

4. Financial Statements – September 2011

It was moved by Commissioner Marans, supported by Commissioner Hertel that the financial statements for September 2011 be approved as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. Vouchers

It was moved by Commissioner Lester, supported by Commissioner La Belle that the vouchers for September 2011 (0219208 through 0219927) be approved as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. Purchases

Purchasing Manager Scott Michael reported that Request for Proposals (RFP's) were advertised, posted on the MITN e-procurement site, received, publicly opened and read aloud by Oakland County on March 9, 2011 for office supplies. This proposal is a cooperative effort between Oakland County and other local entities which include: Macomb County, Rochester Hills, Farmington Hills, Dearborn, Romulus, West Bloomfield Township, Huron–Clinton Metropolitan Authority and SMART.

Michael said Office Max was found to be the most responsive to the RFP and provided very competitive pricing. Their references were excellent and they are committed to customer service, with a help desk located in the U.S., 24 customer fulfillment centers located in the U.S. and 43 retail outlets located in MI. The evaluation committee is confident in their ability to comply with the terms of the RFP.

It was moved by Commissioner Lester, supported by Commissioner La Belle that the Board of Commissioners award Project 001722 contract for office supplies to Office Max in an estimated annual cost of \$75,000 for a period of three (3) years and for two (2) additional one-year periods under the same terms and conditions upon mutual consent of the cooperative and vendor, as recommended by Purchasing Manager Michael and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

A. Metro Beach

1. Agreement – Metro Parkway Maintenance, Macomb County Department of Roads

Deputy Director Gregory Almas reported that HCMA has several maintenance agreements that are renewed annually with Macomb County, Clinton Township and Harrison Township.

It was moved by Commissioner Hertel, supported by Commissioner Lester that the Board of Commissioners approve Maintenance Agreements as listed below with the Macomb County Department of Roads, Clinton Township and Harrison Township as recommended by Deputy Director Almas and staff.

- Metro Parkway Maintenance, Macomb County Department of Roads – for the period of Oct. 1, 2011 through Sept. 30, 2012.
- 26 Mile Road Maintenance, Macomb County Department of Roads – for the period of Nov. 1, 2011 – Oct. 31, 2012.
- Pathway Maintenance, Harrison Township – for the period of Nov. 1, 2011 through Oct. 31, 2012.
- Path Maintenance, Clinton Township – for the period of Nov. 1, 2011 through Oct. 31, 2012.

Motion carried unanimously.

2. Agreement – Pathway Maintenance, Harrison Township

See motion for item 7-A-1.

3. Agreement – Pathway Maintenance, Clinton Township

See motion for item 7-A-1.

7. Reports

B. Stony Creek

1. Agreement – 26 Mile Road Maintenance, Macomb County Department of Roads

See motion for item 7-A-1.

2. Request to purchase Land by NMSC

Executive Secretary Phifer reported the Metroparks purchased 33 acres of land located on the NE corner of Inwood and Mt. Vernon situated in Washington Twp, Macomb County In 1977 for \$99,000. At the regular January 2010 Commissioners meeting, a representative from the North Macomb Sportsmen Club (NMSC), made a request to the Board of Commissioners, requesting to purchase this property. As directed, staff has (1) been working with the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), to determine whether or not this property was encumbered under the anti-conversion requirements of a previous grant agreement; (2) completed a natural features inventory, and (3) conducted further discussions with the NMSC at a meeting held at the site earlier this year.

Phifer reported that at the regular July 2011 Commission meeting, the Board of Commissioners, directed staff to seek appraisals on the above listed property, and provide several options for the Board to consider if a decision was made to sell the property. Staff looked at a possible land swap, sale, and/or a combination of both. Appraisals were completed by Integra Realty Resources and Gilbert A. Zook during August.

Phifer reported certain portions of land at Stony Creek Metropark were purchased with assistance of the Federal Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF). In accordance with the grant agreements and federal regulations, property purchased with federal assistance for the purposes of recreation, or property within defined project boundaries, cannot be sold or leased for non-recreation purposes without prior approval of the granting agency and mitigation of the site. Until there was written assurance by the MDNR administrator of LWCF, stating that the subject property was not encumbered by a grant agreement, Authority staff was reluctant to recommend the sale of any property.

