

**MINUTES
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
HURON-CLINTON METROPOLITAN AUTHORITY
THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2012**

The regular meeting of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority's Board of Commissioners was held at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, March 8, 2012 at the Administrative Office. 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:	Anthony V. Marrocco John E. La Belle John C. Hertel John P. McCulloch Harry E. Lester Robert W. Marans Timothy J. McCarthy
	Staff Officers:	
	Director	David C. Moilanen
	Deputy Director	Gregory J. Almas
	Executive Secretary	George Phifer
Absent:	Controller	David L. Wahl
Others:	Chief Accountant	Rebecca Franchock
	Legislative Consultant	George Carr

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Marrocco at 10:30 a.m.

1. Chairman's Statement

The Chairman congratulated Commissioner McCulloch on his reappointment to the Board for another term.

2. Public Comments

Larry Noodén, Clinton Huron Environmental Coalition (CHEC), commented on the restoration of Point Rosa Marsh and how it will enhance the value of Lake St. Clair Metropark. Noodén said the Metroparks has a capable and highly skilled staff.

Toni Spears, HCMA volunteer, commented that she wanted to thank park staff on the extra efforts of being costs conscientious and monitoring the quality of work of the people hired to complete projects in the parks. Spears also asked about the Metroparks "rainy day" fund and asked that the Board consider putting the "rainy day" fund on the agenda to discuss in a public forum. Spears said it would help the public get a better understanding of the fund and how those funds are used.

3. Minutes – Feb. 9, 2012

It was moved by Commissioner Marans, supported by Commissioner Lester that the Board of Commissioners approve the Feb. 9, 2012 regular meeting minutes as submitted by Executive Secretary Phifer and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Financial Statements – February 2012

It was moved by Commissioner Lester, supported by Commissioner Marans that the financial statements for February 2012 be approved as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Vouchers – February 2012

It was moved by Commissioner Hertel, supported by Commissioner McCarthy that the vouchers for February 2012 (0221674 through 0222067) be approved as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Purchases

Purchasing Manager Scott Michael requested that the Board approve the following purchases:

A. Bids – Fireworks

Purchasing Manager Scott Michael reported that the vendor is to provide five Fireworks display shows in June and July for various Metroparks. The bidders were given an amount for each show \$8,000, except Stony Creek, \$10,000 (Stony Creek receives a \$2,000 donation from Washington Township). The bidders were asked to design a 20-minute fireworks show with no dead air-time within the amount allotted per park.

Michael reported that by a unanimous decision Wolverine Fireworks was chosen due to their high number of shell counts for each park, larger shells used (which is needed to clear the tree line of the various parks), and equally exciting shows for all five park locations.

Board discussion was held on the bid for fireworks.

Commissioner Marrocco asked the Board to make a motion to approve the recommendation as submitted by staff, and requested staff add an additional \$8,000 into the budget to explore the possibility of holding fireworks at Lake St. Clair Metropark in 2012.

It was moved by Commissioner McCarthy, supported by Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners award RFP-12-002 to Wolverine Fireworks in the amount of \$42,000.00 as recommended by Buyer van Rooijen and staff; and that an additional \$8,000 be added to the budget to explore the possibility of holding fireworks at Lake St. Clair Metropark.

Motion carried unanimously.

B. Bids – Golf Course Furnishings, Kensington Metropark

Purchasing Manager Michael reported that the project included furnishing and delivering outdoor furniture for the renovated Kensington Golf Course facility. Michael stated that invitations for bids were posted on the Michigan Inter-Governmental website and was sent to 104 registered suppliers.

It was moved by Commissioner La Belle, supported by Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners award ITB-12-005 to the low responsive, responsible bidder, Miracle of Michigan and Indiana in the amount of \$30,438.10 as recommended by Buyer van Rooijen and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

A. Lake St. Clair

1. Resolution – MNRTF Grant Application

Chief Planner Susan Nyquist reported that The Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund (Trust Fund) awards grants for land acquisition and development projects that will provide for the recreation needs of residents throughout the state of Michigan. The Metroparks Five-Year Community Recreation Plan, approved by the Board in 2008, identifies the acquisition of lands within or near our park boundaries as important to the future of recreation and protection of unique natural resources in southeast Michigan. With Board approval, the Metroparks would apply for a Trust Fund grant for the purchase of property adjacent to Lake St. Clair Metropark.

Nyquist reported that the Metroparks have been in discussions with Macomb County Department of Planning and Economic Development and Six Rivers Regional Land Conservancy (Six Rivers) regarding the acquisition of wetland property adjacent to Lake St. Clair Metropark.

