Present: Mike Meriwether, Eileen Wallick, Debbie Hershey, Laura Stanek, Laura Sexton, Dean Crandall.

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

2. Public Comment

None

3. Grass River Natural Area (GRNA) Update

Debbie Hershey spoke on the management framework for Grass River. She informed the Committee that they are working on the conservation section of the framework first. Mrs. Hershey informed the Committee of the progress of the Grass River Signage Committee, and informed the Committee on the progress of the Grass River Center as well as the Snowshoe Race on February 19, 2011.

4. Barnes Park Update

Eileen Wallick informed the committee of an employee who has worked on and off for Barnes Park since 2000. Ms. Wallick asked the Committee if they would recommend to the Administration Committee that he be hired at the 5 to 10 year scale.

**Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Brenda Ricksgers, to recommend the Administration committee to rehire John Evans at Barnes Park at the 5 to 10 year rate.
Motion carried – unanimous.**

5. Forestry/Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Mike Meriwether gave his report to the Committee (attached). Mr. Meriwether spoke on the Emerald Ash Borer. Discussion ensued over the Glacial Hills Property and the management of it.

Discussion ensued over the potential of closing the part of Vandermark Road surrounded by County property to help stop complaints that we are receiving from the people that live at either side of the road.

The Committee informed Mr. Meriwether that he would need to speak with the Road Commission as well as the property owners regarding closing the County's portion of Vandermark Road.

Further discussion ensued over developing the Glacial Hills Natural Area development.

Joe Meyers informed the Committee that the Parks and Recreation Plan was adopted incorrectly and recommends that the County posts the Plan for the necessary 30 day public comment period followed by a Public Hearing.

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Brenda Ricksgers, to put the Parks and Recreation plan out for public comment and have a Public Hearing in March. Motion carried – unanimous.

Bernie Blackmore spoke on the bid policy.

Mike Meriwether spoke on what has happened in forestry in 2010 that he will present at the Board of Commissioners.

6. Various Matters

Laura Sexton asked the Committee if they could consider renaming Mohrmann Park to Mohrmann Natural Area.

Laura Stanek asked the Coordinator/Planner Office to check with Legal Counsel to make sure we can rename the property.

Discussion ensued over the Michigan Maps Online advertisement.

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Brenda Ricksgers, to recommend the Board of Commissioners approve the Michigan Maps Online Advertisement for \$345, noting that this company is owned by the Antrim County Drain Commissioner. Motion carried – unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

Parks and Lands Committee

Brenda Ricksgers

Bernie Blackmore,
Chairman

Mike Crawford

MINUTES March 3, 2011

Members Present: Bernie Blackmore, Gene Dawson, and Brenda Ricksgers

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Joe Meyers

Others Present: Mike Meriwether, Eileen Wallick, Debbie Hershey, Laura Stanek , Al Hurd

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

2. Public Comment

None

3. Grass River Natural Area (GRNA) Update

Debbie Hershey spoke on how GRNA is fund raising for the organization and the building.

Ms. Hershey also spoke on how she is looking at partnering with local non-profit organizations.

Ms. Hershey indicated that there was a couple looking to get married at GRNA and would like to put up a tent. The Committee felt that it was Grass River's Board decision.

Joe Meyers informed the Committee of someone was looking to have an event at Elk Rapids Day Park and would like to put up a tent. The Committee indicated that that would be the park manager's job to look into at allowing that.

Ms. Hershey spoke on having a fundraising event with Shorts Brewery.

4. Barnes Park Update

Eileen Wallick spoke on rates in other parks in the area. The Committee decided to keep the rates at the same as last year.

Discussion ensued over pavilion rentals.

Motion by Brenda Ricksgers, supported by Gene Dawson, to recommend the Board of Commissioners raise the pavilion rental rate from \$40 to \$50 for 2011 expect for the groups that reserved for 2011 in 2010. Motion carried – unanimous.

Discussion ensued over the pavilion at Elk Rapids Day Park.

Laura Stanek spoke on the potential of a 2% Grant from the tribe for the pavilion.

The Committee directed the Coordinator/Planner Office to bid out the port-a-johns and firewood for April. Discussion ensued over where the bundles of should be dropped off. The Committee indicated that the bidders should drop off the firewood at Barnes Park.

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Brenda Ricksgers, to bid out the port-a-john and firewood for three year contracts. Motion carried – unanimous.

Reservations for Barnes Park start on April 4, 2011 and the Park opens on May 9, 2011.

5. Forestry/Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Mike Meriwether spoke on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board and their request to speak with Antrim Creek Natural Area (ACNA) Commission to improve the boat launch there. Discussion ensued over the different sites for boat launches.

The Committee decided that they would like to meet with Antrim Creek at our next meeting.

Discussion ensued over trails and the widening of shoulders.

Mike Meriwether indicated that we are not cutting any wood on County land this time of the year. Mike Meriwether handed out a map from Glacial Hills Pathway and Natural Area. Mike indicated that he has mapped the trails that exist at the area.

Discussion ensued over getting an easement to access more of the Glacial Hills property.