Phifer reported that Chief Engineer Mike Arens had been in direct contact with the MDNR, to assist HCMA with clarifying whether or not this property is encumbered under the anti-conversion requirements of the MDNR and LWCF. On Sept. 7, 2011, Arens received an email response from Mr. Jon Mayes, Recreation Grants Manager for the MDNR, indicating that the subject 30 Acres (Inwood & Mt. Vernon) parcels currently under consideration for a possible sale is encumbered.

Chief Engineer Arens reported that this decision by the MDNR creates a conversion issue for the sale of this property. The property could not be sold or leased, unless there is a mitigation plan pre-approved by the MDNR and the National Park Service prior to the sale of this property.

It was moved by Commissioner Lester, supported by Commissioner Marans that HCMA staff ceases negotiations with the North Macomb Sportsmen Club, and not to sell the property.

Further discussion was held on the proposed land sale.

It was moved by Commissioner Hertel, supported by Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioner table the motion made by Commissioner Lester until the November regular meeting, and to allow staff to gather additional information on how to possibly unencumber the property.

Motion as amended carried unanimously.

7. Reports

B. Stony Creek

3. Bids – Cart Path Repairs, Stony Creek Golf Course

Chief Engineer Arens reported that the project provides for the repair and reconstruction of cart paths at holes number 6, 9, and 10 at the Stony Creek Metropark Golf Course. Existing cart paths are deteriorated and failing.

Arens reported that assuming favorable weather conditions for construction and asphalt plants remaining open through October, the proposed project schedule requires completion of work in 2011. If a Purchase Order is approved, no additional appropriation of funds will be necessary. Sufficient funds exist in 2011 Stony Creek Major Maintenance account to cover the difference between low bid and budget amount.

It was moved by Commissioner Marans, supported by Commissioner Lester That the Board of Commissioners approve the issuance of a Purchase Order to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder, Total Asphalt Paving, Inc., in the amount of \$50,614.00 as recommended by Chief Engineer Arens and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

C. Willow

1. Bids – Replace Underground Fuel Storage Tank with Above Tank System, Service Area

Chief Engineer Arens reported that the project includes removal and proper disposal of three existing underground fuel storage tanks (USTs) and associated appurtenances at the Park Service Area; including removal and disposal of up to 100 cubic yards of assumed contaminated material; backfill and compaction of former UST site; furnishing and installation of a new compartmentalized 6,000 gallon (4,000 gallon unleaded and 2,000 gallon diesel) above ground storage tank (AST), including concrete pad, dispensing system, electrical and controls, restoration and related work. Water intrusion into the system has been detected in the past, and it should be decommissioned as soon as possible.

It was moved by Commissioner Hertel, supported by Commissioner Lester that the Board of Commissioners award Contract No. 510-11H to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder, Matzak, Inc., in the amount of \$147,900.00, and that a transfer of funds in the amount of \$24,000.00 be made from the Reserves for Future Contingencies Account to cover the difference between low bid and Budget Amount, as recommended by Chief Engineer Arens and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

D. Lake Erie

1. Bids – Replace Sewage Pump System, Pool Activity Area

Chief Engineer Arens reported the project includes repairing the existing pump station serving the Pool Activity Area, including removal and replacement of existing duplex pump system, controls, piping and electrical system. The existing system failed unexpectedly late in the operating season and was not included in the 2011 Major Maintenance Budget.

It was moved by Commissioner Marans, supported by Commissioner Lester that the Board of Commissioners approve the issuance of a Purchase Order to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder, Corby Energy Services, Inc., in the amount of \$29,975.00 as recommended by Chief Engineer Arens and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

D. Lake Erie

2. Bids – Replace Boiler System, Marina Building

Chief Engineer Arens reported that project is to replace the boiler system which provides building heat at the Lake Erie Metropark Marina Building and includes removal and replacement of boiler, expansion tank, piping and controls. The existing system failed unexpectedly in 2011 and was not included in the 2011 Major Maintenance Budget. The system must be replaced before the winter season.

It was moved by Commissioner Lester, supported by Commissioner Hertel that the Board of Commissioners approve the issuance of a Purchase Order to the lowest responsive, responsible bidder, Limbach, Inc., in the amount of \$11,116.00 as recommended by Chief Engineer Arens and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

E. Administrative Office

1. Report – 2010/2011 Deer Management Plan Implementation Report

Chief of Natural Resources Paul Muelle reported that deer management activities continued in the fall of 2010 and winter of 2011 at five Metroparks: Kensington, Indian Springs, Huron Meadows, Oakwoods, and Lower Huron. A total of 87 deer were removed with minor impact on other park uses during the management operations as compared to 220 deer removed the previous year.

