

**Minutes**  
**Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority**  
**Board of Commissioners**  
**Thursday, February 13, 2020**

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A regular meeting of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority's Board of Commissioners was held on Thursday, February 13, 2020, after the Public Hearing at the Administrative Office.

Commissioners Present:	Robert W. Marans Jaye Quadrozzi Bernard Parker Kurt Heise Timothy J. McCarthy
Staff Officers:	
Director	Amy McMillan
Deputy Director	Dave Kirbach
Chief of Finance	Rebecca Franchock
Absent:	
Commissioner	John P. Rea
Commissioner	Steven Williams
Other Attendees:	
Miller Canfield	Steve Mann
Detroit River Front Conservancy	Mark Wallace
EGLE Water Resources Division	Joe Bohr
EGLE Drinking Water & Environmental Health	Ian Smith
DNR	Tammy Newcomb

1. **Call to Order**  
Chairman Marans called the meeting to order at 10:38 a.m.
2. **Chairman's Statement**  
None.
3. **Public Participation**  
None.
4. **Approval – January 9, 2020 Public Hearing, Closed Session, Regular Meeting Minutes**  
Motion by Commissioner Quadrozzi, support from Commissioner Heise that the Board of Commissioners approve the Jan. 9, 2020 Public Hearing, Closed Session and Regular Meeting Minutes as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Approval – February 13, 2020 Full Agenda**  
Motion by Commissioner Quadrozzi, support from Commissioner Heise that the Board of Commissioners approve the February 13, 2020 agenda as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. **Presentation – Detroit Riverfront Conservancy**  
Director McMillan introduced Mark Wallace with the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy. Mr. Wallace introduced members of his team, reviewed the transformation of the Detroit waterfront, current partners, gave a snapshot of visitors to downtown Detroit and reviewed the next vision for the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy. Mr. Wallace said the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy and the Metroparks have worked together since 2015 and he is excited about the new partnership opportunities, especially with the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Centennial Park.

Commissioner Quadrozzi asked how big the swimming cove would be and the size of the jetty. Mr. Wallace said the cove would be the size of a football field and the jetty would be about 100 yards.

Commissioner Marans asked about water quality for the cove. Mr. Wallace said the design would have a monitoring system to make sure that the water that flows into the cove is safe and it will be intentionally designed so the water refreshes (circulates) 100 percent twice a day to keep it clean.

Commissioner Quadrozzi asked about the plans to have staffing at these areas. Mr. Wallace said there will be staff onsite to keep the areas clean and safe.

Commissioner Parker said he is pleased to see the Metroparks working with the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy and a partnership will help people to learn about what the Metroparks has to offer citizens in Detroit.

Motion by Commissioner Parker, support from Commissioner Quadrozzi that the Board of Commissioners approve staff to work with the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy on developing a formal partnership.

Director McMillan said staff would like to bring a formal partnership agreement to the Board in 90 days.

Commissioner Marans asked what would change in 90 days. Ms. McMillan said staff needs to determine the parameters of the partnership with a focus on the Cove and beach area, adding a programming component focusing on water safety and water quality, how both organizations can improve water quality in the city of Detroit as well as increase jobs for lifeguards and other opportunities for youth. Ms. McMillan said staff also needs to determine how the Metroparks will be recognized as a sponsor and partner along with discussions on financial support.

Ms. McMillan introduced J.J. Tighe with the Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation and she said the organization provided a grant contract worth \$900,000 in matching grant funding for the Southern District over the next three years. She said that funding would normally come out of the Metroparks budget, which will help with conversations with the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy.

Commissioner Parker amended his motion.

Motion by Commissioner Parker, support from Commissioner Quadrozzi that the Board of Commissioners approve staff to move forward with developing a formal partnership the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy and bring a comprehensive agreement to the Board in 90 days.

Commissioner Marans abstained from voting as he is also a board member for the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy.

Motion carried.

#### **7. Presentation – PFAS Update from EGLE Water Resources/EGLE Drinking Water/DNR**

Joe Bohr, EGLE Water Resources Division, updated the Board on the history of the PFAS issues in the area, reviewed the Huron River Watershed, the sites of PFAS contamination and efforts to stop PFAS contamination. He said fish monitoring is fairly intensive and that fish are collected annually for testing. PFAS levels in fish have dropped in 2019 compared to 2018 numbers.

Commissioner Heise asked if the Tribar plant is still active. Mr. Bohr said yes and that a carbon treatment is being used.

Commissioner Heise asked what more could be done in Wixom do for waste water treatment. Mr. Bohr said they will continue to monitor the water.

