

**MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HURON-CLINTON METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY
THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 2010**

The regular meeting of the Huron-Clinton Board of Commissioners was held at 10:30am EST on Thursday, March 11, 2010 at HCMA's Administrative Office, 13000 High Ridge Drive, Brighton, Michigan 48114. The meeting was convened in pursuance to a call thereof by the Executive Secretary and due notice to the HCMA Board of Commissioners.

Present: Commissioners: John C. Hertel
John E. La Belle
Harry E. Lester
Robert W. Marans
Anthony V. Marrocco
Peter S. Walters
Warren C. Evans

Staff Officers:
Director Jayne S. Miller
Deputy Director David C. Moilanen
Executive Secretary Gregory J. Almas
Controller David L. Wahl

Others:
Legislative Consultant George C. Carr
Legal Counsel Michael McGee

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Lester at 10:30am, EST.

1. Chairman's Statement

Chairman Lester introduced Jayne Miller as the newly appointed Director to the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority.

Director Miller thanked Chairman Lester and introduced Shawn Athayde as the newly appointed Administrative Office Secretary.

Chairman Lester indicated the Commission would be pleased to hear any member of the public who would like to speak.

2. Public Comments

Wayne County Executive, Robert Ficano, spoke in support of a Metropark at the Michigan State Fairgrounds noting its unique location within a few miles of 4 million residents and easy access. Ficano said the project would demonstrate regional cooperation and leadership.

Eugene Driker, Palmer Woods Association, spoke in support of a Metropark at the Michigan State Fairgrounds stating as a Detroit resident paying taxes to the Metroparks he only has the opportunity to visit current Metroparks about once every 10 years.

Toni Spears, an HCMA volunteer, thanked the Chief Planner, Sue Nyquist for her presentation regarding the Hudson Mills and Dexter Hike/Bike trail. She encouraged the Commission to give careful consideration to the HCMA mission, the budget, the effect on current operations and future operational funding in the deliberations regarding the Michigan State Fairgrounds.

Commissioner Marrocco entered the meeting room.

Ed Bullock, Inter-county Citizens Achieving Regional Excellence (ICARE), distributed a proposal regarding an agricultural education facility at the State Fairgrounds. He expressed support for a Metropark at the State Fairgrounds.

Byna Camden, ICARE, spoke in support of a Metropark at the Michigan State Fairgrounds.

Tim McCarthy, Detroit Metro Convention and Visitors Bureau, spoke in favor of an HCMA lease to operate the State Fairgrounds noting several activities that could be offered and the opportunity to enhance the convention and tourism economy.

Brian Siegler, Joe Dumar's Fieldhouse, indicated there are other proposals for the State Fairgrounds which would provide better financial returns for the Fieldhouse but, philosophically, Joe Dumars and he supports a Metropark at the State Fairground to provide recreational opportunities for the surrounding residents.

State Rep. Bert Johnson (D – 5th District), commented that a Metropark at the State Fairgrounds would reinvigorate the area and be a part of the revitalization of the city of Detroit. Johnson suggested looking beyond current budget constraints and to the new revenues that could be generated at the State Fairgrounds.

Virgil Smith, Greenacres Woodward Civic Association, spoke in favor of the Metroparks at the State Fairgrounds noting a Metropark would breathe life into the community with the beauty and activities it would bring.

Nancy Goedert, ICARE, spoke in support of a Metropark at the State Fairgrounds wanting it to remain in positive public use.

Carolyn Apsey, Royal Oak resident, commented favorably on the location of the State Fairgrounds and the art activities conducted there.

Bob Porter, Ferndale resident, encouraged development of the State Fairgrounds but noted Metropark tax and operational revenues are down and the fiscal ability of the Metroparks needs to be considered to assure other Metroparks are maintained to expected standards.

Jeff Crank, Cranks Catering, presented a letter and other documents regarding the transition of exclusive caterers for Stony Creek, Metro Beach, Wolcott Mill, Indian Springs and Kensington Metroparks and requested the Commission provide direction to the Metropark staff regarding Crank's Catering concerns.