Muelle reported volunteers from Safari Club International provided assistance in organizing and conducting the controlled hunts at Huron Meadows and Indian Springs. The culled deer were transported by park staff to a processor, Butcher Boy Meats, and the venison distributed by Sportsmen Against Hunger through the Southeast Michigan Food Bank. Once again this year, Butcher Boy Meats and Sportsmen Against Hunger donated all costs associated with processing the deer. We thank the leaders of these conservation groups and organizations for their support of this management program. Their time, expertise and financial support were critical to the success of this year's operations.

Muelle said staff continues on the maintenance phase of the deer management program having met or being close to meeting deer density goals in several parks. Estimates for 2011 indicate that in order to maintain a stable population, additional removals may be necessary but the overall number of deer to be removed is greatly reduced when compared to the first several years of the operation.

Muelle said biological data on the culled deer continues to be gathered and compiled each year as required and supplied to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (MDNRE). The MDNRE did not test for Chronic Wasting Disease in 2011. Data gathered on the deer culled this season indicate the deer populations health parameters continue to remain good in most parks and show a definite improvement when compared to the programs beginning.

Muelle reported vegetative monitoring by Metroparks Interpretive staff continues to indicate the numbers of plants for specific indicator species, as well as the numbers of plant species, either remained stable over the past year or continue to increase in number, however, heavy browsing is still evident on certain plant species in several of the parks.

Muelle also reported that it is the consensus of natural area managers that controlling excessive deer populations is critical to the long term health and viability of the native ecosystems that these animals are a component of. The management efforts the Metroparks established has had a direct impact on insuring that the parks' high quality natural areas remain intact for future generations to enjoy.

It was moved by Commissioner Marans, supported by Commissioner Lester that the Board of Commissioners receive and file the Metroparks 2010-2011 Deer Management Plan Implementation Report as recommended by Chief of Natural Resources Paul Muelle and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

E. Administrative Office

2. Report – Golf Course Maintenance

Director Moilanen reported that at the September Commission meeting, staff was asked to prepare a report on the maintenance costs of the Metroparks' golf courses, how they have changed in recent years, and to identify the ancillary duties performed by golf maintenance staff, particularly at Kensington Metropark Golf Course.

Moilanen said the accompanying spreadsheet comparing the maintenance expenditures of the Metroparks eight regulation courses for the five-year period from 2007 through 2011 (estimated) was included for Commissioners to review. Moilanen said there is variation from course-to-course and year-to-year, but overall there is a reduction in the direct costs associated with maintaining the courses of approximately \$600,000. Specifically at Kensington, costs are expected to decline from \$431,200 in 2007 to \$327,600 in 2011. Most of this decline is due to reductions in full-time staff hours while holding part-time staff hours fairly constant. At Kensington for example, in 2011, a full-time mechanic was transferred from the golf course to the central garage when an opening occurred at the central garage.

Moilanen reported that in general, we have changed from a staffing model that had up to three full-time staff assigned to maintain golf courses to one that has one and a half full-time staff assigned to the courses. As golf revenues steadily trended downward, staff recognized that the old model of staffing the courses with a full-time golf superintendent, a golf maintenance worker and a mechanic, could not be sustained. A model of a full-time course superintendent, along with additional hours from a full-time maintenance worker and mechanic, as well as part-time employees, was established in 2007.

Moilanen said staff has been implementing this change at each course as attrition occurred, so this accounts for some of the disparity experienced in the cost of maintaining the different courses. Kensington was the last course to move to the current staffing model (2011).

Moilanen said while it isn't reflected in the cost spreadsheet, staff has adopted other cost-saving measures in the maintenance of our courses. We have extended the maintenance equipment replacement cycles so that we are purchasing less golf maintenance equipment.

Moilanen said while staff has instituted major cost-cutting measures over the last few years, the quality of our golf course maintenance has not been compromised. All of our courses, especially Kensington, continue to receive excellent reviews in our golfer survey cards.

General discussion took place on various matters of the Golf Maintenance Report.

It was moved by Commissioner Marans, supported by Commissioner McCulloch that the Board of Commissioners receive and file the Golf Course Maintenance Report as recommended by Director Moilanen and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

E. Administrative Office

3. Update – Golf Course Maintenance Contract RFP

Director Moilanen reported that at the September 2011 Commission meeting, staff presented for the Board's review a draft of the request for proposals (RFP) that had been developed for the purpose of soliciting proposals for maintaining the Kensington Metropark Golf Course for a contract period of three years, beginning with the 2012 golf season.