The property acquisition consists of five separate parcels totaling 113 acres immediately adjacent to the Lake St. Clair Metropark Black Creek Marsh; and that the properties have been identified as critical areas for acquisition because of the unique nature of the ecosystems.

Nyquist reported that in order to facilitate this process, Six Rivers has proposed to act as a project coordinator, solicit other foundation funding for the local match and associated costs, negotiate property acquisitions on behalf of the Metroparks and if necessary pre-acquire the properties that would eventually be transferred to the Metroparks. As previously reported to the Board, the Metroparks submitted a grant application through the MDNR Office of the Great Lakes for funding to purchase the property. If successful, those funds together with funds secured by Six Rivers will represent the local match of \$246,000 or 52 percent of the total acquisition cost of \$475,000. The purchase will only proceed if all funds are provided through grants or otherwise secured by parties other than the Metroparks.

Nyquist also reported that in order to apply to the Trust Fund, the application must be accompanied by a Resolution from the Board of Commissioners stating that the project will be undertaken if a Grant is awarded.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

A. Lake St. Clair

2. Report – Main Parking Lot Redevelopment

a. Proposal – EPA Quality Assurance Project Plan Monitoring Services

Chief Engineer Michael Arens stated that as reported at the Feb. 9, 2012 Board meeting, the conceptual design of Main Parking Lot Redevelopment is currently in progress; that the project is estimated at \$1.65 million and is eligible for a Grant in the amount of \$1 million; that HCMA matching construction funds at \$500,000 are included in the 2012 Capital Improvement Budget, and that matching funds for in-kind services for engineering and planning are included in the 2012 Engineering Budget.

Arens reported the Parking Lot Redevelopment project will redesign and reconstruct the Main Parking Lot, its configuration and drainage system, in order to reduce its total area of impervious surface and increase green space.

Arens also stated that as reported at the Feb. 9 Board meeting, the U.S. EPA GLRI program requires that this project comply with an approved QAPP for water quality monitoring and assessment. The QAPP is intended to (1) monitor environmental data to characterize specific parameters, (2) demonstrate project performance, and (3) evaluate innovative processes. To this end, staff has requested a proposal from Wayne State University's (WSU) Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering to provide QAPP monitoring services. WSU is a partner on the Coastal Marshlands Restoration project (along with Macomb County and the Clinton River Watershed Council). WSU is familiar with the monitoring and assessment requirements of that project, as well as water quality issues in the region. The credentials of WSU as a research university will also help to assure the U.S. EPA that the QAPP will be successful.

Arens stated WSU's Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering has submitted a proposal dated Feb. 27, 2012 in response to staff's request with an estimated total proposed amount of \$26,240; (actual billings will be based on actual time and material expenditures for collection, sampling, testing and laboratory analyses at existing and proposed stormwater outfall locations).

It was moved by Commissioner McCulloch, supported by Commissioner Hertel that the Board of Commissioners accept Wayne State University's Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering proposal to provide QAPP monitoring services in the estimated total amount of \$26,240 as recommended by Chief Engineer Arens and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

A. Lake St. Clair

2. Report Main Parking Lot Redevelopment

b. Proposal – Electrical Engineering Consulting Services

Chief Engineer Arens stated that as reported at the Feb. 9, 2012 Board meeting, the conceptual design of Main Parking Lot Redevelopment is currently in progress. The project, estimated at \$1.65 million, is eligible for a Grant in the amount of \$1 million; HCMA matching construction funds at \$500,000 are included in the 2012 Capital Improvement Budget, and matching funds for in-kind services for engineering and planning are included in the 2012 Engineering Budget.

Arens stated that as reported at the Feb. 9 meeting, the project will impact the main electrical primary power service into Lake St. Clair Metropark, as well as portions of the perimeter roadway lighting system and the Nature Center walkway lighting. Electrical engineering consulting services will be necessary to complete the conceptual design of the project. The existing conditions and locations of the affected electrical system must be assessed, alternatives for revisions must be developed and estimated, and a basis of design will be needed prior to preparing construction documents for the electrical system, the parking lot and the proposed stormwater system.

Arens reported that staff requested a proposal from the engineering firm of J. A. Lombardo & Associates, Inc.; that Lombardo has extensive experience with and knowledge of the primary and secondary distribution systems at Lake St. Clair Metropark, having provided electrical design services at the park for many years.

