

**Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority  
Board of Commission Meeting Minutes  
August 14, 2025 – 1:00 p.m.  
Lake St. Clair Metropark**

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A regular meeting of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority's Board of Commissioners was held on Thursday, August 14, 2025 at Lake St. Clair Metropark.

**Commissioners Present:**

John Paul Rea  
Stephen Pontoni  
Robert W. Marans  
Bernard Parker  
Jaye Quadrozzi  
William Bolin

**Staff Officers Present:**

Chief Executive Officer  
Chief Operating Officer  
Chief of Finance

Amy McMillan  
Mike Lyons  
Shedreka Miller

**Commissioners Absent:**

Tiffany Taylor

**Others:**

Miller, Canfield, Paddock & Stone

Steve Mann

**1. Call to Order**

Commissioner Rea called the meeting to order at 1:01pm.

**2. Chairman's Statement**

None.

**3. Public Participation**

- Steven Beller, Mayor of the City of Flat Rock. Beller stated he would like the \$5 offer removed from the website. Beller stated it is not an offer. Beller stated he would like the statement that "everyone was working closely with the administration and city" removed from the website. He stated that is not true. Beller stated himself, the city attorney, and the city administrator are the only three that have been consulted. Beller stated they have received very answers and it's been frustrating. Beller stated that the City of Flat Rock has passed a unanimous resolution recommending that Huron-Clinton Metroparks Board vote for Option One, to leave the dam alone and improve fish passage.

Beller stated if there was more collaboration, we could have a voice and improve fish passage. Beller stated we are not going to not stop fighting and do not want our city ruined.

- John Webb, 28887 W. Huron River. Webb stated he is a concerned citizen. Webb was born in Huron Township across from the impoundment. Webb stated the impoundment was an amazing place to live as a child and adult, it provides opportunities to go ice skating, fishing, catching crawdads. Webb stated he moved with his wife across from the impoundment when they first married and now lives on the impoundment. Webb stated when oakwoods park was built, he was concerned they were going to have pay now. Webb stated eventually it became apparent that Huron-Clinton Metroparks are very responsible people, they appeared to be sensitive to the citizens. Webb stated he respects the board the parks are an asset to the community. Webb stated that he is now surprised the board is now succumbing to pressure from federal agencies and leadership to entertain this type of damage to wildlife and citizens.
- Brad Booth, 28921 W. Huron River. Booth stated that he sees some clause in the design of alternative two. Booth stated the trees and logs will not go anywhere like they do today, and after 1-3 years there will be an enormous amount of logs stuck. Booth stated he has seen this happen upstream and the sediment behind them will create a blockage and the river will turn and go somewhere else. Booth stated the blockage will create a buildup up stream and the water levels will rise for a period of time until the water creates pressure to push through and a surge of water will go down stream someday. Booth stated the Huron-Clinton Metroparks will be responsible for what happens from there. Booth stated we have not heard any good reasons why this is being done.
- John Konkell, 28275 W. Huron River. Konkell stated has lived on Huron River for 35 years. Konkell stated he has enjoyed the nature center and river for many years. Konkell stated he has a different concern; after searching different sites for the problem with dams, he doesn't think dams are getting a fair treatment. Konkell stated dams prevent flooding and over the past six weeks there have been floods everywhere including, Texas, Kansas City, Milwaukee, North Carolina and Alaska. Konkell stated he is wondering if the board and feasibility study and taken into consideration the viability of the dam and what the good work the dam might do in the event of a flood. Konkell stated consider what the dam does and what it can protect.
- Robert Mies, 28933 West Huron River. Resident for 34yrs. Mies stated he bought a new house on the river three years ago and part of the property value is being on the river. Mies stated it is currently 3ft deep, if the dam is removed there will be no water behind the houses, there will only be decaying matter and mud. Mies stated he recently talked to someone who lives up north near a dam that was removed and three years later it still stinks. Mies stated the same thing will happen and the smell will hover the city for years. Mies asked will the parks bring in grass and dirt to cover the land. Mies stated does not believe so and it will be 180 acres of waterway lost. Mies stated he