Mike Meriwether spoke on reclaiming some of the Glacial Hills Pathway and Natural Area.

Motion by Brenda Ricksgers, supported by Gene Dawson, to recommend Finance Committee approve \$3,000 build terraces at the Glacial Hills Pathway and Natural Area, with the funds to be taken out of the forestry fund. Motion carried – unanimous.

6. Various Matters

None.

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

Parks and Lands Committee

Brenda Ricksgers

Bernie Blackmore,
Chairman

Mike Crawford

MINUTES April 5, 2011

Members Present: Bernie Blackmore, Gene Dawson, and Brenda Ricksgers

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Pete Garwood, Mark Stone

1. Meeting called to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. Elk Rapids Dam Beach

Public Comment was held off due to Dan Reszka's request as he has a meeting in Lansing later in the day and wanted to make sure he gets there on time.

Dan Reszka, Elk Rapids Village President, gave an account of the history of the Dam Beach property (written version attached).

3. Public Comment

Brenda Miller indicated a permanent protection for the Dam Beach property is what they are seeking.

4. Friends of the Dam Beach

Greg Reisig, Abby Husband, Patti Celovsky, Trisha Perlman, Susan Hoover and Bill Holland gave a presentation regarding the request to preserve the Dam Beach property. Each Committee member was given an informational booklet. Their request was for a conservation easement or a deed restriction.

Ms. Celovsky indicated they are willing to put money into the legal expenses for drafting the conservation documents. She indicated that they are also willing to put money into the site, restoring the dunes, constructing restrooms, etc.

Ms. Celovsky had three (3) questions for the Committee:

- When are the Parks & Lands Committee meetings?
- How often are the meetings?
- When will a decision be made regarding the Dam Beach issue?

Bill Holland gave a presentation regarding fishing opportunities in the river mouth up to the tailrace of the Hydro Dam.

Mark Stone, the Drain Commissioner, gave a presentation on how the Hydro Dam facility factors into the request of the Friends of the Dam Beach, as well as an alternative walk-way around the Elk Rapids Hydro facility.

The Committee moved to the Dam Beach property for a tour at 10:45 a.m. The Committee Chair, Bernie Blackmore, announced the Parks & Lands schedule and requested that we let the Friends of the Dam Beach and the Village know when the issue will be coming up on the Parks & Lands Committee.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Parks and Lands Committee

Brenda Ricksgers

Bernie Blackmore,
Chairman

Mike Crawford

MINUTES April 7, 2011

Members Present: Bernie Blackmore, Gene Dawson, and Brenda Ricksgers

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Joe Meyers

Others Present: Mike Meriwether, Eileen Wallick, Debbie Hershey, Linda Gallagher, Mark Randolph, Laura Stanek, Linda Gallagher

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

2. Public Comment

Linda Gallagher spoke on the Petoskey Stone Festival.

3. Bid Openings

The Committee received one (1) bid from Gmoser's for the Port-a-John service (attached).

Gmoser's Septic Service

One year contract - \$680 Per Month

Two year contract - \$680 Per Month

Three year contract - \$680 Per Month

The Committee received and opened the two (2) Firewood bids, one from Contractors North and one from Sandra Barnes (attached).

Contractors North

\$3.89 per bundle

Sandra Barnes

\$2.50 per bundle

Motion by Brenda Ricksgers, supported by Gene Dawson, to Recommend the Board of Commissioners approve the bid of \$2.50 from Sandra Barnes to provide firewood at Barnes Park for three years. Motion carried – unanimous.

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Brenda Ricksgers, to recommend the Board of Commissioners approve the bid from Gmoser's Septic Service at a cost of \$680 a month for a three year contract. Motion carried – unanimous.

4. Grass River Natural Area (GRNA) Update

Debbie Hershey, GRNA Director, spoke on the how she is fundraising and developing the website. She informed the Committee that 53 people showed up to the pre-bid meeting for the Grass River Center construction project.

	<p>Debbie Hershey spoke on the fundraiser this summer and the usage of the Dewey property. She inquired about the potential for getting one day passes to have alcohol on County property for fundraisers. The Committee indicated that they would not feel comfortable allowing alcohol on any County property.</p>
<p><u>5. Barnes Park Update</u></p>	
	<p>Eileen Wallick, Barnes Park Manager, went through the handout provided to the Parks and Lands Committee (attached). She discussed the Barnes Park usage for 2010 and previous years.</p>
<p><u>6. Forestry/Parks and Recreation Advisory Board</u></p>	
	<p>Mike Meriwether has been working on the Glacial Hills property. He informed the Committee that Forest Home Township has been discussing the different ways they can improve on the land and that he informed them that any plans would have to go through the Parks and Lands Committee.</p> <p>Discussion ensued over the Antrim Creek Natural Area.</p>
<p><u>7. Village of Bellaire</u></p>	
	<p>The Committee read the letter submitted by the Village of Bellaire.</p> <p>Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Brenda Ricksgers, to recommend the Board of Commissioners allow the Village to erect a fence on the Little League Ballfield as long as it can be removed and is at no cost to the County. Motion carried – unanimous.</p>
<p><u>8. Various Matters</u></p>	
	<p>Gene Dawson spoke on the economic benefit of hiking and biking trails. Further discussion ensued over trails and the process to get them.</p>
<p>The meeting was adjourned at 10:20 a.m.</p>	