3. Minutes

It was moved by Commissioner Hertel, supported by Commissioner Marans that the minutes for the Feb. 11, 2010 regular meeting, the Feb. 11, 2010 closed session meeting and the Feb. 24, 2010 special meeting be approved as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Financials

It was moved by Commissioner Marans, supported by Commissioner Marrocco that the financial statement for February 2010 be approved as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Vouchers

It was moved by Commissioner La Belle, supported by Commissioner Hertel that the vouchers for February 2010 (0208725 through 0209229) be approved as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Purchases

It was moved by Commissioner Hertel, supported by Commissioner Marrocco that the following purchases for February 2010 be approved as recommended by Purchasing Manager, Scott Michael and staff.

ITB-10-019	Picnic tables and grills
ITB-10-0017	Safety surface

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

A. Metro Beach

1. Bids – Park/golf course tree plantings (Metro Beach and Stony Creek)

Chief Engineer Arens reported the work is to furnish and install approximately 90 trees at various locations throughout the park and golf course areas at Metro Beach and Stony Creek Metroparks.

It was moved by Commissioner La Belle, supported by Commissioner Hertel that the Board of Commissioners award a contract to the low bidder, Greg Davis Landscape Services, Inc. in the amount of \$14,462 and that the difference between the lowest bid and the budgeted amount be applied to additional tree plantings at various locations within Metro Beach and Stony Creek Metroparks under the contract as recommended by Chief Engineer Arens and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Proposal – Power distribution system study

Chief Engineer Arens reported the electrical system at Metro Beach is owned and operated by the Authority, has had numerous revisions and additions to support new construction and renovations, and was last reviewed comprehensively in 1994.

It was moved by Commissioner Marans, supported by Commissioner Marrocco that the Board of Commissioners accept the proposal of J. A. Lombardo and Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$15,700 to perform an engineering study of the Metro Beach Power Distribution System and that \$16,000 be transferred from the Reserves for Future Contingencies account as recommended by Chief Engineer Arens and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Wolcott Mill Metropark

1. Proposed cost share – Wolcott Mill road improvements

This item was removed from the advanced agenda.

C. Stony Creek Metropark

1. Bids – Eastwood Beach column and roof repairs

Chief Engineer Arens reported that the project includes removal and replacement of four structural concrete columns, removal of a 2,730 square foot section of existing concrete waffle-slab roofing overhang, removal of a 1,520 square foot shade structure, replacement of rain conductors, reconstruction of concrete surfaces, replacement of existing roof with an EPDM system, installation of 23 roof skylights, removal and replacement of selected areas of plaza concrete and removal and replacement of exterior lights, conduits and wiring.

It was moved by Commissioner Marrocco, supported by Commissioner Evans that the Board of Commissioners award a contract to the low bidder, Bernco, Inc. in the amount of \$252,800 as recommended by Chief Engineer Arens and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Bids – Shoreline protection rip rap

Chief Engineer Arens reported that work is to provide approximately 560 lineal feet of shoreline rip rap protection along the shore on Stony Lake near the Lakeview picnic area.

It was moved by Commissioner Marrocco, supported by Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners authorize a purchase order be issued to the low bidder, Dynasty Paving, Inc. in the amount of \$15,445 and that \$28,000 of capital improvement funds be returned to the Reserve Account as recommended by Chief Engineer Arens and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

D. Kensington Metropark

1. Trail maintenance agreement – Milford Township

Deputy Director Moilanen presented the proposal for the 2010 Trail Maintenance and Repair Agreement between the Authority and Milford Township for grass cutting, sweeping, garbage pick-up, tree limb and debris removal from the trail and safety patrol of the trail located in and contiguous to Kensington Metropark.

Moilanen reported maintenance work cost-share is two-thirds for Milford Township and one-third for the Authority; and patrol cost-share is a 50-50 split between the Township and the Authority.

It was moved by Commissioner Walters, supported by Commissioner La Belle that the Board of Commissioners approve the Trail Maintenance and Repair Agreement with the Charter Township of Milford for April 15, 2010 through October 31, 2010 as presented and recommended by Deputy Director Moilanen and staff.

Motion carried unanimously

2. Bids – Park/golf course tree plantings (Kensington and Indian Springs)

Chief Engineer Arens reported the work includes furnishing and installation of approximately 66 trees and 118 grasses/perennials at various locations in Kensington and Indian Springs Metroparks.