is confused about the reasons for removal. Mies stated a concern was sea lampreys but there are none. Mies stated fish have not gone upstream in 100 years and the fish ladder is working well from a 2017 DNR survey. Mies asked why there was no fish study done. Mies stated we cannot eat the fish because of the PFAs and hazardous chemicals. Mies stated in 2023 Michigan stocked over 9 million fish, 8 different species at 705 sites. Mies stated this year 18.9 million fish, 10 species, 716 sites. Mies stated if the dam is taken out, he and his wife can no longer canoe. Mies stated the \$40 million estimate is a crazy amount of money and the Huron-Clinton Metroparks are going to have somebody else pay for it. Mies asked if this dam will be stronger than the dam that is already there.

- David Massengill, 26540 Will Carleton Road. Massengill stated he lives in the founder of Flat Rock's house. Massengill stated he has been following closely, and the feasibility study stops at Huroc Park. Massengill stated the dam and river is part of what makes it a good town. Massengill stated it brings a lot of good business and good people. Massengill stated he moved back to the town to raise a family, and it would be a shame to lose sight of that.
- Matthew Zick, Flat Rock City attorney. Zick stated he appreciates the comments at the opening of the meeting that there's going to be the presentation made today. Zick stated the City of Flat Rock had a meeting on August 4th after the feasibility study was finalized, reviewed, and a recommendation was made to our council. Zick stated the mayor and council voted and unanimously passed a resolution. The resolution was sent to the Huron-Clinton Metroparks CEO, attorney and each individual board member. Zick stated now, therefore, be it resolved, the City of Flat Rock hereby opposes the removal of the Flat Rock and or the Huroc Dam, be it further resolved, the City of Flat Rock hereby supports and selects alternative one. No action to dams makes fish passage improvements as discussed in the dam Feasibility study. Zick stated be aware that the City of Flat Rock has selected Alternative one. Zick stated he knows no selection has been made by the board yet and he strongly encourages the Huron-Clinton Metroparks to keep an open line communication before the next board meeting when you will be making a decision to contact Mayor Beller, himself, the City Administrator. Zick stated the City of Flat Rock has selected alternative one.

#### **4. Approval – July 10, 2025 Regular and Closed Session Meeting Minutes**

Motion by Commissioner Pontoni, support from Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners approve the regular meeting minutes as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously.

## **5. Approval – August 14, 2025 Full Agenda**

Motion by Commissioner Bolin, support from Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners amend the agenda to move 7A1 to 7D4.

Motion carried unanimously.

## **Consent Agenda**

### **6. Approval – August 14, 2025 Consent Agenda**

Motion by Commissioner Marans, support from Commissioner Bolin that the Board of Commissioners approve the consent agenda as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously.

## **Regular Agenda**

### **7. Reports**

#### **A. Administrative Department**

##### **1. Approval - YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit Fall Swim Lessons Partnership**

Discussion: Chief of Marketing and Communications, Danielle Mauter presented the YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit Fall Swim Lessons Partnership.

Motion by Commissioner Marans, support from Commissioner Pontoni that the Board of Commissioners approve the YMCA of Metropolitan Detroit Fall Swim Lessons Partnership as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### **B. Finance**

##### **1. Report – Monthly Financial Report**

Discussion: Chief of Finance, Shedreka Miller presented the monthly financial report.

Motion by Commissioner Parker, support from Commissioner Bolin receive and file the Monthly Financial Report as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### **C. Department Updates**

##### **1. Report – DEI Update**

Discussion: Chief of DEI, Artina Carter presented the DEI Update. Motion by Commissioner Bolin, support from Commissioner Parker that the Board of Commissioners receive and file the DEI Update as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously.

**2. Report – Natural Resources Update**

Discussion: Chief of Natural Resources, Katie Carlisle presented the Natural Resources Update.

Motion by Commissioner Marans, support from Commissioner Pontoni that the Board of Commissioners receive and file the Natural Resources Update as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously.