Parks and Lands Committee

Brenda Ricksgers

***Bernie Blackmore,
Chairman***

Mike Crawford

MINUTES May 5, 2011

Members Present: Bernie Blackmore, Gene Dawson, and Brenda Ricksgers

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Joe Meyers

Others Present: Mike Meriwether, Eileen Wallick, Debbie Hershey, Jerroll Drenth, Betty Hoffmann, Jake Veenstra, Laura Stanek, Al Herd, Todd Vigland, Greg Reisig, Patty Celovsky, Sue Dionne, Susan Hoover, Abby Husband, Charlie Koop, Mark Randolph

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

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Joint Meeting with ACNA, Antrim Creek Natural Area Commission, and ACNA Endowment Committee

Joe Meyers spoke on the history of the Boat Launch on Lake Michigan and ACNA.

Gene Dawson discussed the different sites that have been looked at in the past.

Jerroll Drenth introduced the Antrim Creek Natural Area Commission and the informed the Committee of the motion about the boat launch that the ACNA made at their last meeting.

Mike Meriwether talked about the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board's task and the different sites that were looked at over the past five years and the reason that they were recommending the Antrim Creek Natural Area for a site.

Todd Vigland indicated that the Board of Commissioners might want to look at the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Agreement to see if a boat launch would be permitted.

Discussion ensued over the need for a boat launch on Lake Michigan.

Patty Celovsky asked the Committee if the County has done a "Needs-based" study to determine if there is a need for boat launch on Lake Michigan. Mike Meriwether indicated that he did not know if one had been done.

Discussion ensued over a safe harbor.

Motion by Gene Dawson, to ask the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to look at additional sites on Lake Michigan for a Boat Launch. Motion rescinded.

Gene Dawson talked about the Lore Road extension as the potential for a boat launch.

Motion by Gene Dawson, to ask the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board to look for additional sites for a Boat launch on Lake Michigan besides Antrim Creek Natural Area. Motion rescinded.

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Brenda Ricksgers, to recommend the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board pursue the Lore Road site for a potential boat launch and safe harbor. Motion carried – unanimous.

The Committee indicated that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board should contact the Michigan Waterways Commission to see if any studies have been completed regarding a boat launch in Antrim County on Lake Michigan.

Pete Garwood indicated that the Endowment Committee needs to meet to see if they need to use the funds for any projects at the Antrim Creek Natural Area.

Antrim Creek Natural Area, Antrim Creek Natural Area Endowment Commission portion of the meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

4. Elk Rapids Dam Beach Committee

Greg Reisig thanked the Committee for coming to Elk Rapids last month.

The Friends of the Dam Beach asked the Committee to put a conservation easement on the Elk Rapids Dam Beach Property.

Charlie Koop, Legal Counsel, indicated that historically, the County has not put easements on their property. Mr. Koop also indicated that he would feel more comfortable and feel that the property could be better protected if there was an ordinance on the property with the ordinance requiring a vote of the people if things needed to be changed.

Discussion ensued over the change on public perception and how it changes over time.

The Friends of the Dam Beach informed the Committee of the areas that they would like to see protected at the natural area.

Charlie Koop indicated that he would like to sit down with the Friends of the Dam Beach to see what they wanted put into an easement for the drafting of an ordinance.

Motion by Brenda Ricksgers, supported by Gene Dawson, to direct Legal Counsel to work with Village of Elk rapids and the Friends of the Dam Beach Committee to draft language for the Elk Rapids Dam Beach that is acceptable to everyone. Motion carried - unanimous.

5. Barnes Park Update

Eileen Wallick, Barnes Park Manager, talked about the spring cleanup that is taking place at the park due to the rain, wind, and snow.

6. Grass River Natural Area (GRNA) Update

Debbie Hershey, GRNA Director, spoke on how the classes are full for the spring. She also informed the Committee of the Tuesday fundraiser at the Dockside Bar and the ground-breaking for the Grass River Center on Thursday May 12, 2011.

7. Various Matters

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Parks and Lands Committee

Brenda Ricksgers

***Bernie Blackmore,
Chairman***

Mike Crawford

MINUTES June 2, 2011

Members Present: Bernie Blackmore, Gene Dawson, and Brenda Ricksgers

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Joe Meyers

Others Present: Mike Meriwether, Eileen Wallick, Debbie Hershey, Charlie Koop, and Laura Stanek

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

2. Public Comment

Linda Gallagher spoke on the success of the 2011 Petoskey Stone Festival.

3. Breitburn Operating

Charlie Koop, Legal Counsel, spoke on the history of the pipeline lease at the Simpson Road Property.

Kenneth Frasier, Breitburn Operating, spoke on the process of drilling for “Antrim” Natural Gas and Hydraulic Fracturing (Fracking).