It was moved by Commissioner Walters, supported by Commissioner Evans that the Board of Commissioners award a contract to the low bid, R. C. Tuttle Refinishing Company, in the amount of \$14,977.80 and that the difference between the low bidder and the budgeted amount be applied to additional needed tree plantings at various locations in Kensington and Indian Springs Metroparks under the contract as recommended by Chief Engineer Arens and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Bids – Underground storage tank removal, Park service area

Chief Engineer Arens reported that the project includes the removal and disposal of three existing USTs and appurtenances, removal and disposal of up to 100 cubic yards of assumed contaminated material, backfill and compaction of site and construction of a concrete pad.

It was moved by Commissioner Marans, supported by Commissioner Walters that the Board of Commissioners award a contract to the low bidder, Matzak, Inc., in the amount of \$31,999.75 as recommended by Chief Engineer Arens and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Bids – Farm Center fencing

Chief Engineer Arens reported that the project is to provide approximately 1,700 lineal feet of 8-foot high deer fencing including concrete-set steel line posts and two 20-foot gates as well as removing the existing fencing.

It was moved by Commissioner Marrocco, supported by Commissioner Hertel that the Board of Commissioners award a contract to the low bidder, American Fence & Supply Co., Inc. in the amount of \$13,355.81 and that \$1,000 of Capital Improvement funds be returned to the Reserve Account as recommended by Chief Engineer Arens and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Report – Martindale Beach Bathhouse redevelopment – Contractor claim

Commissioner Hertel left the meeting room.

Chief Engineer Arens reported that during construction of the Martindale Beach Bathhouse underground system, extensive ground water was encountered, creating dewatering, excavating and scheduling problems for the contractor and that the contractor has claimed that the groundwater represents an unforeseen condition and submitted a claim in the total amount of \$175,923.36. Arens reported staff has reviewed the claim and has requested additional information from the contractor.

It was moved by Commissioner Marans, supported by Commissioner Walters that the Board of Commissioners receive and file this report.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Report – Preliminary engineering study, sewer system improvements

Commissioner Hertel returned to the meeting room.

Chief Engineer Arens reported Stantec, Inc. has completed the preliminary engineering services for a project to improve the sanitary sewer system at Kensington Metropark. He said the study concluded that the six inch force main under Kent Lake should be replaced and that upgrades and repairs are needed to the existing Maple Beach and East Boat launch pump station. The study also identified a preliminary route and design for the approximately 9,000-foot force main connecting the Kensington sewer system to the Milford system as well as developed cost estimates for the planned improvements.

Arens also reported staff has requested Stantec's proposal for engineering design services for the proposed project, for presentation to the Board of Commissioners at a later date.

It was moved by Commissioner Walters, supported by Commissioner Evans that the Board of Commissioners receive and file this report.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Resolution – East Boat Launch grant application

Chief Planner Nyquist reported that with Board support, HCMA will apply for a 2010 Michigan Natural Resources and Environment Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant for \$100,000 for the purposes of reconstructing the East Boat Launch at Kensington Metropark.

The project will: Steepen the ramp angle and deepen launch depths, provide new accessible width skid piers, increase launch ramp widths, reduce the current nine ramps to five and create a soft launch area for canoes, kayaks and carry-in craft, and increase the vehicle parking space depths.

Nyquist noted the estimated replacement cost for this reconstruction is \$250,000.

It was moved by Commissioner Hertel, supported by Commissioner Evans that the Board of Commissioners approve the grant application as presented and recommended by Chief Planner Nyquist and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

E. Hudson Mills Metropark

1. Bids – Park/Golf course tree plantings (Hudson Mills, Huron Meadows, Delhi)

Chief Engineer Arens reported the work includes the furnishing and installation of approximately 160 trees, three shrubs, and 241 grasses/perennials at various locations throughout park and golf course areas in Hudson Mills Metropark and Huron Meadows Metropark.