Arens reported that J. A. Lombardo submitted a proposal dated Feb. 29, 2012 in response to staff's request with an estimated total proposed amount of \$16,700; actual billings will be based on J. A. Lombardo's standard hourly rates.

Commissioner Marrocco requested that the motion be approved as submitted and that the contract be amended to state the amount not to exceed \$16,700.

It was moved by Commissioner Lester, supported by Commissioner McCarthy that the Board of Commissioners accept the J.A. Lombardo & Associates proposal to provide electrical design services in the estimated total amount, not to exceed \$16,700, as recommended by Chief Engineer Arens and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

3. Report – Furnace and A/C Unit Replacements

Chief Engineer Arens reported that at the Feb. 9 meeting, staff was directed to contact at least four (4) businesses within a 15 mile radius of the project location for additional bids, to coordinate additional bids with Chairman Marrocco so these replacements would not be held up, and to provide a report at the March Commission meeting as to the final outcome.

The new low bidder is Main Heating and Cooling, Inc., and its bid is within the Director's approval limit. The Director has coordinated with Chairman Marrocco and has authorized issuance of a Purchase Order to Main Heating and Cooling, Inc.

It was moved by Commissioner McCulloch, supported by Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners receive and file Report for Furnace and Air Conditioning Unit Replacements – Nature Center and Service Buildings as recommended by Chief Engineer Arens and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

B. Stony Creek

1. Bids – Golf Course Parking Lot Resurfacing

Chief Engineer Arens reported that the project is to provide asphalt resurfacing of the parking lot, including repairs of select areas of existing pavement, grading, drainage improvements, and placement of 720 tons of hot-mix asphalt and related work. Existing pavement surface is deteriorated and failing. Also, existing lot is under-sized for current levels of use, causing parking to frequently overflow to adjacent turf areas. Therefore the project will also increase parking lot width and revise parking configuration from angle parking to 90-degree parking, to increase capacity.

Board discussion was held on the matter.

It was moved by Commissioner McCarthy, supported by Commissioner Hertel that the Board of Commissioners award Contract No. 509-11D to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder, Pro-Line Asphalt Paving Corporation, in the amount of \$92,974.48, and that \$46,000 of Capital Improvement funds be transferred from the Work Order to Reserves as recommended by Chief Engineer Arens and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

C. Kensington

1. Trail Maintenance and Repair Agreement – Milford Township

It was moved by Commissioner La Belle, supported by Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners approve the Annual Trail Maintenance and Repair Agreement with the Charter Township of Milford for the period of April 15, 2012 through Oct. 31, 2012 as recommended by Deputy Director Almas and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Bids – VFD Replacements, Splash and Blast Recirculation Pumps

Chief Engineer Arens reported that the project included removing and replacing existing variable frequency drive (VFD) controllers and appurtenances for two existing vertical turbine recirculation pumps at the Kensington Metropark Splash and Blast. The existing VFD's are faulty, require excessive servicing and have become unreliable and work must be completed prior to opening the facility.

Arens said if a Purchase Order is issued, no additional appropriation of funds will be necessary; that sufficient funds exist in the Kensington Metropark Major Maintenance account to cover the difference between the budgeted amount and low bid plus contract administration.

It was moved by Commissioner McCarthy, supported by Commissioner Lester that the Board of Commissioners approve the issuance of a Purchase Order to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder, Patti Electric, Inc., in the amount of \$16,900 as recommended by Chief Engineer Arens and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

D. Hudson Mills

1. Resolution – Michigan Recreation Passport Grant

Chief Planner Nyquist reported that under the Recreation Passport program, P.A. 32 of 2010 created the Local Public Recreation Facilities Fund to be used for the development of public recreation facilities for local units of government. Money for this fund is derived from the sale of the Recreation Passport which replaces the resident Motor Vehicle Permit (MVP) for state park entrance.

Nyquist reported that with Board approval, the Metroparks will submit an application for a Recreation grant. The project will replace a deteriorated picnic shelter at Dexter-Huron Metropark. In addition to a 24-foot x 36-foot shelter the project includes a concrete floor, accessible asphalt connector walks, grills, new picnic tables, and handicap parking updates.

Nyquist reported in order to apply to the Trust Fund, the application must be accompanied by a Resolution from the Board of Commissioners stating that the project will be undertaken if a Grant is awarded.

