

**Minutes**  
**Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority**  
**Board of Commissioners**  
**Thursday, February 13, 2014**

The regular meeting of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority's Board of Commissioners was held at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 13, 2014 at the Administrative Office. The meeting was convened in pursuance to a call thereof by the Executive Secretary and due notice was given to the HCMA Board of Commissioners.

Commissioners Present:

	John E. La Belle
	John C. Hertel
	Timothy J. McCarthy
	Anthony V. Marrocco
	Harry E. Lester
	Jaye Quadrozzi
	Robert W. Marans

Staff Officers:

Director	John P. McCulloch
Deputy Director	George Phifer
Controller	Rebecca Franchock
Recording Secretary/Corporation Counsel	Joseph W. Colaianne

Others:

Chairperson, Livingston County Board of Commissioners	Carol Griffith
County Administrator, Livingston County Board of Commissioners	Belinda Peters

Chairman La Belle called the meeting to order at 10:36 a.m.

**Chairman's Statement**

Prior to conducting Public Hearing, Chairperson La Belle introduced Carol Griffith, Chairperson, Livingston County Board of Commissioners and Belinda Peters, County Administrator, Livingston County Board of Commissioners. Chairperson La Belle noted that he invited them to demonstrate the important mission of the Metroparks to the quality of life to surrounding communities.

**1. Public Hearing – MNRTF Grant Applications**

Chairperson La Belle opened the public hearing concerning Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) Grant Applications. Chief Planner Sue Nyquist indicated that there were two separate MNRTF Grant Applications up for consideration.

- (1) MNRTF Grant Application – Hudson Mills Metropark. Ms. Nyquist indicated that the Metroparks is seeking a grant to assist with funding the acquisition of certain property adjacent to Hudson Mills Metropark. The property under consideration consists of a 1.2-acre parcel with frontage on Dexter-Pinckney Road. In cooperation with Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation, acquisition of this property would support the goal to construct a 3-mile paved, non-motorized trail across Washtenaw County from the northwest border to the eastern border of the county (Border-to-Border Trail project). (Please see grant materials and memorandum dated February 6, 2014). Ms. Nyquist also noted that the current property owner has listed the property for sale.

- (2) MNRTF Grant Application – Stony Creek Metropark. Ms. Nyquist indicated that the Metroparks is seeking a grant to assist with funding for the Stony Creek Metropark Boat Launch and Pier Replacement Project. Replacement of aging facilities is a priority of the Metroparks Five-Year Community Recreation Plan. This project will replace aging piers and construct a universally accessible canoe/kayak launch. This will be Phase I of a multi-phased project to make improvements to the launch facility. (Please see grant materials and memorandum dated February 6, 2014). The project cost is estimated to be \$280,000; and the local match will be \$230,000.

There was a request for public comment. No questions or comment on the two matters presented.

Public Hearing closed.

**2. Chairman's Statement**

Given before public hearing.

**3. Public Comments**

None

**4. Minutes – December 12, 2013 Regular Meeting and Closed Session**

Motion by Commissioner McCarthy, supported by Commissioner Lester that the Board of Commissioners approve the Jan. 9, 2013 regular meeting and closed minutes as submitted by Deputy Director Phifer and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

**5. Approval – February 13, 2014 Agenda**

Motion by Commissioner Marans, supported by Commissioner Marrocco that the Board of Commissioners approve the Feb. 13, 2014 meeting agenda as amended and recommended by Director McCulloch and staff.

Director McCulloch added two items to the agenda to be included under 9. Reports as (3) Proposal – Metroparks Logos; and (4) Report – HEART Freshwater Center at Lake St. Clair Metropark.

Motion carried unanimously.

**6. Approval – January 9, 2014 Consent Agenda**

Motion by Commissioner Marans, supported by Commissioner Marrocco that the Board of Commissioners approve the Jan. 9, 2014 Consent Agenda to include the following: Vouchers for December 2013 and January 2014; Financial Statements for December 2013 and January 2014; Purchases for a Surf Rake (Beach Cleaner) at Lake St. Clair Metropark; Bids for Boat Rental Pile Removal and Replacement at Kensington Metropark; Bids for Golf Course Irrigation Head Replacements Phase IV at Indian Springs and Lake Erie Metroparks; Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Grant; Approval for a Pension Plan Trustee and Retiree Health Care Trust Administrator; and donations.