Commissioner Marans asked about the plans for monitoring. Mr. Bohr said monitoring would continue and fish would be collected on Kent Lake annually.

Commissioner Heise said the word on the street is that PFAS is not a big deal anymore and asked what the response is from officials. Ian Smith, EGLE Drinking Water and Environmental Health

Division said the Michigan PFAS Action Response Team (MPART) is doing everything they can to combat the use.

Mr. Smith updated said testing was done in 2019 on Norton Creek and drinking water wells. Proud Lake tested at 11 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFAS and the well was retested and came back as non-detect. Mr. Smith reviewed phase I and phase II public water testing, monitoring programs and the rulemaking process to date.

Tammy Newcomb, Ph.D., Senior Water Policy Advisor with the DNR reviewed PFAS testing for wildlife and said there was no new information on deer testing since last summer. In 2018, 48 samples were taken from deer from across the state – Alpena, Oscoda, Rockford and Grayling. In 2019, deer were tested at Proud Lake Recreation Area. Deer will be tested again this spring near Clark’s Marsh and waterfowl will also be tested.

**8. Approval – February 13, 2020 Consent Agenda**

Motion by Commissioner Heise, support from Commissioner McCarthy that the Board of Commissioners approve the February 13, 2020 consent agenda as presented:

- a. Bids – Septic Tank Replacement, Kensington Farm Center
- b. Approval – Well Pump Repairs, Indian Springs
- c. Report – Purchases over \$10,000
- d. Purchases
  1. Accessible and Inclusive Playground, Kensington
  2. SUV, Administrative Office
  3. Police Vehicles, Various Locations
  4. Golf Carts, Huron Meadows
  5. Heavy Duty Pickup Truck, Hudson Mills

Motion carried unanimously.

**9. Reports**

**A. Administrative**

**1. Approval – Amended Board Meeting Schedule**

Motion by Commissioner Heise, support from Commissioner Quadrozzi that the Board of Commissioners approve the amended 2020 Board of Commissioners meeting schedule as recommended by Director McMillan and staff.

Discussion: Ms. McMillan said the June meeting was originally scheduled for Oakwoods Nature Center and staff is requesting a location switch for the June and September meetings.

Commissioner Parker asked how the meeting time changes would be addressed with the public. Ms. McMillan said through email blasts, the website and social media.

Motion carried unanimously.

**2. Approval – Intergovernmental Maintenance Agreements**

Motion by Commissioner Parker, support from Commissioner Heise that the Board of Commissioners approve renewing the Maintenance Agreements for a five-year period with Harrison Township and Clinton Township for path maintenance as recommended by Deputy Director Dave Kirbach and staff.

Discussion: Ms. McMillan said the maintenance agreements with both townships were favorable and staff was requesting renewing the agreements for another five years.

Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Approval – Consumers Pipeline Easement, Kensington**

Motion by Commissioner McCarthy, support from Commissioner Heise that the Board of Commissioners approved the easement agreements with Consumers Energy with the understanding that staff would confirm the timing of receiving the check.

Discussion: Director McMillan said the deadline to have all the information to staff had passed (day before meeting); however, staff received the final documents right before the meeting and due to the timing of the project, she said she believes the Board should move forward.

Deputy Director David Kirbach updated the Board on the project and the route the pipeline would take through the park. He said it would come into the east side of Kensington off of Milford Road. Mr. Kirbach said there were a total of 11 easements, some of which the Metroparks already had with Consumers. He reviewed the compensation schedule and terms of compensation and said the project was on a tight schedule due to the timing of the removal of trees due to Oak Wilt and the removal of bats (April 1).

Commissioner Marans asked if staff checked with legal counsel. Mr. Kirbach said yes, that due to a conflict of interest, Miller Canfield was not able to represent the Metroparks and that Cousino Law reviewed all the documents and assisted with negotiating the terms of the easements.

Commissioner Heise asked if the \$212,751 easement payment was a straight payment. Mr. Kirbach said he would find out if it was a check and if the Metroparks would receive payment before the project started.

Commissioner McCarthy asked if the pipeline was in a high use area. Mr. Kirbach said no and that the area would be restored to its original state.

Commissioner Parker asked if trees are removed, would the bats find other similar trees or if there would be a lot of bats flying around the parks. Mr. Kirbach said the bats have not migrated back to Michigan and will find other trees when they do return.

Commissioner Marans asked about the timing of the project. Mr. Kirbach said the project would begin in May and complete by the end of October.

Motion carried unanimously.

