

**Minutes**  
**Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority**  
**Board of Commissioners**  
**Thursday, September 8, 2022**

---

A regular meeting of the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority's Board of Commissioners was held on Thursday, September 8, 2022 at Lake Erie Metropark in the Pool area food bar and via Zoom for public participation.

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

Others:	
Miller, Canfield, Paddock & Stone	Steve Mann
EGLE	Dawn Roush
EGLE	Phil Argiroff
MDHHS	Dr. Joost Vant Erve
MDHHS	Ashley Mark
Michigan State University	Dr. Elizabeth Perry
Michigan State University	Ellie Schiappa

1. **Call to Order**  
Commissioner Quadrozzi called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.
2. **Chairperson's Statement**  
None
3. **Public Participation**  
None
4. **Approval – August 11, 2022 Regular meeting minutes**  
Motion by Commissioner Marans, support from Commissioner Rea that the Board of Commissioners approve the meeting minutes as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously.

5. **Approval – September 8, 2022 Full Agenda**  
Motion by Commissioner Parker, support from Commissioner Rea that the Board of Commissioners approve the September 8, 2022 full agenda.

Motion carried unanimously.

6. **Approval – September 8, 2022 Consent Agenda**  
Motion by Commissioner Rea, support from Commissioner Taylor that the Board of Commissioners approve the September 8, 2022 consent agenda as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

## **Regular Agenda**

### **7. Reports**

#### **A. Administrative Office**

##### **1. Update – Hexavalent Chromium Spill, EGLE/DHHS Representatives**

*Discussion:* Director McMillan thanked the EGLE and DHHS representatives for joining the meeting to update the Board on the recent Hexavalent Chromium spill.

Phil Argiroff, EGLE representative, explained where the release from Tribar came from and where the chemicals went. He said of 144 water samples taken, only three samples had a detectable amount of Hexavalent Chromium. He said it was first estimated that 8,000 pounds were discharged into the Wixom Wastewater Treatment facility. EGLE's Water Resources Division (WRD) later determined that less than 20 pounds of total chromium were discharged. EGLE will continue to do assurance monitoring for Ann Arbor.

Dawn Roush, EGLE representative, reviewed a map explaining where water samples were taken and pointed out areas where detectable and non-detectable samples were located. She said there had not been a detectable water sample since mid-August.

Commissioner Marans asked how long testing was anticipated to continue. Mr. Argiroff said the last testing date would be today (Sept. 8).

Commissioner Marans asked what a normal period of time for testing was. Mr. Argiroff said this incident was an emergency testing occurrence. Ann Arbor continually conducts tests to make sure drinking water is clean.

Ms. McMillan read a question from the Metroparks Natural Resources Department, "We understand that many manufacturing facilities discharging directly or indirectly to the Huron River may have oily/petroleum related products that might accidentally be released via sanitary or storm sewer systems which we can see and recover on the water surface." Mr. Argiroff said there are a lot of pollutant programs, including pre-treatment programs, that try to minimize any spills with protocols in place.

Commissioner Quadrozzi said there was an error of significance on Tribar's part and asked if there was a way EGLE is able to monitor the situation. Mr. Argiroff said Tribar needs to report accurate data to EGLE.

Ashley Mark, MDHHS representative, said the state assumed the worst-case scenario and that's why the "do not use" warning was issued. All restrictions were lifted Aug. 12.

No action taken.

##### **2. Report – Metroparks Climate Action Plan Update, Dr. Elizabeth Perry**

*Discussion:* Dr. Perry updated the Board on the project, reviewed Phase I and II, and said the project was currently in the community alignment phase and that some adjustments were made to fit the Metroparks needs.

Ellie Schiappa, an MSU graduate student, gave an overview of the content analysis, coding of plans, goal analysis and the Metroparks current plans. She also said the Board listening session would begin soon and then move on to focus groups.

Commissioner Marans said it was a very well thought out plan and approach.