**3. Report – Marketing Update**

Discussion: Chief of Marketing & Communications, Danielle Mauter presented the Marketing Update.

Motion by Commissioner Pontoni, support from Commissioner Parker that the Board of Commissioners receive and file the Marketing Update as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously.

**4. Report - Planning and Development Update**

Discussion: Chief of Planning and Development, Janet Briles presented the Planning and Development Update.

Motion by Commissioner Pontoni, support from Commissioner Bolin that the Board of Commissioners receive and file the Planning and Development Update as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously.

**5. Report – Interpretive Services Update**

Discussion: Chief of Interpretive Services, Jennifer Jaworski presented the Interpretive Services Update.

Motion by Commissioner Pontoni, support from Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners receive and file the Interpretive Services Update as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### **D. Engineering**

##### **1. Approval - Lake St Clair- Electrical Services Upgrades**

Discussion: Chief of Engineering Services, Mike Henkel presented the Lake St Clair- Electrical Services Upgrades.

Motion by Commissioner Bolin, support from Commissioner Marans approve Lake St Clair- Electrical Services Upgrades as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously.

##### **2. Approval - Lake Erie- Design Cart Barn Electrical Retrofit for Electric Cart**

Discussion: Chief of Engineering Services, Mike Henkel presented the Lake Erie- Design Cart Barn Electrical Retrofit for Electric Cart.

Motion by Commissioner Pontoni, support from Commissioner Marans approve Lake Erie- Design Cart Barn Electrical Retrofit for Electric Cart as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously.

##### **3. Approval - Lake Erie - Wave Pool Reconstruction**

Discussion: Chief of Engineering Services, Mike Henkel presented the Lake Erie - Wave Pool Reconstruction.

Motion by Commissioner Pontoni, support from Commissioner Quadrozzi approve Lake Erie - Wave Pool Reconstruction as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### **Amended Agenda**

##### **7D4. Report – Flat Rock Dam Alternative 2 Presentation and Recommendation**

Discussion: Chief Executive Officer, Amy McMillan and staff presented the Flat Rock Dam Alternative 2 Presentation and Recommendation.

Commissioner Quadrozzi asked if the other great lakes other projects highlighted that GLFC are doing were reviewed and is there any coordination with them. Chief Executive Officer, Amy McMillan stated there is not direct coordination, but part of the reviewed has been projects that have been completed over time.

Commissioner Quadrozzi asked what has been the engagement with EGLE during the community engagement process. Chief Executive Officer, Amy McMillan stated EGLE has been part of the process from the very start. McMillan stated EGLE are not the decision makers however they have strong perspectives of the project. McMillan stated MDNR, Huron River Watershed Council and other partners also have their varied perspectives. McMillan stated there have been monthly meetings with all partners involved including regular updates and meeting updates.

Commissioner Marans asked for more information why the design work could take up to two years. GEI Representative, Janeen McDermott stated part of the process is working through several design stages and at each design step there is a review by the owners at designated design levels.

Commissioner Parker stated it was a very well done presentation and thanked staff for the amount of time put into it for the board members and community. Commissioner Parker stated he is comfortable moving forward with this option and asked what do we anticipate will change within the next month. Commissioner Rea the thought process was to not only receive the recommendation from leadership today, but then allow the board members to review the material, get any insight from the public, and then see what any other type of engagement yields over the next 30 days.

Commissioner Bolin stated we should give the citizens the next month to consider and look at the details proposed and see what is proposed is at least amiable for them and the minimal impact in terms of change. Commissioner Bolin stated we are trying to work as much as possible with their feelings and sentiments as we do not want to destroy the ecosystem, it is our intention to keep it as close as possible to what it currently is and provide something that is long lasting, hopefully for another 100 years, so that the future generations will have the same benefit that this generation currently has and the generations before have been able to participate in.

