

**Minutes  
Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority  
Board of Commissioners  
Thursday, November 11, 2021**

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A regular meeting of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority's Board of Commissioners was held on Thursday, November 11, 2021. Due to state of Michigan Department of Health and Human Services Emergency Order under MCL 333.2253 and to minimize the spread of COVID-19, this meeting was held in person and electronically, as permitted under Public Act 228 of 2020.

Commissioners Present:	Jaye Quadrozzi Bernard Parker Robert W. Marans John Paul Rea Stephen Pontoni Bill Bolin
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Staff Officers Present:	
Director	Amy McMillan
Deputy Director	Michael Lyons
Chief of Finance	Shedreka Miller

Absent:	
Commissioner	Tiffany Taylor

Others:	
Miller, Canfield, Paddock & Stone	Steve Mann

**1. Call to Order**

Commissioner Quadrozzi called the meeting to order at 12:57 p.m.

**2. Chairperson's Statement**

Commissioner Quadrozzi thanked everyone for agreeing to participate on the Board subcommittees and/or work groups.

**3. Public Participation**

None.

**4. Approval – October 14, 2021 Regular Meeting Minutes, October 15, 2021 Board Retreat Minutes, October 20, 2021 Special Meeting Minutes**

Motion by Commissioner Marans, support from Commissioner Rea that the Board of Commissioners approve the October 2021 meeting minutes as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously.

**5. Approval – November 11, 2021 Full Agenda**

Motion by Commissioner Rea, support from Commissioner Bolin that the Board of Commissioners approve the November 11, 2021 full agenda as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

**6. Approval – November 11, 2021 Consent Agenda**

Motion by Commissioner Bolin, support from Commissioner Rea that the Board of Commissioners approve the November 11, 2021 consent agenda as presented:

- a. Approval – October 2021 Financial Statements
- b. Approval – October 2021 Appropriation Adjustments
- c. Report – Monthly 2021 Capital Project Fund Update
- d. Report – Monthly 2021 Major Maintenance Update
- e. Approval – Employee Recognition Dinner Subsidy
- f. Approval – Wayne County Annual Maintenance Permit
- g. Report – Purchases over \$10,000

## h. Purchases

### 1. Total Spend and Vendor Location

Motion carried unanimously.

## 7. Preliminary 2022 Budget

Motion by Commissioner Rea, support from Commissioner Bolin that the Board of Commissioners receive and file the 2022 Preliminary Budget as presented by Chief of Finance Shedreka Miller and staff.

*Discussion:* Director McMillan thanked staff for their hard work in preparing the preliminary 2022 budget.

Chief of Finance Shedreka Miller reviewed the proposed 2022 budget including the fund balance and projected changes to the fund balance, projected fourth quarter 2021 revenue and expenses, current funding levels for the Pension Plan (85 percent) and Retiree Health Care Trust (111 percent), anticipated revenue and expenditures for 2022, and major maintenance, capital projects and capital equipment.

Commissioner Parker asked where the funding for the living wage was coming from. Ms. McMillan said it would come from the operations budget and suggested it could also come from the unassigned fund balance and that \$350,000 was set aside as discussed at the October meeting.

Commissioner Parker said he does not support using the fund balance for operations. He acknowledged the Metroparks does have a high fund balance and that we (the Metroparks) should use some of the unassigned fund balance to make repairs and infrastructure improvements along with more programming initiatives.

Commissioner Marans asked why the increase in expenses for climate and storm water consultants. Ms. McMillan said storm water management has had an impact on local units of government. Working with partners across the area will help to develop a more comprehensive storm water management plan. Ms. McMillan also said that staff is working to develop a climate action plan after the second DEI Speaker Series events in which Dr. Perry participated.

Motion carried unanimously.

## 8. Reports

### A. Administrative Department

#### 1. Approval – Health Insurance Program Renewal

Motion by Commissioner Rea, support from Commissioner Bolin that the Board of Commissioners approve the renewal for the 2022 employee and retiree health insurances as recommended by Chief of Human Resources and Labor Relations Randy Rossman and staff.

*Discussion:* Chief of Human Resources and Labor Relations Randy Rossman updated the Board and highlighted the changes to the Metroparks insurance offerings.