It was moved by Commissioner Marans, supported by Commissioner Walters that the Board of Commissioners award a contract to the low bidder, Greg Davis Landscape Services, Inc., in the total amount of \$29,371 and that the difference between the low bid and the budgeted amount be applied to additional needed tree plantings at various locations in Hudson Mills, Huron Meadows and Delhi Metroparks under the contract as recommended by Chief Engineer Arens and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Resolution – Hike/Bike Trail Phase II grant application

Chief Planner Nyquist stated that with Board support, the Authority will apply for a 2010 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (MNRTF) grant for the maximum \$500,000 for the purpose of completing the Hudson Mills to Dexter trail. Nyquist stated the project cost including a section beyond the park boundary is approximately \$3 million and that the partial project cost for the section within the Hudson Mills Metropark boundary is \$2.18 million; and that the \$2.18 million cost-share is being funded by Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission, Washtenaw County Road Commission, a Transportation Enhancement Grant and \$100,000 by the Authority.

It was moved by Commissioner Marans, supported by Commissioner Hertel that the Board of Commissioners approve the Grant Application Resolution as presented and recommended by Chief Planner Nyquist and staff.

Commissioner Marans commented the WCP&R Commission recently and enthusiastically approved its cost share noting the trail is critical to the Washtenaw County recreation plan.

Motion carried unanimously.

F. Lower Huron Metropark

1. Bids – Park/Golf course tree plantings (Lower Huron, Willow, Lake Erie)

Chief Engineer Arens reported work includes furnishing and installation of approximately 139 trees and 518 grasses/perennials at various locations throughout park and golf course areas in Lower Huron Metropark, Willow Metropark and Lake Erie Metropark.

It was moved by Commissioner Marrocco, supported by Commissioner Walters that the Board of Commissioners award a contract to the low bidder, Greg Davis Landscape Services, Inc., in the total amount of \$34,934.00 and that the difference between low bid and budget amount be applied to additional needed tree plantings at various locations in Lower Huron, Willow and Lake Erie Metroparks under the contract as recommended by Chief Engineer Arens and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Bids – Service area paving

Chief Engineer Arens reported the project includes construction of a 4,600 square yard asphalt-surfaced parking and service area lot, including placement of aggregate base course, bituminous surfacing and related work at the Lower Huron Park Service Area.

It was moved by Commissioner Marans, supported by Commissioner Walters that the Board of Commissioners award a contract to the low bidder, Nagle Paving Company, in the total amount of \$84,325 and that \$27,000 of capital improvement funds be returned to the Reserve Account as recommended by Chief Engineer Arens and staff.

There was discussion regarding best practices to handle storm water in an environmentally sound manner. Commissioner Marrocco asked for additional information on alternative paving methods and Director Miller stated staff would investigate and report back to the Board.

Motion carried unanimously.

G. Lake Erie Metropark

1. Proposed easement – DTE electrical services

Chief Engineer Arens reported that DTE Energy requires a formal underground easement from the Authority for the construction of underground primary electric services to the Comfort Stations at the Lake Erie Golf Course, currently under construction.

It was moved by Commissioner Walters, supported by Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners approve the attached Underground Easements as recommended by Chief Engineer Arens and that staff be authorized to execute the easements.

Motion carried unanimously.

H. Administrative Office

1. Proposed lease amendment – city of Utica/Heritage Park

Chief Engineer Arens reported the city of Utica holds a Lease from the Authority for 7.9 acres of land through Sept. 13, 2037, upon which Utica's Heritage Park is located.

Arens stated Utica has received a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant to include approximately 2,700 feet of 10-foot wide asphalt walkway, a 230-foot by 14-foot wide steel pedestrian bridge over the Clinton River, a 22-foot by 20-foot fishing platform and an 80-foot canoe launch and that the lease stipulates that all improvements constructed by Utica on the leased land will revert to the Authority and become its property at the end of the term of the Lease.

Arens proposed an amendment to the Lease, stipulating that any improvements made by Utica shall be brought up to good and safe condition prior to reverting to the Authority.

It was moved by Commissioner Marrocco, supported by Commissioner Hertel that staff be authorized to negotiate a sale of the property to the city of Utica.

Commissioner Walters suggested a review of the Authority's lease/sale practice and policy.

It was moved by Commissioner Marrocco, supported by Commissioner Hertel that the item Proposed Lease Agreement – city of Utica/Heritage Park be tabled contingent on a future report by staff.

Motion to table carried unanimously.

2. Status update – Michigan State Fairgrounds

Director Miller provided an update on the Michigan State Fairgrounds reporting meetings were held with the state of Michigan and the city of Detroit.