No action taken.

## 7. Reports

### B. Financial Department

#### 1. Report – Monthly Financial Review

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

Discussion: Chief of Finance Shedreka Miller updated the Board on the financials for the month highlighting revenue and expenditures. She said golf, tolling and aquatics were the top sources of revenue.

Commissioner Quadrozzi asked if staff has looked to see how the Metroparks expenses is compared to similar organizations. Ms. McMillan said the summer bonus for part-time employees was one of the expenses for the month. She also said utilities and fuel costs were higher as well. The lower revenue at Kensington was due in part to the do not use advisory, which affected several areas of the park, including the boat rental and beaches.

Motion carried unanimously.

### C. Departmental Updates

#### 1. Report – Natural Resources Update

Motion by Commissioner Rea, support from Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners receive and file the monthly update submitted by Chief of Natural Resources and Regulatory Controls Tyler Mitchell and staff.

Discussion: Chief of Natural Resources and Regulatory Controls Tyler Mitchell updated the Board on the Lake Erie dredging and the Lake St. Clair shoreline restoration projects. He also spoke about the Natural Resources Cres work at Lake St. Clair (removed approximately 200 trees) and the clean-up at Hudson Mills after the recent storms.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### 2. Report – Planning and Development Update

Motion by Commissioner Marans, support from Commissioner Taylor that the Board of Commissioners receive and file the monthly Planning update submitted by Chief of Planning and Development Sarah Plumer and staff.

Discussion: Interim Chief of Planning and Development Jay Bibby updated the Board on master plan projects and the community recreation plan.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### 3. Report – Interpretive Services Update

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

Discussion: Chief of Interpretive Services Jennifer Jaworski updated the Board on the MOU with Detroit schools saying it was completed and staff would be in classrooms later in the fall. She also recapped the Get Out and Play program held over the summer.

Commissioner Marans asked if there were raised gardens at other locations. Ms. Jaworski said no, only at Wolcott because the garden at Kensington became contaminated due to PFAS and had to be closed.

Commissioner Parker asked how the dog park was doing. Ms. McMillan said it has become a very popular spot and patrons appreciate space for the dogs to run.

Motion carried unanimously.

## 7. Reports

### C. Departmental Updates

#### 4. Report – DEI Update

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

Discussion: Chief of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Artina Carter reminded staff about the last event in the Speaker Series, which is scheduled for Dec. 8.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### 5. Report – Marketing Update

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

Discussion: Chief of Marketing and Communications Danielle Mauter showed a video of the swim program that included Lt. Gov. Garlin Gilchrist II along with swim instructors and family members of participants.

Motion carried unanimously.

### D. Planning and Development

#### 1. Report – Visitation/Permit Scanning Update

Motion by Commissioner Rea, support from Commissioner Taylor that the Board of Commissioners receive and file Visitation/Permit Scanning update as submitted by Chief of Planning and Development Sarah Plumer and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### 2. Report – Southeast Michigan Swim Program Development Plan Update

Motion by Commissioner Marans, support from Commissioner Rea that the Board of Commissioners receive and file Southeast Michigan Swim Program Development Plan update as submitted by Chief of Planning and Development Sarah Plumer and staff.

Discussion: Interim Chief of Planning and Development Jason Bibby updated the Board on the Swim Program Development Plan and said data from the swim report was used to expand the program.

Commissioner Rea said it was a great report and it is useful to move conversations forward.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### 3. Report – Avian Monitoring Update, Lake St. Clair

Motion by Commissioner Taylor, support from Commissioner Rea that the Board of Commissioners receive and file Avian Monitoring update as submitted by Chief of Planning and Development Sarah Plumer and staff.

Discussion: Mr. Bibby updated the Board on the project and said that avian monitoring is part of the grant requirements to help EGLE and the Metroparks understand if these bird deterrents are having any impact. The monitoring consists of counting geese and gulls in six different zones along the beach at least four times per week.