It was moved by Commissioner Marans, supported by Commissioner La Belle that the Board of Commissioners approve the Resolution – Michigan Recreation Passport Grant as recommended by Chief Planner Nyquist and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

E. Lake Erie

1. Bids – Pool Concrete Repairs and Resurfacing

Chief Engineer Arens reported that the project includes selective removal and replacement of deteriorated pool shell concrete substrate; selective removal and refinishing of deteriorated “Diamond Brite” pool surfacing; provide necessary caulking, preparation and related work. Work must be completed prior to opening the facility.

It was moved by Commissioner Lester, supported by Commissioner McCarthy that the Board of Commissioners approve award Contract No. 712-12G to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder, Baruzzini Construction Company, in the amount of \$30,800.00 as recommended by Chief Engineer Arens and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

F. Administrative Office

1. Bids – Golf Course Irrigation Head Replacements – Indian Springs, Lake Erie

Chief Engineer Arens reported that the project is to include the removal and replacement of golf course irrigation heads at Lake Erie Metropark, replace 60 irrigation heads on the fairways and supply five extra stock heads at Indian Springs Metropark, replace 85 irrigation heads on the greens/tees/fairways and supply five extra stock heads for the fairways. Existing irrigation heads are deteriorated, obsolete and repair parts are no longer available. This project is the second phase of a multi-phase effort to replace obsolete and failing irrigation heads on these golf courses.

It was moved by Commissioner Marans, supported by Commissioner McCarthy that the Board of Commissioners award Contract No. 700-12O to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder, Thielen Turf Irrigation, Inc., in the amount of \$47,645.50 as recommended by Chief Engineer Arens and Staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. 2012 Revised Golf Rates

Commissioner McCulloch commented that he raised the question about the golf rates and asked that staff take a look at the rates.

Deputy Director Almas reported that rates were reassessed at all the courses. Almas stated Senior and junior rates at Willow and Lake Erie golf courses were also intended to be changed from \$10 to \$11 Monday through Friday and is part of the recommendation.

It was moved by Commissioner McCarthy, supported by Commissioner Hertel that the Board of Commissioners approve the revised 2012 Golf Rates as presented by Deputy Director Almas and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

F. Administrative Office

3. Contract Renewal – Marketing Manager

Director Moilanen stated staff would like more time to review the contract.

Board discussion was held on the matter.

It was moved by Commissioner McCulloch, supported by Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners postpone the contract renewal for the marketing manager until the regular April Board meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

4. Proposal – Labor Consultant

Human Resources Manager Carol Stone reported that at the February Board meeting, staff was directed to obtain cost information for consultants to provide assistance during upcoming negotiations based on the following scope of services:

- Assist in assembling best practices and salary and benefit information in preparation for negotiations to include a review of the wage and benefit study prepared by HCMA to validate accuracy of the information.
- Review existing labor contracts and cost containment measures taken to date. Work with HCMA negotiating team to identify issues to be addressed during the collective bargaining process.
- Utilizing the Five-Year-Plan, external comparables, and the wage and benefit study, assist in development and/or review of contract proposals prepared by HCMA staff to ensure that the wages and benefits proposed accurately reflect the current labor market and support HCMA's strategic plan with a focus on structural cost containment/cost reductions.
- Provide recommendations and feedback to the HCMA negotiating team and the Board.

Stone said three candidates were contacted: Tom Eaton, Amy Sullivan and Michael Polzin.

Further Board discussion was held on the matter.

Commissioner McCulloch requested the motion from staff be amended to include the following: that staff negotiate a contract with Tom Eaton and that the consultant function with the following parameters, (1) be part of the negotiating team along with HCMA staff officers to meet with the Board to agree on the parameters; (2) that the consultant be present at the negotiations for all meetings with the Employee Association and POAM; (3) that the consultant provide status updates to the Board on a monthly basis.

It was moved by Commissioner McCulloch, supported by Commissioner Hertel that the Board of Commissioners approve that staff negotiate a contract with Tom Eaton and that the consultant function with the following parameters, (1) be part of the negotiating team along with HCMA staff officers to meet with the Board to agree on the parameters; (2) that the consultant be present at the negotiations for all meetings with the Employee Association and POAM; (3) that the consultant provide status updates to the Board on a monthly basis.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

F. Administrative Office

5. 2012 Park Entertainment and Dance Programs

Deputy Director Almas reported that the entertainment program continues to offer a variety of entertainment for park patrons and that major entertainment events planned for various Metroparks totals \$91,600.

Almas reported that regrettably, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra would not perform at the Metroparks in 2102 due to lack of sponsorship. However, the Michigan Philharmonic would be playing at Kensington on June 22.