Motion carried unanimously.

## Regular Agenda

### **7. Legislative Report**

No Motion necessary. Director McCulloch indicated he had spoken to Mr. Carr and that there is no legislative report to provide at this time as the focus at the state is on the 2014-2015 State Budget (please see Mr. Carr's letter dated January 5, 2014).

### **8. Update – Park Superintendents**

- a) Mr. Pershing indicated that the Southern District observed record cold and snow for the month of January. Winter sports are going well with ice skating and sledding. Revenue was flat despite previous corporate purchase of annual permits. Mr. Pershing also noted that the Lake Erie Golf Starter Building as well as the Golf Maintenance Building experienced pipe bursts resulting in flooding but caused minimal damage. Commissioner Lester raised concerns about the health and feeding of the deer population and whether anything could be done. (Please see report, January 2014).
- b) Mr. Lyons indicated that despite record snow, the cold appears to have kept the public away in the Eastern District. The interpretative program suffered due to the number of school cancellations because of the weather. He noted that maintenance has worked very hard to keep the roads and trails cleared for the public. Vehicle permits were down but total revenue was up for the month. Cross country skiing was up more than 66 percent. He noted that there were 900 participants in the "Freeze Your Franny" 5K race. Stony Creek dam repairs are completed. (Please see report, January 2014).
- c) Ms. Jarvis indicated that the cold weather affected overall revenue, but cross-country skiing is up. Jarvis indicated that Huron Meadows has become very popular, a Mecca for cross country skiing. Ms. Jarvis referenced the Ice Harvesting Program and noted that volunteer Dan Jones had restored a dilapidated wagon into an ice wagon. The "Chillin' at the Mills" (Hudson Mills Metropark) program was very successful; 267 patrons enjoyed dog sled racing, snow showing and making snow sculptures. With all of the snowfall and cold weather, Ms. Jarvis also wanted to note the hard work of the maintenance staff in keeping the roads and parking lots clear for the public. (Please see report, January 2014). On a special note, Ms. Jarvis conveyed to the Board that a dedicated Metroparks employee, Mike Broughton, a Kensington Nature Center interpreter, braved the snow and cold by walking to work during the Jan. 6 winter snow storm because he could not get his vehicle down his road.

Motion by Commissioner Lester, supported by Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners receive and file the updates given by the District Park Superintendents.

Motion carried unanimously.

### **9. Reports**

#### **A. Stony Creek**

##### **1. Resolution – MNRTF Grant Application, Boat Launch Pier Replacement**

Motion by Commissioner Marans, supported by Commissioner Marrocco that the Board of Commissioners approve the MNRTF Grant Application Resolution for boat launch pier replacement at Stony Creek Metropark as recommended by Chief Planner Nyquist and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

## 9. Reports

### B. Hudson Mills

#### 1. Resolution – MNRTF Grant Application, Land Acquisition

Motion by Commissioner Marans, supported by Commissioner Marrocco that the Board of Commissioners approve the MNRTF Grant Application Resolution for land acquisition at Hudson Mills Metropark as recommended by Chief Planner Nyquist and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

### C. Administrative Office

#### 1. Approval – Kosch Catering Contract

Director McCulloch noted that almost a year ago he began to review the 2012 information concerning the existing Kosch contracts and raised a number of concerns. He noted that there were two separate contracts with different terms; and that the compensation formula was multifaceted. Ultimately, the parties determined that Kosch should focus on catering and certain concessions and the compensation formula simplified. (Please see attached memorandum dated Feb. 6, 2014 concerning Metroparks Food and Beverage Service Contract – Kosch Hospitality, LLC).

Chairperson La Belle indicated his appreciation for the service provided by Kosch.

Motion by Commissioner Marans, supported by Commissioner McCarthy that the Board of Commissioners approve the re-negotiated food and beverage service contract with Kosch Hospitality, LLC as recommended by Director McCulloch and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### 2. Information Technology Department Restructuring

Deputy Phifer provided a brief background regarding the reorganization of the Information Technology Department based on the assessment by Plante Moran and that the Business Application Specialist position is critical to moving the department forward.