Discussion ensued over the Simpson Road Property and the issues we have had with vandalism of the easement.

Charlie Koop informed Mr. Frasier that he is recommending that the County be given the information of what chemicals are contained in the fracking substance before the County would proceed with allowing Breitburn Operating to install another pipeline.

Mr. Frasier indicated that he did not know what was in the fracking chemicals and that the company producing the chemicals deemed it proprietary and would not disclose the list.

The Committee agreed that they would consider allowing the expansion of the pipeline when the company discloses the fracking chemicals that would be going through the pipeline.

4. Barnes Park Update

Eileen Wallick, Barnes Park Manager, spoke on the activities at Barnes Park. She discussed the deterioration of the road at Barnes Park.

Eileen Wallick showed the Committee pictures of the mower deck at Barnes Park and informed them of the need for a new mower. She indicated that she has a quote from Work and Play for \$6,888.64 for a John Deere Z910A Commercial ZTrak Mower with a 48 Inch deck.

Motion by Gene, supported by Brenda to recommend the Finance Committee approve a John Deere Z910A Commercial ZTrak Mower with a 48 Inch deck at a cost not to exceed 6,888.64. Motion carried – unanimous.

Eileen Wallick spoke on the Elk Rapids Day Park Pavilion and gave some different solutions for replacing it.

5. Grass River Natural Area (GRNA) Update

Debbie Hershey, GRNA Director, spoke on the 2011 GRNA Classes (attached).

Debbie Hershey also informed the Committee of the progression of the GRNA Center and the New GRNA Website.

She also read a letter from a teacher who took her class on one of the classes Grass River puts on for school children, thanking GRNA for their educational field trips.

6. Forestry Update

Mike Meriwether gave a report on events happening on the County forest lands (attached).

He indicated that he was doing an eighty (80) to one hundred (100) acre timber sale on the Glacial Hills property.

Mike Meriwether informed the Committee that there was a potential encroachment on the Ritt Road Property and asked to have a survey done. He indicated that he got a quote from Ferguson & Chamberlain for \$1,800 to mark the corners of the property and up to \$2,200 if they marked the borders.

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Brenda Ricksgers, to recommend the Finance Committee approve the surveying of the Ritt Road property with a cost not to exceed \$2,200. Motion carried – unanimous.

Joe Meyers informed the Committee that there was a tax reverted parcel in Lakes of the North that would “unlock” our 40 acre landlocked parcel adjacent to Lakes of the North at a cost of \$790.37 (attached).

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Brenda Ricksgers, to recommend the Finance Committee approve using the first rights of refusal on Parcel 01-13-250-013-00 to cost not to exceed \$1,000. Motion carried – unanimous.

7. Various Matters

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

Parks and Lands Committee

Brenda Ricksgers

Bernie Blackmore, Chairman

Gene Dawson

July 7, 2011

Members Present: Bernie Blackmore, Brenda Ricksgers, and Gene Dawson

Members Absent: None

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

Others Present: Debbie Hershey, Eileen Wallick, Amy Beyer, Andy Knott, Mike Meriwether, Christy Roman, Eric Davidek, Theresa Cole

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

2. Public Comment

None

3. Grass River Natural Area (GRNA) Budget

Debbie Hershey presented the GRNA Budget Request for 2012.

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Brenda Ricksgers, to approve the Grass River Natural Area Budget Request as presented for submittal to the Finance Committee.

Motion carried – unanimous.

4. Barnes Park and Elk Rapids Day Park

Eileen Wallick presented the Barnes Park Budget for 2012.

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Brenda Ricksgers, to approve the Barnes Park Budget Request as presented for submittal to the Finance Committee. Motion carried – unanimous.

Motion Brenda Ricksgers, supported by Gene Dawson to present the Barnes Park Lawn Mower Capital Outlay to the Finance Committee and present the Road Capital Outlay to the Buildings and Grounds Committee for approval. Motion carried – unanimous.

Eileen Wallick talked about the Elk Rapids Day Park budget for 2012.

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Brenda Ricksgers, to approve the Elk Rapids Day Park Budget Request as presented for submittal to the Finance Committee. Motion carried – unanimous.

Motion Brenda Ricksgers, supported by Gene Dawson to present the Elk Rapids Day Park Playground Equipment Capital Outlay to the Finance Committee and to present the Elk Rapids Day Park Pavilion Capital Outlay to the Buildings and Grounds

Committee for approval. Motion carried – unanimous.

5. Antrim Conservation District Budget

Christy Roman presented the Antrim Conservation District Appropriation Request. Ms. Roman also introduced the new employee Eric Davidek to the Committee

Motion by Brenda Ricksgers, supported by Gene Dawson, to approve the Antrim Conservation District Appropriation Request as presented for submittal to the Finance Committee. Motion carried – unanimous.

6. Forestry Program

Mike Meriwether presented the Forestry Budget and Appropriations for 2012.

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Brenda Ricksgers, to approve the Antrim Conservation District Forestry Budget as amended, and the Appropriation Request for submittal to the Finance Committee. Motion carried – unanimous.