## **9. Reports**

### **B. Finance Department**

#### **1. Approval – Financial Statements**

##### **a. December 2019**

Motion by Commissioner Heise, support from Commissioner Quadrozzi that the Board of Commissioners approve December 2019 financial statements and receive and file the December 2019 year-end financial report as submitted by Chief of Finance Rebecca Franchock and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

##### **b. January 2020**

Motion by Commissioner Heise, support from Commissioner McCarthy that the Board of Commissioners approve and receive and file the January 2020 financial statements as submitted by Chief of Finance Rebecca Franchock and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### **2. Approval – Appropriation Adjustments**

##### **a. December 2019**

Motion by Commissioner McCarthy, support from Commissioner Heise that the Board of Commissioners approve December 2019 appropriation adjustments as submitted by Chief of Finance Rebecca Franchock and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

**9. Reports**

**B. Finance Department**

**2. Approval – Appropriation Adjustments**

**b. January 2020**

Motion by Commissioner McCarthy, support from Commissioner Parker that the Board of Commissioners approve January 2020 appropriation adjustments as submitted by Chief of Finance Rebecca Franchock and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Approval – Capital Project Fund**

**a. December 2019**

Motion by Commissioner McCarthy, support from Commissioner Heise that the Board of Commissioners receive and file the December 2019 Capital Project Funds update as submitted by Chief of Finance Rebecca Franchock and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

**b. January 2020**

Motion by Commissioner McCarthy, support from Commissioner Quadrozzi that the Board of Commissioners approve the January 2020 Capital Projects Fund update as submitted by Chief of Finance Rebecca Franchock and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

**C. Marketing Department**

**1. Report – January Marketing Update**

Motion by Commissioner Quadrozzi, support from Commissioner Heise that the Board of Commissioners receive and file the January marketing updated as submitted by Chief of Marketing and Communications Danielle Mauter and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

**2. Approval – Major Media Buys**

Motion by Commissioner Heise, support from Commissioner Quadrozzi that the Board of Commissioners approve the major media buys from various vendors as recommended by Chief of Marketing and Communications, Danielle Mauter and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

**D. Planning Department**

**1. Approval – Class I and II e-Bike Opt-in**

Motion by Commissioner McCarthy, support from Commissioner Quadrozzi that the Board of Commissioners authorize staff to amend the Metroparks Rules and Regulations to enable (1) the use of Class II e-bikes on paved hike-bike trails; and (2) the use of both Class I and Class II e-bikes on designated mountain bike trails for a one-year trial period as recommended by Chief of Planning and Development Nina Kelly and staff.

*Discussion:* Chief of Planning and Development Nina Kelly said she was amending staff's recommendation after comments received during the public hearing.

Motion carried unanimously.

**2. Approval/Resolution – WaterTowns™ Initiative Participation**

Motion by Commissioner Heise, support from Commissioner Parker that the Board of Commissioners approve a resolution to participate in the WaterTowns® initiative through the Clinton River Watershed Council (CRWC) as recommended by Chief of Planning and Development Nina Kelly and staff.

*Discussion:* Ms. Kelly said the Clinton River Watershed Council (CRWC) leverages the placemaking and community development potential of the Clinton River and Lake St. Clair through its WaterTowns® initiative, which began in 2013, by enhancing watershed management, the blue economy, and green infrastructure. Currently, there are 22 designated WaterTowns® communities. She also said that by participating in the WaterTowns® program further solidifies the years-long partnership between the Metroparks and CRWC and opens opportunities for collaboration on projects of mutual benefit to the two agencies.

Motion carried unanimously.

## 9. Reports

### D. Planning Department

#### 3. Approval/Resolution – AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities Application

Motion by Commissioner McCarthy, support from Commissioner Heise that the Board of Commissioners (1) approve a resolution; and (2) authorize staff to execute a letter of commitment in support of an application to become a member of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities as recommended by Chief of Planning and Development Nina Kelly and staff.

*Discussion:* Ms. Kelly updated the Board and said the Metroparks has been working towards greater inclusivity for people of all abilities and that communities surrounding the Metroparks are rapidly aging. To be relevant to this increasingly larger population, the Metroparks is seeking to evaluate recreation and program offerings with input from older adults. Membership with the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities will allow the Metroparks to have access to expertise and resources to develop an age-friendly plan.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### 4. Approval – Village of Milford Sidewalk Easement Agreement

Motion by Commissioner Quadrozzi, support from Commissioner Heise that the Board of Commissioners approve the sidewalk easement with the village of Milford as recommended by Chief of Planning and Development Nina Kelly and staff.