Motion by Commissioner Marrocco, supported by Commissioner Quadrozzi that the Board of Commissioners authorize staff to fill the vacant Business Application specialist position as recommended by Director McCulloch and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### 3. Proposal – Metroparks Logos

Director McCulloch stated that he is not requesting any action from the Board at this time. He noted that the current logo has been in existence for more than 75 years and we should be very sensitive to its history. Accordingly, he is seeking input from the Board regarding revisions to the Metropark logo.

Ms. Stone, Administrative Services Manager noted that the goal of 2014 marketing initiatives is to increase overall awareness of the Metroparks, its facilities and programs. The first step to increasing overall awareness is the development of a consistent brand to be used on all print and promotional

materials, signage, and social media. Ms. Stone then presented updated logos that retain the inverted triangle with an updated visually engaging image. The logo presented includes two streams representing the Huron and Clinton Rivers and five cattails representing each of the five counties. Ms. Stone also showed a version of the same logo which could be used to promote programs or other activities, such as golf.

Commissioner Hertel noted that after 75 years it is time for a change but would like to take more time to consider various alternatives. Commissioner Lester indicated that he liked the colors used in the logos that were presented.

Director McCulloch noted that in his discussion with Commissioner Marrocco that naming the rivers may be something to consider. He further noted that is just the beginning of the process concerning updating the Metropark logo.

## **9. Reports**

### **C. Administrative Office**

#### **4. Report – HEART Freshwater Center at Lake St. Clair**

Please see Mr. Muelle's report, "HEART Freshwater Center at Lake St. Clair Metropark" dated Feb. 13, 2014.

Director McCulloch noted that the proposed center has received the attention of key players at the state, including DEQ Director Wyant and state legislators. In addition, he noted that MEDC may be providing funding for testing equipment that would allow for instantaneous testing for E. coli. Commissioner Marrocco indicated his support for the proposal. Commissioner Hertel indicated his support as well and noted that several years ago he worked with U.S. Senator Spencer Abraham to obtain funding to help remove a sand bar which captures the E. coli. Commissioner Marans indicated his support for the program and stated that staff should also contact the "New Water Center" at the University of Michigan. He noted that there may be funding grants available.

Motion by Commissioner Hertel, supported by Commissioner Lester that the Board of Commissioners receive and file the report on the Heart Freshwater Center as recommended by Natural Resources and Environmental Compliance Manager Paul Muelle and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

## **10. Director's Report**

- a) Director McCulloch indicated that he is in the process of filling a number of positions. Most recently, Chip Tischer was hired as HCMA's Community Liaison who will be reaching out to community officials, chambers of commerce etc. Commissioners should feel free to contact Chip.
- b) The Director announced and encouraged all to attend the March 15, 2014 Employee Recognition Dinner at Indian Springs.
- c) The Director commended the HCMA maintenance staff and all of their hard work, noting that the cold weather and snow has made their task in keeping the parks open and ready for the public especially difficult this season.

- d) Winter Blast attendance was down 17 percent but it is clear the Metroparks has increased awareness with the number of permits sold.
- e) Controller Rebecca Franchock, noted that she and staff are currently working with New World Systems on a statement of work (SOW) and the contract for the ERP System. It is expected that the SOW and contract with New World will be in place by April 2014. Commissioner McCarthy inquired where we were with respect to the timeline, and Controller Franchock noted that we are approximately a month behind schedule primarily because of due diligence efforts.

**11. Other Business**

None

**12. Commissioner Comments**

Chairperson La Belle referenced a letter from Commissioner McCarthy to the Governor reporting on HCMA activities and progress.

Commissioner Lester said pray for spring!

Commissioner Marrocco said he liked the information regarding the golf rounds taking the three-year average; should add another column showing the previous year.

**14. Motion to Adjourn**

Motion by Commissioner Marrocco, supported by Commissioner McCarthy that the Board of Commissioners adjourn the regular meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Colaianne  
Recording Secretary/Corporation Counsel