Almas also reported that "Movies in the Park" night at Lake Erie and Willow Metroparks and two polka bands at Willow Metropark have been removed from the schedule due to low public interest.

Almas stated other special events however, would be added such as the expansion of the Monster Truck program at Willow Metropark and the War of 1812 Bicentennial events at Lake St. Clair and Lake Erie Metroparks.

Commissioner Hertel inquired what companies were contacted regarding DSO sponsorship and suggested Blue Cross Blue Shield be contacted.

Commissioner Marrocco suggested contacting the local communities including Macomb County Leadership to see if they can be of assistance.

It was moved by Commissioner Marans, supported by Commissioner Hertel that the Board of Commissioners approve the 2012 Park Entertainment and Dance Program and have staff execute the corresponding entertainment agreements as recommended by Deputy Director Almas and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

F. Administrative Office

6. Donations

Deputy Director Almas requested the Board accept the February donations:

- Commissioner John Hertel donated a registered Percheron mare to the Wolcott Farm Center.
- Roslynn Standriff made a \$300 cash donation for a bench to be used at Kensington Metropark along the nature trail.
- McKillen Tents donated use of two tents for the Frosty Freestyle cross country race held at Huron Meadows and the "Chillin" at the Mills" event held at Hudson Mills; itemizing a value of \$692.

Commissioner Marrocco thanked Commissioner Hertel for donating the Percheron mare.

It was moved by Commissioner Lester, supported by Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners accept the donations and a letter of appreciation be sent to the donors as recommended by Deputy Director Almas and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Legislative Report

Legislative Consultant George Carr reported that two open seats in the MI House of Representatives were decided during the Feb. 28 primary. Rep. Joseph Graves (R-51) won the seat of recalled Rep. Paul Scott, and Rep. Tim Greimel (R-29) won the seat of retired Rep. Tim Melton.

Legislators are also looking into prohibiting union PAC dollars and healthcare coverage for employees making over \$100,000.

It was moved by Commissioner Hertel, supported by Commissioner Lester that the Board of Commissioners receive and file the legislative report as submitted by Legislative Consultant Carr.

Motion carried unanimously.

8. Closed Session

It was moved by Commissioner Marans, supported by Commissioner La Belle that the Board of Commissioners immediately adjourn to a closed session to discuss a 2012 Collective Bargaining Report and litigation.

ROLL CALL VOTE

Voting Yes: Commissioners Marrocco, La Belle, Hertel, McCulloch, Lester, Marans, McCarthy
Voting No: None

Motion carried unanimously.

The regular meeting adjourned at 11:28 a.m.

In closed session, it was moved by Commissioner La Belle, supported by Commissioner Lester that the Board of Commissioners adjourn the closed session.

The regular meeting reconvened at 12:35 p.m.

Commissioner McCulloch recommended the Board authorize staff to proceed as discussed in the closed session.

It was moved by Commissioner Hertel, supported by Commissioner Lester that the Board of Commissioners direct staff to proceed with the recommendations as discussed in the closed session.

Motion carried unanimously.

9. Director's Comments

Director Moilanen stated the Board retreat would be April 10 and asked Commissioners to let him know if there was anything they wanted added to the agenda.

Moilanen also mentioned that the April Board meeting would be at the Farmhouse Grille at Kensington Metropark.

Moilanen also reported that staff checked on the Sodium Hypochlorite from the state of Michigan and other agencies. Based on the information obtained, it appears that our numbers were lower than what was obtained by other agencies and that staff did proceed with the contract as submitted.

Chairman Marrocco left the meeting room at 12:35 p.m.

Vice Chairman La Belle took the chair.

Commissioner McCulloch asked that the information regarding Sodium Hypochlorite received from Oakland County be sent to him.

10. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner La Belle said he is pleased that Commissioner McCulloch has received another term and that he will help this organization tremendously.

Commissioner Hertel asked that Director Moilanen provide a sample letter be sent to Marans, McCulloch and himself so they can review it before sending it out to organizations that may be interested in operating Wolcott Mill Farm.

Commissioner McCulloch said he asked staff to look into a grant from the state for technology, but that he had not heard anything regarding the progress.

Further discussion was held on the matter.

Director Moilanen replied he would report back on the issue.

Commissioner Marans commented that for the Board retreat he believed fundraising and the parks foundation would be on the agenda.

10. Motion to Adjourn

It was moved by Commissioner Hertel, supported by Commissioner Lester that the Board of Commissioners adjourn the regular meeting.

Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 12:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



George Phifer
Executive Secretary