Commissioner Parker asked if the Metroparks was conforming to the hard cap. Mr. Rossman said yes.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### 2. Approval – Use of Blue Cross Blue Shield Rate Stabilization Surplus

Motion by Commissioner Rea, support from Commissioner Bolin that the Board of Commissioners approve the use of a portion of Fund Balance Committed for Rate Stabilization to be paid in January 2022 to full-time employees enrolled in a Metroparks medical/prescription plan For the HDHP PPO with single coverage \$1,000 and for two person/family coverage \$2,000. For the HDHP HMO with single coverage \$700 and for two person/family coverage \$1,400. Payment amounts would be based on 50 percent of the deductible amount for each High Deductible Health Plan (HDHP) in accordance with the Board of Commissioners previous actions as recommended by Chief of Human Resources and Labor Relations Randy Rossman.

*Discussion:* Chief of Human Resources and Labor Relations Randy Rossman updated the Board and said Each year our medical/prescription insurance carrier, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan

(BCBSM), reviews our current claims and the current claim trends for groups of similar size. This results in development of a Rate Stabilization Reserve Account, which is used as a cushion for large claims. The current amount in the Fund Balance Committed for Rate Stabilization is \$735,395. Approval of this request will help mitigate some of the additional costs for covered employees.

Motion carried unanimously.

## 8. Reports

### A. Administrative Department

#### 3. Report – Five-County Swim Survey Results

Motion by Commissioner Rea, support from Commissioner Bolin that the Board of Commissioners receive and file the Huron-Clinton Metroparks Five-County Swim Survey report as presented by Interim Chief of Planning and Development Jason Bibby and staff.

Discussion: Interim Chief of Planning and Development Jason Bibby introduced Miklos Valdez with Counsilman-Hunsaker, the consultant hired to complete the swim survey.

Mr. Valdez reviewed the results of the survey highlighting how the survey was marketed, the survey results, key takeaways, the places people swim, their interest in learning to swim and what people enjoy about swimming.

Commissioner Parker asked if an action plan would be brought before the Board. Ms. McMillan said yes.

Commissioner Marans suggested replicating some of these questions in the five-year recreation survey.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### 4. Report – Board Retreat Summary

Motion by Commissioner Marans, support from Commissioner Rea that the Board of Commissioners receive and file the Board Retreat Summary as presented by Director Amy McMillan.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### 5. Approval – Board Retreat Action items

Motion by Commissioner Pontoni, support from Commissioner Bolin that the Board of Commissioners approve the action items as discussed at the Board Retreat and listed below as presented by Director McMillan.

Discussion: The following Board subcommittees were established:

<u>Finance Committee</u>	<u>Lifelong Learning</u>	<u>Workforce Initiatives</u>
Commissioner Quadrozzi	Commissioner Rea	Commissioner Marans
Commissioner Rea	Commissioner Taylor	Commissioner Pontoni
Commissioner Parker	Commissioner Bolin	Director McMillan and staff
Director McMillan	Director McMillan	

Motion carried unanimously.

## 8. Reports

### A. Administrative Department

#### 6. Approval – 2022 Board Meeting Schedule

Motion by Commissioner Marans, support from Commissioner Rea that the Board of Commissioners approve the 2022 Board of Commissioners meeting schedule as recommended by Director McMillan and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

## 8. Reports

### A. Administrative Department

#### 7. Report – Cross-Departmental Data Review

Motion by Commissioner Rea, support from Commissioner Bolin that the Board of Commissioners receive and file the Website Project and Major Technology Update as presented by Chief of Marketing and Communications Danielle Mauter and Chief of Information Technology Robert Rudolph.

*Discussion:* Chief of Marketing and Communications updated the Board on the website project and said the new website launched at the end of October with a fresh look to new branding and improved accessibility.

Board members congratulated staff on the excellent work done updating the website.

Motion carried unanimously.

### B. Financial Department

#### 1. Report – Monthly Financial Review

Motion by Commissioner Bolin, support from Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners receive and file the monthly financial review as presented by Chief of Finance Shedreka Miller and staff.

*Discussion:* Chief of Finance Shedreka Miller updated the Board on revenue and expenditures for October.

Motion carried unanimously.

### C. Departmental Updates

#### 1. Report – Planning Department Monthly Update

Motion by Commissioner Rea, support from Commissioner Bolin that the Board of Commissioners receive and file the Planning and Development Department Monthly Update as recommended by Interim Chief of Planning and Development Jason Bibby and staff.

*Discussion:* Interim Chief of Planning and Development Jason Bibby updated the Board highlighting activities/projects that took place during the month.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### 2. Report – Marketing Update

Motion by Commissioner Marans, support from Commissioner Rea that the Board of Commissioners receive and file monthly marketing update as recommended by Chief of Marketing and Communications Danielle Mauter and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### 3. Report – DEI Update

Motion by Commissioner Rea, support from Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners receive and file monthly DEI update as recommended by Chief of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Artina Carter and staff.