Commissioner Rea stated there have been concerns raised regarding structural alterations and their ecological impact and asked how does that go throughout the process. GEI Representative, Janeen McDermott stated the rock ramp structure is still a dam and the way to control the water level is with that first crest of stone. McDermott stated we use hydraulic models to help inform proposed water surface elevations and we can design that first crest of the dam at a certain elevation and run a variety of different water flows, ranging from very low summer flows all the way up to extreme flood flows. The hydraulic model then shows us what the resulting water surface elevation is. McDermott stated for this project and many others that utilize this type of structure, one of the main goals is to maintain the current impounded water level.

Commissioner Rea asked how a phased in enhancement like this works. GEI Representative, Janeen McDermott stated this will be a detailed question we seek to answer during the detailed design with consultation with contractors as there are a variety of different ways that could be investigated.

Commissioner Rea asked how do you monitor the impact zone right now and moving forward. GEI Representative, Janeen McDermott stated with alternative two, the impact zone is right where the construction is occurring.

Chief Executive Officer, Amy McMillan asked McDermott to explain how we set that limit upstream and how we set that limit downstream in regard to who was notified directly. GEI Representative, Janeen McDermott stated it was really intended to look at potential project footprint so that's why we ended near the end of Huroc park.

Commissioner Rea asked the viability of an alternative like this, the way in which it brings into consideration everything with not only natural flow, watercourse holding the impoundment levels having a positive impact on species in the corridor. GEI Representative, Janeen McDermott stated a lot that has learned about their construction and improvements have been occurring in the design of these based off of observations of how the rock weirs function during floods and observations showing fish moving upstream through these rock weirs and a lot of studies that document that. McDermott stated you are getting to maintain an impoundment, but you are also able to get that ecological function of moving aquatic organisms upstream of this structure.

Commissioner Rea asked regards to the bridge, the surface of the bridge, the structure of the dam, undoubtedly if there are any alterations, the potential impact mitigation, how do you even begin to understand where, how does that work. Chief of Engineering, Mike Henkel stated everything is based on the structure of the concrete, the concrete has been repaired in patchwork over the years so there is a difference of age in the concrete structure, and part of this process is looking at what is the next step.

Commissioner Rea asked how the reporting and monitoring of the sediment will go. Chief of Engineering, Mike Henkel stated the monitoring is with EGLE and will be part of the detailed design work that will go into this process.

Commissioner Rea asked the total initial construction cost estimates about \$12.57 million. Chief Executive Officer, Amy McMillan stated the estimates about \$12.57 million includes modification of the Huroc dam which is the



city's responsibility. McMillan stated as time moves forward it will be closer to \$11.5-12 million.

Motion by Commissioner Pontoni, support from Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners receive and file the Flat Rock Dam Alternative 2 Presentation as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously.

## **8. Public Participation**

- Steve Beller, Mayor of the City of Flat Rock. Beller stated Henry Ford did not build the first dam in this spot. Beller stated in the early 1800s when it was an Indian Reservation Chief Split Log petitioned the Department of Interior to put a dam in there, so what is in behind that area has been there for over 200 years, not just since Henry Ford. Beller stated Stony Creek has two high hazard dams. Beller stated the dam is being removed and being replaced with a rock wall and has questions regarding liability. Beller stated he has issues with everything said about the fish passage, canoes, kayaks. Beller stated the City of Flat Rock voted to not remove Huroc Park so nothing is going to be getting past that. Beller stated it is important to keep the water level the same, but the presentations are saying it will be similar. Beller asked what is similar.
- Kyle Younglop, lives on the impoundment. Younglop asked how far upstream does the rock arch go.
- Brad Booth, 28921 W. Huron River. Booth stated it was a good presentation and superficially looks like a good option. Booth asked what the maintenance is going to be performed on this and keep clear of obstructions to avoid future flooding. Booth stated he submitted a Freedom of Information requests on past dam records and they have been denied. Booth stated he does not believe that the Huron-Clinton Metroparks performed maintenance, and he does not see any maintenance plan for this design.
- Robert Mies, 28933 W. Huron River. Mies stated he does not the understand the money and it is \$37 million dollars to remove the dam, but to do the rock wall it is \$12 million dollars and removing a whole of the dam. Mies stated he does not know how it will save \$20 million dollars when you are doing two projects instead of one. Mies stated the money does not add up. Mies stated he is afraid of the same thing that happened in Detroit where they build a jail, put \$60 million dollars into it and then said it went over budget, so they quit and wasted \$60 million dollars. Mies stated he thinks that is what is going to happen here and that it will be in the middle of project, and it is not going to get done. Mies stated he fears that they will take the dam out first before they put the rocks in, and they will get what they want and the dam will be removed, and it does not matter to us. Mies stated the water level were called similar and not changing significantly and one foot is significant at his house, it would be 20 or 30 feet, a little bit is a lot in impact.