7. Antrim County Fair

Discussion ensued over the Antrim County Fair Budget.

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Brenda Ricksgers, to approve the Antrim County Fair Appropriation as presented for submittal to the Finance Committee. Motion carried – unanimous.

8. Watershed Center

Andy Knott presented the Watershed Center Appropriation Request for 2012.

Motion by Brenda Ricksgers, supported by Gene Dawson, to approve the Watershed Center Appropriation request as presented for submittal to the Finance Committee. Motion carried – unanimous.

9. Conservation Resource Alliance (CRA)

Amy Beyer presented the 2012 CRA Appropriation Request and described the activities at CRA.

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Brenda Ricksgers, to approve the Conservation Resource Alliance Appropriation request as presented for submittal to the Finance Committee. Motion carried – unanimous.

10. Miscellaneous Parks

Joe Meyers, the Associate Planner, presented the Budget Requests for the various County Parks.

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Brenda Ricksgers, to approve the Parks & Recreation Advisory Board Budget as amended for submittal to the Finance Committee. Motion carried – unanimous.

Noteware's Landing

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Brenda Ricksgers, 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 Brenda Ricksgers, supported by Gene Dawson, 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 Gene Dawson, supported by Brenda Ricksgers, to approve the Antrim Creek Natural Area budget as presented for submittal to the Finance Committee. Motion carried – unanimous.

Petoskey Stone Festival

Motion by Brenda Ricksgers, supported by Gene Dawson, to approve the Petoskey Stone Festival budget as presented for submittal to the Finance Committee. Motion carried – unanimous.

Wetzel Lake

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Brenda Ricksgers, to approve the Wetzel Lake budget as presented for submittal to the Finance Committee. Motion carried – unanimous.

11. Barnes Park

Eileen Wallick discussed the activities at Barnes Park. Ms. Wallick talked about the new mower deck that was approved at last month's meeting and presented two (2) quotes.

Motion by Brenda Ricksgers, supported by Gene Dawson, to approve Eileen Wallick purchasing the mower deck from Work and Play in Atwood. Motion carried – unanimous.

Ms. Wallick spoke about changing the Murphy Park and Mohrmann Park signs.

Discussion ensued over changing of Mohrmann Park name.

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Brenda Ricksgers, to recommend the Board of Commissioners change the name of Mohrmann Park to Mohrmann Natural Area. Motion carried – unanimous.

12. Forestry/Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Update

Mike Meriwether indicated that he is working a Parks and Lands Classification system. Mike Meriwether also spoke about a boat launch on Lake Michigan.

13. Oil and Gas Issue

Charlie Koop, Legal Counsel, indicated that he has spoken with the attorney representing Breitburn and is waiting for a reply from them.

14. Grass River Natural Area (GRNA) Update

Pete Garwood discussed that Hallmark Construction requested a camper for the workers to stay at the construction site at Grass River. The Committee decided to take no action.

Debbie Hershey spoke on how a retired furniture salesman is helping with purchasing furniture.

Debbie Hershey spoke on the activities at Grass River.

15. Elk Rapids Dam Beach Issue

Bob Peterson presented the plan to improve the pedestrian walkway at the Dam Beach.

**Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Brenda Ricksgers, to recommend the Board of Commissioners approve the plan for the Elk Dam Beach improvements on the sidewalk.
Motion carried – unanimous.**

16. Public/Member Comment

Mike Meriwether spoke on the Elk Rapids Dog Park issue. The Committee decided that they would like more information.

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Parks and Lands Committee

Brenda Ricksgers

Bernie Blackmore,
Chairman

Gene Dawson

MINUTES August 4, 2011

Members Present: Bernie Blackmore, Gene Dawson, and Brenda Ricksgers

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Joe Meyers

Others Present: Mike Meriwether, Eileen Wallick, Debbie Hershey, Danelle Doucette, and Laura Sexton, Linda Gallagher, Pat Cudney, Laura Stanek, Jan Bassett, Linda Schuler, Susan Ash, Bob Bassett, Larry Maurer, Susan Dionne, Patti Celovsky.

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

2. Public Comment

None.

3. MSU Extension Budget Request

Patrick Cudney presented the budget for MSUE. Mr. Cudney indicated that the major change to the budget was due to the Memorandum Of Understanding that the County signed this year; the budget was lowered for 2012 by around \$25,000.

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Brenda Ricksgers, to recommend approval of the MSUE Budget to send to the Finance Committee. Motion carried – unanimous.

4. Dam Beach

Patti Celovsky presented letters from the Friends of the Dam Beach (attached). Ms. Celovsky spoke on how the Friends of the Dam Beach would like to move the sidewalk from the south side of the road to the north side of the road. Ms. Celovsky also indicated that the Friends of the Dam Beach tried to get the plans for the new sidewalk from the Village President but were unsuccessful.

Susan Ash, of the Bay Breeze Condominium Association, who spoke on behalf of the neighbors of the Dam Beach, objects to moving the sidewalk from the north side of the street to the south side of the street

Charles Gregory, of Bay Breeze Condominium Association, supported the Village of Elk Rapids in the sidewalk on the south side.