Moilanen said the final draft of the RFP reflecting the input from Commissioners was included in the board packet for review.

Commissioner Hertel commented that the Commissioners' responsibility is to the general public and how public tax dollars are spent.

Commissioner La Belle commented that what is still key to us is how our employees view our actions as a board.

Commissioner Marrocco inquired when staff plans on getting the proposals back.

Director Moilanen replied in 30 days a recommendation would be brought back to the Board at the January 2012 meeting.

Further discussion was held on the golf RFP subject.

It was moved by Commissioner Hertel, supported by Commissioner Lester that the Board of Commissioners approve the Request for Proposal document for the maintenance of the Kensington Metropark Golf Course by a private contractor as recommended Director Moilanen and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

E. Administrative Office

4. 2011 Pension Plan Contribution

Pension Trustee Wahl reported the 2011 actuarial valuation of the Authority's Pension Plan was performed by Gabriel, Roeder, Smith & Company and that the valuation results were reviewed by the Pension Committee at its meeting prior to the Board meeting.

Wahl reported the actuarial valuation process calculates the required contribution to adequately fund the Authority's pension costs for the 215 participants for the Pension Plan Year Oct. 1, 2011 to Sept. 30, 2012. Based on an update of employee census data for 2011 wage/service levels, Plan benefits and asset values, G.R.S. is recommending a contribution of \$2,315,472. This represents an increase of \$168,968 (7.8 percent) from 2010's contribution of \$2,146,504.

Wahl reported that for the first time, the contribution amount includes reimbursement of seasonal pension benefits of \$36,000 paid out from the 2010 season. In total, the recommended contribution is 16.8 percent of base wages of \$13.8 million. G.R.S. considers the funded status of our Plan at 70.1 percent to be acceptable.

The 2011 Budget contains \$2,295,800 for the 2011 contribution. Therefore, a supplemental appropriation adjustment of \$22,300 from the Authority's Reserve account (as detailed on the attached summary) is necessary.

Wahl also said the Pension Committee approved requesting the \$2,315,472 contribution from the Board of Commissioners.

It was moved by Commissioner Lester, supported by Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners approve (1) a transfer of \$2,315,472 to the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority Pension Trust, and (2) \$22,300 supplemental appropriation from the Reserve account as recommended by the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority Pension Committee and Pension Trustee Wahl.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

E. Administrative Office

5a. 2011 Pension Plan Investment Report

Pension Plan Trustee Wahl report the 2011 Pension Plan contribution of \$2,315,472 represents the funds that were available for investment by the Pension Committee. This \$2.3 million represents approximately 6 percent of Plan assets of \$41.7 million (after deposit).

Wahl said during the next Plan year, the Plan is expected to pay out \$2.3 million in retiree annuity benefits. Investment Advisor Jay Yentis recommends placing the entire deposit of \$2,315,472 into Lincoln's GA 760 administrative/investment contract, which currently yields 2.85 percent. Although this rate may drop for 2012, it will provide the Plan with a guaranteed positive return and funds to meet annuity payouts during 2012.

Wahl said that after making these investments, the Plan's asset allocation mix would be approximately 36 percent guaranteed, 1 percent cash, 32 percent bonds and 31 percent equities.

Wahl also reported these investments are within the parameters of the Board of Commissioners approved Investment Policy.

It was moved by Commissioner Lester, supported by Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners that the Board of Commissioners receive and file 2011 Pension Plan Investment Report as recommended by Pension Trustee Wahl.

Motion carried unanimously.

5b. 2011 Retiree Health Care Trust Investment Report

Plan Administrator Wahl reported the 2011 Retiree Health Care Trust contribution of \$3,300,000 that was approved at the Sept. 8, 2011 Board meeting, plus \$1.0 million from the August 2011 called Federal Home Loan Bank Note are the funds that were available for investment by the Board of Trustees. This \$4.3 million represents 27 percent of Trust assets of \$16.1 million (after deposit).

Wahl reported there are adequate funds in the Vanguard Money Market account to cover the expected payouts for current retiree health care benefits of approximately \$1.1 million over the next 12 months.