Miller indicated further Board updates are anticipated at the April and May Board meetings. She said staff will develop a public process as well as a feasibility and business plan should the Board authorize staff to move forward in May.

There was discussion regarding the city of Detroit representative's position that Detroit is not interested in a Metropark at the State Fairgrounds and indicated that the city would be interested in the Authority's involvement at other sites within Detroit.

Miller indicated staff has focused solely on the State Fairgrounds per the Board motion of Feb. 24, 2010.

Commissioner Marans commented on the importance of public participation and that the issue is broader than just those living near the Fairgrounds.

It was moved by Commissioner Marrocco, supported by Commissioner Hertel that the Board of Commissioners receive and file the Michigan State Fairgrounds report.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Proposal – Facility condition assessment update, Michigan State Fairgrounds

Chief Engineer Arens presented a proposal from SmithGroup, Inc. to update the facility condition assessment they conducted in October 2003 including re-assessment and revised cost estimates of facilities previously assessed, assessment of facilities not included in the 2003 assessment, a prioritization of critical facilities recommended for repairs and a building code compliance review.

It was moved by Commissioner Marans, supported by Commissioner Marrocco that the Board of Commissioners accept the SmithGroup, Inc. proposal in the total amount of \$66,400 and that funding be approved for these services from the Reserve for Future Contingencies account as recommended by Chief Engineer Arens and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Entertainment and Dance Program

Deputy Director Moilanen presented the 2010 Entertainment/Dance program including a list of the major entertainment events planned for various Metroparks in 2010 and indicating the grand total for all entertainment programs for 2010 is \$164,665.

It was moved by Commissioner Walters, supported by Commissioner La Belle that the Entertainment/Dance program for 2010 be approved and to authorize the Director and Executive Secretary to sign the individual contracts as recommended by Deputy Director Moilanen.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Donations (2)

Deputy Director Moilanen presented donations received for the month of March.

- \$250 cash donation to be used for surgery on Conway, a Percheron draft horse at the Kensington Farm Center from Barbara Siepierski.
- \$1000 cash donation to be used for surgery on Conway, a Percheron draft horse at the Kensington Farm Center from Allene Holman.

It was moved by Commissioner Evans, supported by Commissioner Marrocco that the donations be accepted as presented and that a letter of appreciation be sent to the donor.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Legislative report

Legislative consultant George Carr reported legislative gridlock with the ongoing budget debate and that the consideration of health and retirement plan legislation is shifting to an "opt in" approach. Carr provided the organizational chart of the newly consolidated Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment.

It was moved by Commissioner Hertel, supported by Commissioner Evans that the legislative report be received and filed as presented by Legislative Consultant Carr.

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Director's comments

Director Miller informed the Board of the Employee Recognition dinner on April 10, 2010 at 6:00pm at the Indian Springs Environmental Discovery Center and of the Special Parks District Forum being held in Charleston, South Carolina June 27 – 30.

Miller also advised the Board of the Wayne County Prosecutors review of the collections of TIFAs, Brownfield Developments, DDAs and other tax capture entities in Wayne County.

Miller informed the Board of an intended aggressive marketing effort to obtain the e-mails from interested Metropark users to take advantage of electronic marketing.

Miller requested feedback on the Detroit Symphony Orchestra (DSO) Commissioner picnics suggesting one picnic at the Kensington program and one Macomb County picnic at the Metro Beach program. Miller observed the need for Commissioner involvement to make legislative outreach successful.

9. Commissioners' comments

Commissioner Marrocco congratulated Director Miller on her first Board of Commissioners meeting. Marrocco commented that the Stony Creek DSO picnic serves northern Macomb County whereas the Metro Beach DSO picnic serves much of Wayne County.

Commissioner Marans observed the importance of working with the Commissioners regarding venues to improve elected official attendance at events and said he will work to improve Washtenaw County attendance.

Commissioner Lester observed the next regular meeting will be held on April 8, 2010 at 10:30am at Indian Springs Metropark and encouraged all to attend.

10. Motion to Adjourn

It was moved by Commissioner Evans, supported by La Belle that the regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 12:38pm, EST.

Respectfully submitted,

Gregory J. Almas
Executive Secretary