Chuck Schuler, of the Elk Rapids Village Council, indicated that every meeting the Village of Elk Rapids has is an open meeting, and that they have been working for over a year and a half on this project in particular. Mr. Schuler indicated that residents have requested sidewalks with curbing.

Jan Bassett, Chair of the Elk Rapids DDA, indicated that the DDA wants everyone to have access to the Dam Beach and the insertion of a sidewalk would help accomplish that goal.

The committee discussed the Dam Beach area proposed sidewalk and the issues that had been brought up at this meeting.

Discussion ensued over fishermen.

Motion by Brenda Ricksgers, supported by Gene Dawson, to approve the Village of Elk Rapids arrange for the engineering of the sidewalk at the Dam Beach property with the recommendation that the sidewalk be as narrow as possible to serve the public, that it be on the dam side of the street, and preserve as much parking as possible. Motion carried – unanimous.

5. GRNA Update

Debbie Hershey spoke on the GRNA building.

Ms. Hershey indicated that they will be holding a ribbon cutting ceremony on October 15, 2011 for the new Grass River Center.

Ms. Hershey also communicated that she is working on rules for the new center as well as writing grants for educational programs.

6. Barnes Park

Eileen Wallick spoke on events at Barnes Park.

7. Forestry Update

Mike Meriwether spoke regarding the boat launch on Lake Michigan. He distributed a list of costs associated with the planning and construction of a boat launch (attached).

Discussion ensued over the boat launch proposal and Mr. Meriwether recommended that further discussion stop at this time.

Further discussion ensued over the next steps for pursuing a boat launch.

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Brenda Ricksgers, to request the finance committee appropriate up to \$2,000 for an appraisal on property number 05-01-136-010-00 for potential use as a boat launch. Motion carried – Yea: Brenda Ricksgers and Gene Dawson; No: Bernie Blackmore.

Mr. Meriwether discussed having trees removed at the Schuss Beach Club, the Antrim County Airport, Barnes Park, and Mohrmann Natural Area. Mr. Meriwether asked for permission to put it out for bid.

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Brenda Ricksgers, to recommend Mr. Meriwether receive bids for tree removal in Barnes Park, Mohrmann Natural Area, Schuss Beach Club, and the Antrim County Airport.

Mr. Meriwether also indicated that he would be bidding out the ash trees on the Vandermark Road 40 acre property.

8. Parks Classification

Mr. Meriwether handed out the Parks Classification Plan he created.

Discussion ensued over the differences in the county lands, county parks, natural areas, and industrial parks.

The Committee asked Mr. Meriwether to classify all of the lands as he sees fit and the Board will review and make changes as necessary.

9. Schuss Beach

Gene Dawson indicated that the Schuss Beach Club should be maintained as a park.

Discussion ensued over whether or not the Schuss Beach Club is a beach or a natural area.

Linda Gallagher spoke on how she was going to write a story about the Schuss Beach Club.

Laura Stanek indicated that she felt like it should be a park and maintained as a park.

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Brenda Ricksgers, to remove the problem trees, picnic tables, and the playground equipment and turn maintenance and control back to the County instead of Grass River Inc. Motion carried – unanimous.

10. Various Matters

Mike Meriwether asked that the Glacial Hills be added to the Antrim Conservation District Forestry Contract.

Motion by Brenda Ricksgers, supported by Gene Dawson, to recommend the Board of Commissioners amend the Forestry Contract by adding the Glacial Hills Pathway and Natural Area to the contract with the Antrim Conservation District. Motion carried – unanimous.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:25 a.m.

Parks and Lands Committee

Brenda Ricksgers

Bernie Blackmore,
Chairman

Gene Dawson

MINUTES

September 1, 2011

Members Present: Bernie Blackmore, Gene Dawson, and Brenda Ricksgers

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Pete Garwood

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

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Grass River Natural Area (GRNA)

Debbie Hershey, GRNA Director gave an update on the activities at the GRNA.

Ms. Hershey informed the Committee she prepared a first draft of rules for the new building and forwarded them to the Administrator and Legal Counsel.

The construction of the new GRNA Center is going well and the ribbon cutting is scheduled for October 15, 2011.

Ms. Hershey wrote a grant to the Dole Foundation to replace two stretches of boardwalk. The grant application was for \$10,000, the Dole Foundation gave \$5,000 with the idea GRNA, Inc. would raise a matching \$5,000. Ms. Hershey has raised \$1,500 so far and has been successful in getting “in-kind” donations. Work on the boardwalk has already started.

Mary Guntzviller, a local artist, has indicated she is interested in creating a “Community Mural” on a wall in the new building. Ms. Hershey is going to apply for a grant to pay for paint and supplies for the mural.

Conservation Committee of the GRNA has been very active and is working on a management plan for the Natural Area.

Peter Garwood, County Administrator, informed the Committee that GRNA Secretary Tina Schrader was recently hired to be the Administrative Assistant in the Administration and Planning Office.