Motion carried unanimously.

## 7. Reports

### D. Planning and Development

#### 4. Approval – Cherry Island Trail Project Agreement (MNRTF Grant), Lake Erie

Motion by Commissioner Marans, support from Commissioner Pontoni that the Board of Commissioners approve the Cherry Island Trail Project Agreement (MNRTF Grant) as submitted by Chief of Planning and Development Sarah Plumer and staff.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### 5. Approval – MOU, Wyandot of Anderdon Nation

Motion by Commissioner Rea, support from Commissioner Taylor that the Board of Commissioners approve the MOU with the Wyandot of Anderdon Nation as submitted by Chief of Planning and Development Sarah Plumer and staff.

- *Discussion:* Mr. Bibby updated the Board on the project and said the proposed EPA grant project will be a collaborative effort between Wyandot and the Metroparks to assist with the restoration and/or enhancement of Six Points property and in the implementation of grant activities. This will include Wyandot working with the Metroparks natural resources staff, cross promotion of the partnership with public outreach and marketing strategies associated with the grant project. Wyandot will also provide at least one representative to participate on and attend monthly stakeholder meetings. All final decisions affecting the infrastructure, aesthetics, and programming on the Six Points property will be made under the direction of the Wyandot Tribal Council.

Motion carried unanimously.

### E. Engineering Department

#### 1. Bids – Big Bend Parking Lot Removal and Restoration, Willow

Motion by Commissioner Rea, support from Commissioner Taylor that the Board of Commissioners award Contract No. 510-21-319B to the low responsive, responsible bidder, Best Asphalt Inc., in the amount of \$138,218.50 as recommended by Chief of Engineering Services Mike Henkel and staff.

*Discussion:* Chief of Engineering Services Mike Henkel updated the Board and said this project is being constructed as a component of the U.S. National Fish and Wildlife grant to restore the shoreline erosion along the Huron River in Willow Metropark. He said the removal of the parking lot will fulfill one of the grant requirements to reduce impermeable surfaces. In addition, the project is moving forward with the internal objective to reduce unneeded paved areas. The area of the existing lot will be restored to native prairie habitat, which will enhance the biodiversity in this area.

Motion carried unanimously.

#### 2. Bids – Big Bend Erosion and Habitat Restoration, Willow

Motion by Commissioner Rea, support from Commissioner Marans that the Board of Commissioners award Contract No. 510-21-319 to the low responsive, responsible bidder, Erie Construction, Inc. in the amount of \$334,750.00 as recommended by Chief of Engineering Services Mike Henkel and staff.

*Discussion:* Chief of Engineering Services Mike Henkel updated the Board and said this is the second of two projects to complete this work and that due to past high-water flow events, extensive erosion has occurred to the river embankment at the Big Bend picnic area in Willow Metropark. The existing shared use trail and sewer line is adjacent to the river in this area and further erosion has the potential to cause more damage to those structures.

Motion carried unanimously.

**8. Leadership Update**

Director McMillan introduced Sarah Plumer to the Board as the new chief of planning and development. Ms. Plumer introduced herself and said she looked forward to working with the Board.

Ms. McMillan said staff has begun working diligently on the 2023 budget.

**9. Other Business**

None.

**10. Public Participation**

Toni Spears, Dexter, thanked the maintenance and tree crew staff for the cleaning up storm damage at Hudson Mills.

**11. Commissioner Comments**

Commissioner Bolin asked where the mask mandates stood. Ms. McMillan explained the process and protocols given by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) in which the Metroparks follows.

Commissioner Parker said he hopes the Metroparks can start a program to train lifeguards in the winter months so that we (the Metroparks) were not scrambling to hire lifeguards for the summer. Ms. McMillan said she would be meeting with partners to expand programs for lifeguards and other swim programs.

**12. Motion to Adjourn**

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

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Shawn M. Athayde  
Recording Secretary