*Discussion:* Ms. Kelly updated the Board and said the village of Milford is seeking to make sidewalk and intersection improvements along Peters Road between John R. and Commerce streets as part of an upcoming road reconstruction project. Approximately 800 feet of sidewalk is located on the west side of Peters Road on the property leased by the village.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### 5. Report – Planning and Development Monthly Update

Motion by Commissioner McCarthy, support from Commissioner Heise that the Board of Commissioners receive and file the Planning and Development monthly update as recommended by Chief of Planning and Development Nina Kelly and staff.

*Discussion:* Commissioner Quadrozzi asked for the timeline on the bathrooms for the Stony Creek boat launch area. Ms. Kelly said the parking lot would be started first.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### 6. Report – Planning and Development Monthly Update

Motion by Commissioner Parker, support from Commissioner Heise that the Board of Commissioners award a contract in the amount of \$29,500 to Funfest Productions, Inc. of Mount Clemens, Michigan for the provision of a concert featuring musical artist Mark Farner's American Band and Larry Lee and the Back in the Day Band for Lake St. Clair Metropark's signature event, Metro Beachfest 2020, as recommended by Chief of Planning and Development Nina Kelly and staff.

Discussion: Commissioner Marans asked if staff has worked with this group before. Ms. Kelly said yes.

Motion carried unanimously.

## 9. Reports

### E. Engineering Department

#### 1. Bids – Pond Dome Refurbishment, Indian Springs

Motion by Commissioner Quadrozzi, support from Commissioner Parker that the Board of Commissioners approve the proposal from Reynolds Polymer in the amount of \$89,235 as recommended by Chief of Engineering Services Mike Henkel and staff.

Discussion: Chief of Engineering Mike Henkel updated the Board on the current condition of the pond dome and explained what the project entailed. He said the project would begin in the fall and that steps were being taken to relocate plants and wildlife that live in the pond.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### 2. Approval – Boat Launch Engineering/Architectural Services, Stony Creek

Motion by Commissioner Quadrozzi, support from Commissioner Heise that the Board of Commissioners accept the proposal from Straub, Pettitt, Yaste dated Dec. 18, 2019 in the amount of \$64,500 for engineering and architectural design services for the development of the Stony Creek Boat Launch restroom building as recommended by Chief of Engineering Services Mike Henkel and staff.

Discussion: Chief of Engineering Mike Henkel updated the Board on the project timeline and said the project would start in the fall. He said Straub, Pettitt, and Yaste, is the designer for the current projects to replace the beach restroom facilities at both Kensington and Stony Creek and is also in the process of designing the Willow Park Office building.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### 3. Report – Wolcott Mill Historical Center

Motion by Commissioner Parker, support from Commissioner Heise that the Board of Commissioners receive and file the Wolcott Mill Historical Center report as recommended by Chief of Engineering Services Mike Henkel and staff.

Discussion: Chief of Engineering Mike Henkel updated the Board on the issues with the basement floor slab and the building's foundation. He said staff authorized Testing, Engineers and Consultants (TEC) to conduct an investigation due to the loss of material underneath the basement floor slab and the subsequent cracking in other areas (hollow areas could be heard while tapping on the slab in the basement). TEC evaluated the current condition of the slab and foundation and provided recommendations as to the cause as well as needed corrective actions. Mr. Henkel said TEC provided a report that provided the overall condition of the building. He said if the voids are filled in the floors, the historic center building can then be reopened.

Motion carried unanimously.

## 10. Closed Session

Motion by Commissioner McCarthy, support by Commissioner Quadrozzi that the Board of Commissioners adjourn the regular meeting and enter into a closed session for the purpose of consulting with attorneys to consider material exempt from discussion or disclosure by State law pursuant to Section 8 (h) of the Open Meetings Act.

### ROLL CALL VOTE

Voting yes: Quadrozzi, Parker, McCarthy, Heise, Marans

Voting no:

Absent: Rea, Williams

Motion carried unanimously.

The regular meeting adjourned at 12:28 p.m.

Commissioner Marans reconvened the regular meeting at 12:30 p.m.

*No closed session discussion took place.*

**11. Other Business**

None.

**12. Staff Leadership Update**

None.

**13. Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Marans said he was excited about the partnership with the Detroit Riverfront Conservancy.

Commissioner Heise said we (the Metroparks) need to draw people from this partnership to the Metroparks.

Commissioner Quadrozzi said there should be branding on the paddleboards promoting the Metroparks.

Commissioner Parker said there should be kiosks to promote the Metroparks at the riverfront.

**14. Motion to Adjourn**

Motion by Commissioner Parker, support from Commissioner McCarthy that the Board of Commissioners adjourn the regular meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shawn M. Athayde  
Recording Secretary