4. Barnes Park

The Committee reviewed the report from Eileen Wallick, Park Manager. Ms. Wallick was unable to attend.

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Brenda Ricksgers, to recommend the Board of Commissioners approve the expense of up to \$1,500 for emergency repairs to the Trailer Dump Station at Barnes Park. Motion carried – Unanimous.

5. Schuss Beach Parks

Mr. Garwood will contact Eileen Wallick, Park Manager, and ask her to evaluate the picnic tables and fix any that might be worth saving at Schuss Beach.

6. Forestry/Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Mike Meriwether, Forrester, joined the meeting and presented a bid specification for removal of trees at Schuss Beach Park, Mohrmann Natural Area and at the Airport. Because the funding for the project is not currently in the budget, the Committee discussed sending it on to the Finance Committee.

**Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Brenda Ricksgers, to approve the tree removal project for Schuss Beach Park, Mohrmann Natural Area, and the Airport, and send it on to the Finance Committee for a determination regarding the availability of funds.
Motion carried – Unanimous.**

Mr. Meriwether presented two bids for a 40 acre cut on Vandermark Road.

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Brenda Ricksgers, to recommend the Board of Commissioners approve the bid from Northwest Hardwood of \$14,215 for the timber cut on 40 acres off of Vandermark Road. Motion carried – Unanimous.

Mr. Meriwether indicated he is interested in working with the Administration Office to make amendments to the bid policy so it is more usable for timber cuts.

County property on Ritt Road was surveyed. The survey indicates two encroachments one on the north side by Brian Lund and the other on the south side by the Derenzy family. Mr. Meriwether informed the Committee Mr. Lund is willing to trade property as he has constructed 2 sheds and a deck on the encroachment. The Committee instructed Mr. Meriwether to pursue the potential of a land trade.

The encroachment by the Derenzy Family only happens during hunting season. (The posting of “NO HUNTING” signs on County property by a family member). Mr. Meriwether has informed the individual that he is posting on County property. The new survey will provide the necessary back-up.

Mr. Meriwether indicated we have received the last payment of \$9,000 for the cut on the Dickenson Road property.

7. Various Matters

Dam Beach Sidewalk

Bernie Blackmore, Chairman and Mr. Garwood gave an update on the Dam Beach sidewalk project (emails attached).

Lake Michigan Boat Launch

Gene Dawson inquired if any department is keeping a record of the documentation from all of the research completed on the different sites considered for a boat launch on Lake Michigan. Mr. Garwood indicated a copy of all submittals to each of the Committees is kept in a file in the Administration Office or in the File Storage Building.

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

Parks and Lands Committee

Brenda Ricksgers

Bernie Blackmore,
Chairman

Gene Dawson

MINUTES October 6, 2011

Members Present: Bernie Blackmore, Gene Dawson, and Brenda Ricksgers

Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Joe Meyers, Todd Vigland, Eileen Wallick, Mike Meriwether

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

2. Public Comment

Todd Vigland spoke on the trails on the Glacial Hills Pathway and Natural Area and handed out a pamphlet (attached). Mr. Vigland indicated that the township would like to have more county trails.

3. Bid Opening

The Committee opened bids for tree removal at the Airport, Schuss Beach Club and Mohrmann Park (attached).

Company	Price
Ralph Hines	\$6,840
Tree Top Mike	\$18,550

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Brenda Ricksgers, to accept the bid of \$6,840 for Ralph Hines, so long as his Liability Insurance is valid and he has Workman's Compensation Coverage. Motion carried – unanimous.

4. Forestry Update

Richard Allred and James MacQuarrie entered the meeting to discuss their desire to purchase a small piece of County land adjacent to their property. Discussion ensued over the easements that they had on the County land as well as the amount of land they were looking to purchase.

Mike Meriwether indicated that he did not see a problem with this transaction as the property in question was the bottom of a 40 acre parcel that was cut off by Alden Highway.

Discussion ensued over County Forestry Property Ordinance of 2009 and how this parcel is included in the ordinance. The Committee asked Mike Meriwether and the Administration and Planning Office to investigate this issue further.

The Committee discussed the boat launch on Lake Michigan issue. Joe Meyers handed out the emails that he has been receiving on the issue.

Mr. Meriwether passed out a sheet on the preliminary costs for a boat launch at Lore Road (attached).

Discussion ensued over the different grants that could be applied for and the matching costs to the County.

The Parks and Lands Committee decided to table the idea of a boat launch until the County's finances have a better outlook.

Mr. Meriwether spoke on an adjacent property owner to Glacial Hills Pathway and Natural Area wanting to sell the County an easement for the northern part of the property.

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Brenda Ricksgers, to recommend the Board of Commissioners approve having a survey done on a 66 foot wide easement to give access to the Glacial Hills Pathway Natural Area that is not easily accessible at this time. Motion carried – unanimous.

5. Barnes Park

Eileen Wallick gave her report on activities at the Counties' Parks (attached).

Bernie Blackmore indicated that Mancelona Township would like to see a slow, children playing sign at Wetzel Lake.