*Discussion:* Chief of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Artina Carter updated the Board on DEI efforts highlighting the final DEI Speaker Series Event for 2021.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### 4. Report – Interpretive Services Update

Motion by Commissioner Parker, support from Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners receive and file Interpretive Services monthly update as recommended by Chief of Interpretive Services Jennifer Jaworski and staff.

Discussion: Chief of Interpretive Services Jennifer Jaworski updated the Board on various programs and initiatives that took place during the month highlighting department initiatives, programming, and community engagement.

Commissioner Parker asked about programming efforts with Detroit Public Schools and if they will be able to continue. Director McMillan said staff was working on grant funded programming prior to the pandemic; however, she was not sure if they still had the funding source available to continue.

Motion carried unanimously.

## **8. Reports**

### **C. Departmental Updates**

#### **5. Report – Natural Resources Update**

Motion by Commissioner Rea, support from Commissioner Bolin that the Board of Commissioners receive and file the Natural Resources update as recommended by Chief of Natural Resources and Regulatory Compliance Tyler Mitchell and staff.

Discussion: Chief of Natural Resources and Regulatory Compliance Tyler Mitchell updated the Board on projects and highlighted activities in the Natural Resources department that took place during the month.

Motion carried unanimously.

### **D. Natural Resources Department**

#### **1. Bids – Marsh Dredging, Lake Erie Metropark**

Motion by Commissioner Marans, support from Commissioner Rea that the Board of Commissioners award Contract No. 512-18-239 to Mid-American Gunite dba Mid-American Group of Newport, Michigan, the responsive, responsible bidder in the amount of \$960,088.30 as recommended by Chief of Natural Resources and Regulatory Compliance Tyler Mitchell and staff.

Discussion: Chief of Natural Resources and Regulatory Compliance Tyler Mitchell updated the Board on the project and said the Great Lakes Commission (GLC) and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) have provided funding to support the Metroparks efforts to increase coastal resiliency and biological diversity through the restoration of shoreline and Great Lakes coastal marshlands. Dredging through the marsh will provide open channels that will facilitate the mobility of and provide a hospitable habitat for fish and wildlife. This project is part of a larger effort to encourage and support fish and wildlife development and sustainability.

Motion carried unanimously.

### **E. Engineering Department**

#### **1. Bids – Playground Change Order, Lower Huron**

Motion by Commissioner Bolin, support from Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners approve a change order for contract 506-20-496 for the construction of the new Woods Creek playground at Lower Huron in the amount of \$27,287.55 to cover additional construction costs as recommended by Chief of Engineering Services Mike Henkel and staff.

Discussion: Chief of Engineering Services Mike Henkel updated the Board and said Funding is currently available in the Capital Project Fund to cover the additional costs from other under budget projects. Per policy, change order aggregate amounts greater than \$25,000 require action by the Board.

Motion carried unanimously.

## **9. Leadership Update**

Steve Mann, Miller Canfield, updated the Board on the status of legislation to extend authority for electronic meetings and said several bills are pending in the legislature that would extend in various forms the ability of public bodies to meet remotely. One bill introduced in February 2021 would allow electronic meetings for public bodies whose members are not elected and are not compensated. Another bill introduced in

February 2021 would allow local legislative bodies or local governing bodies to continue to meet electronically (this bill is unlikely to advance). Mr. Mann said Senate Bill (SB) 705, which was introduced in October, would extend the current ability for meet remotely until March 31, 2022. House Bill (HB) 5467 would allow limited electronic participation by members of the public body so long as there was a physical quorum present at the meeting location. Members attending remotely could participate in deliberations and discussions but could not vote.

Mr. Mann also continued the discussion regarding item 8(A)(1) Health Insurance Program Renewal and Commissioner Parker's question as to whether the Board had to vote annually regarding the 80/20 option. The 2011 law provides three options for public employers. The first option is to comply with the "Hard Cap" set annually by the state. No further action is required if a public employer complies with the Hard Cap. The second option is to cap the employer's contribution to 80 percent of the health care cost and require employees to pay 20 percent (that option requires an annual majority vote of the public body). The third option is to exempt the public body from the requirements of the act. This option also requires an annual vote of a supermajority two-thirds of the public body.

**10. Other Business**

None.

**11. Public Participation**

Jason Kulongowski, President of the Metroparks Employee Association thanked the Board for approving additional health care options as well as the rate stabilization to help offset employee health care costs.

**12. Commissioner Comments**

None.

**13. Motion to Adjourn**

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

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shawn M. Athayde  
Recording Secretary