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October 10, 2025
Room
6:15 P.M.

Manistee County Planning Department Conference
and via Zoom

MINUTES

Members Present: Wayne Beldo, Chair; Gary Schwaiger, Secretary; Paul Petrovich; Shayne Machen; Linda Cudney; Devin Wegner; Bill Shryer

Members Absent: Robert Scheulke, Margaret Batzer, Vice Chair; Glenn Zaring

Others Present: Jodie Lynch, Manistee County Planner; 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 6:15 PM, roll call was taken.

Approval of the October 6, 2025, meeting agenda.

There was a motion by Mr. Schwaiger supported by Ms. Wegner to approve the October 6, 2025, meeting agenda as amended. All in favor, motion carried.

Approval of the August 4, 2025, meeting minutes.

There was a motion by Ms. Cudney supported by Ms. Machen to approve the August 4, 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.

- Jennifer Flynn from Echo Core attended the August meeting.
- Mr. Carson reported that a contract has been signed for the trail from Thompsonville to Copemish. AJ's Excavating has applied for soil erosion permits in both Benzie and Manistee Counties. Started work on the trail September 9th.
- A group from SMARTrails cleaned up Chief trail, decided to have two trail cleanup days. With one being in the fall, and the other being in the spring.

Manistee County Snowbirds Update: Mr. Knoper gave an update on behalf of the Benzie Manistee Snowbirds

- Dirt grooming is currently underway. Trying to get the surface smooth before the ground freezes.

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

- One more group ride, season is wrapping up.
- Membership keeps growing, more and more people are wanting to ride legal.

County-Wide Recreation Plan Update: Mr. Jarvi gave an update.

- There are three more public input sessions left.
- First public input session was a success, lots of good discussion.
- Next public input session will be October 16th in Norman Township.

Planning Department Staff Update:

- Mr. Jarvi notified the Recreation Commission that had taken a new job, and this would unfortunately be his last meeting in attendance.

Onkama Parks and Recreation:

- **Mr. Jarvi presented Onkama Parks and Recreation Programming Summit flyer. The Programming Summit will be on October 29th at 5pm.**

Old Business:

ORV Ordinance Review

- Mr. Jarvi went over comments received from Local Units of Governments.
- Will update ORV Map to include Marilla Township.
- Discussion took place about minimum rider age, direct supervision, and state ORV laws for riders under 18.
- Will add section under operating conditions for riders under 12 years of age.

There was a motion by Ms. Machen, supported by Mr. Schwaiger to approve proposed ORV Ordinance changes suggested at meeting.

A roll call vote was taken:

Yeas: 7(Beldo, Schwaiger, Petrovich, Machen, Cudney, Wegner, Shryer)

Nays: 0

Absent: 3 (Batzner, Scheulke, Zaring)

Setting Our Direction/Priorities, Policies, and Procedures

- Mr. Jarvi went over document, asked if Recreation Commission was comfortable with adopting.
- Discussion about Commissions priorities, smaller projects from LuGs.

There was a motion by Mr. Shryer, supported by Mr. Schwaiger to approve the Priorities, Policies, and Procedures Document.

A roll call vote was taken:

Yeas: 7(Beldo, Schwaiger, Petrovich, Machen, Cudney, Wegner, Shryer)

Nays: 0

Absent: 3 (Batzner, Scheulke, Zaring)

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New Business: None

Other Items Before the Board: None

Mr. Beldo requested a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:53 P.M.

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

Next meeting will be on November 3, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Schwaiger, Recreation Commission

Date