- John Webb, W. 28887 Huron River. Webb stated he has concerns about the process. Webb stated it sounds like there is no answer until they proceed quite a way down the road. Webb stated he believes if you build this rock structure design and then remove the top part of the dam, at that point it seems the impact is much, much less. Webb stated he would like to speak to the engineer. Webb stated he does not think it is fair and if they really want the input of the public, the people are being affected to confine each one to three minutes, maybe four minutes, three minutes is it's not enough time quite often. Webb stated the board should take a boat ride around the impoundment areas before voting.
- Mike Moffatt, Flat Rock resident. Moffatt stated a couple things are said today that are totally opposite each other. Moffatt stated the mayor commented there was no engagement between the city and the Metroparks for a very long period of time during this process, but the CEO stated there was constant communications going on. Moffatt stated one of those is probably true and one of those is probably not. Moffatt stated why not consider option zero, Option 0 is using the taxpayer money that is assigned, assigned via our property taxes that goes to the Metroparks along with all the usage fees that people partake, if they or pay when they partake of all the activities available in the parks. Moffatt stated do your job and fix the dam.

## **9. Other Business**

None.

## **10. Leadership Update**

Chief Executive Officer, Amy McMillan stated that if there are questions that were not answered today, we will provide an updated presentation to the board in September at which they will consider a recommendation. McMillan stated we want to make certain that we have address and of the big outstanding questions. McMillan stated there are occasion in fact where FOIA requests are denied and there is a very legal standard for that. McMillan stated we follow all legal standards, but we know that can frustrate the public but sometimes documents simply do not exist. McMillan stated if somebody were to submit a FOIA for something that may have occurred twenty to thirty years ago and we do not have the documents, we are not hiding or stonewalling anything, we simply provide the records that we have as FOIA requires us to do. McMillan stated FOIA is just about providing prices of paper, it does not come with an analysis or explanation of anything of the information requested, it is not a report. McMillan stated staff work very hard to make certain that if a document exists, that we provide it and do so within the requirements of the law.

## **11. Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Bolin stated he would like to know why the city made the decision to not alter the dam if they are desiring to work with us until everything has been looked at. Bolin stated if we are in partnership, that would be the ideal

process to wait until we have all the data before a decision was made. Bolin stated we should all be working together, not against each other.

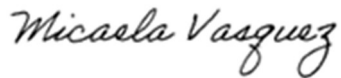
Commissioner Pontoni stated he works in Lansing, and he wishes things were done up there the way this staff and organization has handled this process of being open and thoughtful evaluation and allowing for people to weigh in and speak. Pontoni stated it was important to him and others that we made sure that we had meetings and discussions in the area around Flat Rock, that we were not going to vote at the furthest location from Flat Rock. Pontoni stated he is disappointed, in the rhetoric from elected officials in the Flat Rock area to exasperate this and sort of make negative intent from an organization that I think often, to my own frustration, might be too positive in the intent and wishes that we could be more flexible. Pontoni stated he does not think it was helpful, and the comments by certain elected officials have created stress that did not have to be around what is already a stressful issue. Pontoni stated he thinks we can do better all around.

**12. Motion to Adjourn**

Motion by Commissioner Pontoni, support from Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners adjourn the regular meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2:58pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Micaela Vasquez".

Micaela Vasquez  
Executive Assistant