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August 4, 2025  
6:15 P.M.

Manistee County Planning Department Conference Room  
and via Zoom

### **MINUTES**

Members Present: Wayne Beldo, Chair; Margaret Batzer, Vice Chair; Gary Schwaiger, Secretary; Paul Petrovich; Shayne Machen; Linda Cudney; Devin Wegner; Bill Shryer; Robert Schuelke; Glenn Zaring

Members Absent: None

Others Present: Katie Gruenberg, Manistee County Planning Director; David Jarvi, Manistee County Planner; Sara Herberger, Manistee County Community Foundation; Sally Trisch, Dickson Township; Tim Knoper, Benzie - Manistee Dirt Birds

Mr. Beldo called the meeting to order at 6:16 PM, roll call was taken.

**Approval of the August 4, 2025, meeting agenda.**

**There was a motion by Ms. Cudney supported by Mr. Schwaiger to approve the August 4, 2025, meeting agenda as amended. All in favor, motion carried.**

**Approval of the July 7, 2025, meeting minutes.**

**There was a motion by Ms. Batzer supported by Mr. Petrovich to approve the July 7, 2025, meeting minutes as amended. All In favor, motion carried.**

**Conflict of interest: None**

**Public Comment: None**

**Updates:**

**SMARTrails:** Ms. Cudney gave an update on behalf of the Friends of SMARTrails.

Group was awarded \$615 from Filer Credit Union.

Cadillac Fabrication will be the outfit that makes bridge over Bear Creek.

Mr. Carson will be having a pre-construction meeting with AJ's Excavation in the coming days.

Hope to have trail segment done sometime in September.

Mr. Coe has been working on trail chart.

Mr. Coe, Ms. Batzer, and Ms. Cudney attended the groundbreaking ceremony for the TARP.

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Ms. Cudney represented SMARTrails at the Thompsonville Summerfest.

**Manistee County Snowbirds Update:** No update.

**Manistee County Dirt Birds Update:** Mr. Knoper gave an update on behalf of the Manistee County Dirt Birds

Blessing of the ORVs will take place on June 6, 2025, in Mesick.

**County-Wide Recreation Plan Update: Ms. Gruenberg gave an update.**

**Staff released the Recreation Plan survey to collect public input.**

Staff promoted survey at Onekama Days and Copemish Heritage Days.

Flyers and poster print with QR and survey link available.

Survey is available online or offline, paper copies available.

Ms. Gruenberg stated that we could leave the survey open for a year. Need to get bulk of data before we can move ahead with community profiles/goals and objectives. Both on a local and county scale.

**Planning Department Staff Update:**

Mr. Jarvi said we got at least 25 surveys filled out at Copemish and Onekama Days.

Ms. Gruenberg updated the commission on the trails summit she attended at Crystal Mountain. Interesting speaker came from Arkansas, talked about positive effects of trail development in more rural locales.

**Old Business:**

**ORV Ordinance Review**

Mr. Jarvi summarized his memo about Horse and Buggies and their relation to ORVs and the ORV Ordinance. Mr. Jarvi found that Horse and Buggies are considered slow moving vehicles, and Michigan law already exists pertaining to them.

Discussion about time frame to update master map, section numbering.

Discussion about Ebikes and their relation to the ORV Ordinance.

Before approval, Ms. Gruenberg says the ORV Ordinance still must be sent to the Road Commission for review and local units need to be notified. Before it goes to the County Board of Commissioners for adoption with the recommendation of the Road and Recreation Commission.

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**There was a motion by Ms. Batzer, supported by Ms. Cudney to recommend approval of the Manistee County ORV Ordinance with changes recommended.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Wayne Beldo – yes, Margeret Batzer – yes, Gary Schwaiger – yes, Paul Petrovich – yes, Shayne Machen – yes, Linda Cudney – yes, Devin Wegner – yes, Bill Shryer – yes, Robert Schuelke – yes, Glenn Zaring – yes**

**Vote passes**

Discussion ensued about correspondence with LuGs regarding ORV Ordinance.

**New Business:**

**Setting Our Direction/Priorities, Policies, and Procedures**

Ms. Gruenberg briefly went over document she prepared for Commission. Wanted to get an outline out to the commission for any feedback. Would be a good resource.

In regard to the mapping of trails, Ms. Gruenberg included maps created by SMARTrails and Networks Northwest showing trails/future trails of Manistee County.

**Sponsor Master List**

Mr. Jarvi went over the document, asked for approval of the document from the commission.

The Sponsor Master List will be a living document, that will be updated periodically.

Mr. Jarvi will add contact information to the document.

**There was a motion by Ms. Batzer, supported by Mr. Schuelke to approve of the Sponsor Master List with changes recommended and updates as needed.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Wayne Beldo – yes, Margeret Batzer – yes, Gary Schwaiger – yes, Paul Petrovich – yes, Shayne Machen – yes, Linda Cudney – yes, Devin Wegner – yes, Bill Shryer – yes, Robert Schuelke – yes, Glenn Zaring – yes**

**Vote passes**

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**Other Items Before the Board:**

Mr. Schwaiger brought up the proposed lengthening of Frost Rd. that the Tribe is currently planning. Discussion ensued.

Wayne Beldo let the Commission know that Michelle Hoytenga would be visiting the Maple Grove Twp Hall.

Bill Shryer inquired about cooperation between Recreation Commission and other entities, both private and public.

Mr. Zaring introduced himself.

Mr. Beldo requested a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:06 P.M.

**There was a motion by Mr. Beldo, supported by Ms. Batzer to adjourn the meeting.  
All in favor, motion carried**

Next meeting will be on September 7, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

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Gary Schwaiger, Recreation Commission

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Date