Ms. Wallick handed out a study on the regions camping fees and asked if we should raise them at Barnes Park.

Discussion ensued over the raising the fees at Barnes Park.

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Brenda Ricksgers, to raise the camping fees at Barnes Park for the 2012 year \$2.00 to \$23 for a primitive site and \$27 for an electric site. Motion carried as follows: Yes: Brenda Ricksgers, Gene Dawson; No: Bernie Blackmore.

6. Various Matters

Discussion ensued over horse trails on County land.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m.

Parks and Lands Committee

Brenda Ricksgers

Bernie Blackmore,
Chairman

Gene Dawson

MINUTES

November 3, 2011

Members Present: Bernie Blackmore and Brenda Ricksgers

Members Absent: Gene Dawson

Staff Present: Joe Meyers, Linda Gallagher, Charlie Koop, Debbie Hershey, Eileen Wallick,
Mike Meriwether, and Laura Stanek

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

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Grass River Natural Area Update

Debbie Hershey gave an update on the Grass River Center and the minor issues that they are having with the building.

4. Forestry update

Discussion ensued over the forestry ordinance and the Custer Township property that the adjoining property owners wanted to purchase. Discussion ensued over the intent of the ordinance. The Commissioners decided that they would like legal counsel to review the ordinance before our next meeting.

Discussion ensued over the tree cutting contract. Charlie Koop indicated that he has spoken with the County's Worker's Compensation Insurance provider and they indicated that contracting with a person without Worker's Compensation Insurance could increase our liability. The Committee directed our legal counsel to work with the Administration and Planning Office to get an official answer from our Worker's Compensation Insurance provider.

Mike Meriwether indicated that he needs to have a contract (attached) signed for the timber sale on Vandermark Road.

Motion by Bernie Blackmore, supported by Brenda Ricksgers, to recommend the Chair of the Board of Commissioners approve the contract with Northwest Hardwoods pending the review of legal counsel. Motion carried – unanimous.

5. Barnes Park

Eileen handed out an update for events happening at Barnes Park (attached).

6. Various Matters

Discussion ensued over the proposal from Gourdie Frasier to do a preliminary study for a boat launch at Barnes Park (attached).

The Committee decided to take no action due to the overall cost of developing a boat launch.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.

Parks and Lands Committee

Brenda Ricksgers

Bernie Blackmore,
Chairman

Gene Dawson

MINUTES

December 1, 2011

Members Present: Bernie Blackmore and Gene Dawson

Members Absent: Brenda Ricksgers

Staff Present: Joe Meyers, Linda Gallagher, Charlie Koop, Debbie Hershey, Eileen Wallick, Mike Meriwether, Laura Stanek, Greg Reisig, Patty Celovsky, Susan Hoover, Abby Husband, Sue Dionne, Melissa West, and Beth Guntzviller

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

2. Public Comment

None.

3. Friends of the Dam Beach

Greg Reisig thanked the Commissioners on working on the Dam Beach. Mr. Reisig indicated that the Friends of the Dam Beach would like to see a management plan for the entire area. Mr. Reisig spoke on the sidewalk at the Elk Rapids Dam Beach. Patty Celovsky spoke on the different ways that the Dam Beach and the sidewalk could be protected. Sue Dionne spoke on the sidewalk and the paving of the Dam Beach for more parking. Abby Hubbard spoke on the sidewalk and the different restroom facilities that they would like to build. Beth Guntzviller spoke on how the Dam Beach area was going to be paved over 15 years ago and they stopped it then and are hoping to stop it now. Susan Hoover spoke on parking issues at the property.

4. Elk Rapids Dam Beach Ordinance

Charlie Koop informed the Committee that the Dam Beach would be needed to be used as a staging area if and when the Dam had to be fixed or rebuilt. Mr. Koop spoke on the different surveys of the properties and the Village and Counties role in the area. Discussion ensued over a management plan. Discussion ensued over the Dam Beach property, parking, and the sidewalk.

5. Forestry Update

Mike Meriwether indicated that he has been spending most of his time with private land owners.

Mr. Meriwether also indicated that he would be writing master plans for the County forest lands.

Mr. Meriwether also informed the Committee of the Americorps individual that will spend the summer of 2012 at the Cedar River Natural Area working on projects.

6. Grass River Natural Area

Debbie Hershey, Grass River Natural Area Director, spoke on the Grass River Center and the grants that they were receiving.

7. Parks Update

Eileen Wallick submitted a report to the Committee about events at Barnes Park (attached).

Ms. Wallick spoke on the sign at Mohrmann Natural Area.

Motion by Gene Dawson, supported by Bernie Blackmore, allowing Eileen Wallick to update the sign at Mohrmann Natural Area. Motion carried – unanimous.

Discussion ensued over the speed limit at Barnes Park. The Commissioners decided to take no action.

8. GRNA Property Appraisals

Discussion ensued over the appraisals.

The Committee directed Debbie Hershey to speak with her board and inform the Commissioners of the GRNA Boards' discussion.

Laura Stanek, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners, spoke on document imaging.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.