Wahl said Investment Advisor Jay Yentis recommends that \$750,000 of the deposit be placed into the Trust's Three Large Cap funds; that the remaining \$2,550,000 be placed into a new short term investment grade bond fund managed by Vanguard; and that the Trust purchase another \$1.0 million Agency issue for five years with a yield of approximately 1 percent.

Wahl said after making these investments, the Trust's asset allocation mix would be approximately 21 percent guaranteed, 40 percent bonds, 30 percent equities and 9 percent cash.

Wahl also said these investments are within the parameters of the Board of Commissioners approved Investment Policy.

It was moved by Commissioner Marans, supported by Commissioner McCulloch that the Board of Commissioners that the Board of Commissioners receive and file 2011 Retiree Health Care Trust Investment Report as recommended by Plan Administrator Wahl.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

E. Administrative Office

6. 2011 Budget Appropriation Adjustments – 3rd Quarter

Controller Wahl reported \$1,110,300 in Third Quarter Appropriation Adjustments were necessary to maintain compliance with line item appropriation Limits.

Wahl reported that \$472,600 of the \$1,110,300 in General Fund appropriation adjustments made represent funds transferred between accounts within the same cost center; \$408,800 of the \$1,110,300 in General Fund appropriation adjustments made represents appropriations transferred between accounts for different cost centers; and that appropriations totaling \$228,900 were made from the General Funds Reserve for Future Contingencies account.

Wahl also reported \$25,000 of additional funds was needed for the design of the sanitary sewer improvement project at Kensington from the Supplemental Major Maintenance fund Reserve for Future Contingency Account.

It was moved by Commissioner Marans, supported by Commissioner Hertel that the Board of Commissioners approve the Third Quarter Appropriation adjustments as recommended by Director Moilanen and Controller Wahl.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

E. Administrative Office

7. 2012 Fees and Charges

Deputy Director Greg Almas reported that staff is recommending no increases or decreases for the 2012 Metroparks fees and charges. Almas said staff felt additional revenues will be generated by adding special events such as the “Cardboard Classic” and expanding current events as the Outdoor Recreational Festival and that “holding the line” on fees and charges in these economically challenging times will reinforce the “Good Will” enjoyed by the Metroparks.

It was moved by Commissioner Marans, supported by Commissioner Hertel that the Board of Commissioners approve the 2012 Fees and Charges as recommended by Deputy Director Almas and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

E. Administrative Office

8. Updated Metroparks Strategic Plan

Director Moilanen reported staff updated the strategic plan incorporating the comments and suggestions made by Board members during the Commissioners work session held on Aug. 30, and during the Sept. 8 Board meeting and as suggested during those meetings, a ninth goal has been added dealing with the evaluation of programming within the Metroparks.

Moilanen reported developing the Metroparks strategic plan has been an important team building experience. Dialogue and input from commissioners, senior staff and employees at all levels has helped identify and clarify the operational areas most important to maintaining the quality of Metroparks and to enhancing the visitor experiences within the Metroparks.

Commissioner Lester thanked Commissioner La Belle for his time and hard work on this committee.

It was moved by Commissioner La Belle, supported by Commissioner McCulloch that the Board of Commissioners approve the updated Metroparks Strategic Plan as recommended by Director Moilanen and staff

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

E. Administrative Office

9. Giant Michigan Stove

Commissioner Hertel reported that in 1890, Detroit was known as the "Stove Capital" in North America. The "World's Largest Stove" debuted at the 1893 World's Columbian Exposition in Chicago when Detroit was asked to send something to the fair. In 1965, the giant stove was moved to the bus turnaround in Detroit. Later, the stove was stored at the Detroit Historical Museum warehouse. The stove was eventually moved from storage, restored and relocated to the State Fairgrounds. The stove was made of wood and as a result, was destroyed in a fire.

Commissioner Hertel reported that Paul W. Smith of WJR is willing to raise all the money to rebuild a replicate of the giant stove.

It was moved by Commissioner La Belle, supported by Commissioner Lester authorizing staff to proceed with the possible acquisition of a replicated Giant Garland Michigan Stove and that staff bring a report to the Board within 30 days regarding the project and a possible location for the stove.

Motion carried unanimously.

7. Reports

E. Administrative Office

10. Donations

It was moved by Commissioner Hertel, supported by Commissioner Marans that the following donation be accepted and a letter of appreciation sent to the donors as recommended by Deputy Director Almas and staff.

- The Robert and Bess Cook Foundation made a \$1,000 donation to be used at Kensington's Farm Center and Metro Beach's South Marina.
- Excelda Manufacturing employees made a \$520 donation for a tree and activities to be used at Kensington Metropark and the Farm Center.
- Karen Leitch made a \$475 donation for a bench to be used at Hudson Mills Metropark near the West River Trail.
- Byrne Holdren made a \$350 donation made for a memorial bench to be used at Lake Erie Metropark.
- Sherry Roberts made a \$350 donation for a Red Bud tree to be used at Hudson Mills Metropark near the West River Trail.
- Joseph Slanda made a \$300 donation for a bench in memory of Wendy Primo to be used at the Nature Center at Kensington Metropark.
- The Steinhous family made a \$300 donation for a bench with plaque to be used at Kensington Metropark.
- Kara Lotan donated a Boer goat and a Lamanch goat to be used for interpretive programs at the Wolcott Mill Metropark Farm.
- Joyce Kilpartrick donated antique tools to be used for displays at Wolcott Mill Metropark.
- Judy Gisch donated an antique sleigh and rigging piece to be used for displays at the Kensington Metropark Farm Center.
- Nancy Arnfield donated antique farm equipment and American folk art items to be used for exhibit items at Wolcott Mill Metropark.

Motion carried unanimously.

11. Legislative Report

Legislative Consultant Carr reported that both Gov. Snyder and Senate Majority Leader Randy Richardville have given notice that Personal Property Tax (PPT) reform will be a priority for the fall agendas.

Carr reported the initial plan is to address only commercial and industrial PPT and deal with utility property sometime in the future. This cuts out about one-third of the replacement revenue problem thereby reducing the number to about \$800 million per year.

Carr reported the proposal is expected to recently acquired personal property going back possibly as early as the beginning of 2011. Then, any new personal property purchased would be exempt from tax rolls on a going forward basis.

Carr said the fiscal impact on local governments that currently levy and receive PPT is wide and varied. The lieutenant governor has stated several times that the Administration intends to hold local units harmless for the PPT reforms proposed. The proposed formula is expected to be a dynamic, rather than dollar amount fixed in time solution. The first priority will be to cover any debt service to those local units that have outstanding bonds that are backed by PPT revenues.

Carr reported that any reimbursement mechanism will require an annual appropriation by the state unless the issue is placed on the ballot for a vote of the people.

Carr also reported that the lieutenant governor indicated there will be no new or expanded consumer taxes to fund the revenue reimbursement to local units. The sources discussed to date include the current battery development credits as well as other credits that expire or go unused. Therefore, the direction appears that the state will finance the reimbursements from current cash flow rather than new revenues.

Carr said the Authority began early to quantify and preserve PPT revenues collected from the five counties. Meetings with both the administration and legislators have progressed and will continue. Due to the nature of our tax administration reliance on the five constituent counties, some workable coordination mechanism will need to be developed. Once the governor's formal proposal is released we will have a better idea on both direction and strategy.

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

Motion carried unanimously.

9. Director's Comments

Director Moilanen commented that a few of the park staff and Commissioner La Belle attended the Special Parks District Forum and staff brought back some interesting ideas including: golf membership, family fun nights, storage for Rv's (which can be unsightly in the parks), and easements under 45 miles of hike/bike trails that generate approximately \$1 million per year in revenue.

Deputy Director Almas commented that staff had the opportunity to visit the following facilities, a farm center with a corn maze. In addition, this farm offered activities such as pumpkin shooters and camel rides as ways to generate revenue.

Moilanen said the fall auction was held at Wolcott Mill and generated \$100,397 and thanked purchasing personnel for a job well done.

Moilanen also said that Selfridge Air National Guard held a special ceremony on Oct. 9 for the Metroparks. This ceremony was held to recognize our staff for inviting military service men and women to programs held at Metro Beach and Lake Erie on Sept. 11 commemorating the events of Sept. 11, 2001.

Moilanen asked the commissioners to come prepared to take a group photo at the November commission meeting.

Moilanen also said the RFP for the Random Recreation Survey is has been posted and proposals are due by Oct. 20.

10. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Hertel commented that WJR provided free advertising for the fall auction and he thanked them for their generosity.

Commissioner La Belle commented that he attended the Special Parks District Forum in Northern Virginia and that the Metroparks outshine their park system. La Belle also commented that HCMA needs to get down to endowment business and that there are members on this board that know how to do this and that we should move forward with this.

11. Motion to Adjourn

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

Motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



George Phifer
Executive Secretary