

Starke County Park Board-Sept. Meeting minutes

Regular Meeting Minutes

Date: September 9, 2025

Location: Annex 1

1. Call to Order

The regular meeting of the Starke County Park Board was called to order at 6:00 pm by Richard Ballard.

2. Roll Call

Present: R. Ballard, T. Busch, S. Byer, D. Sinn, T. Trout

Absent: none

Others Present: Bob Alloi, Kathy Norem

3. Approval of Minutes – August 12, 2023 Regular Meeting

- Motion made to approve the minutes as presented by S. Byer.
 - Motion seconded by T. Busch.
 - Vote: All in favor. Motion carried.
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4. Agenda Items

A. Bass Lake Beach & Campground Renovation Update

- Troyer prepared a punch list. Prior to their visit, a preliminary list was created with the assistance of Al Watts.
- A more detailed punch list was created by Christa, which has been submitted to the contractors.
- Brown & Brown, along with a civil engineer and Hill Excavating, are reviewing next steps.
- Awaiting a response regarding the concrete slab and related items.
- Board members confirmed that Christa's punch list aligned with the previously prepared list, with additional items noted.

B. Highway 23 Kayak Launch Parking Lot

- Discussion held regarding the project bidding process.
- Clarification provided by Kathy Norem regarding Indiana Code requirements for projects under \$150,000 (no advertisement required; three contractor contacts sufficient).
- Contractors contacted: Jeremiah Patrick from Hill Excavating, Jamie Dowd, and Stanger Group. Only one was bid received, from Hill Excavating.
- Discussion about donated millings from the Highway Department and responsibility for hauling was held.
- Concerns were raised regarding limited bids and was discussed to extend the bids for a couple of weeks but potential timeline conflicts with asphalt plant closures and weather were discussed.
- A motion was made to open the single bid received by T. Busch. Motion seconded by S. Byer.
- Bid opened in the amount of **\$26,734.20**.
- Motion made to accept the bid by S. Byer. Motion seconded by D. Sinn.
- Vote: All in favor. Motion carried.
- Superintendent to notify contractor of award.

C. Superintendent's Report

1. Kramer's Beach

- Legal update: The Haug's have filed an appeal of the prior ruling by Starke Co. Court.
- There was a new incident reported involving alleged assault of a family; forwarded to legal counsel.

2. Bass Lake Campground

- Winter storage process beginning: 17 RVs and 17 shore stations stored last year.
- Storage fees remain \$350 (RVs) and \$200 (shore stations).
- Discussion on placement of shore stations to avoid obstructing homeowners' views.
- Consensus reached to continue storing on the south end, with clear markings to avoid disputes.

3. Programming & Community Events

- Yoga on the Beach and sound bath/energy healing sessions held.
- DNR-sponsored "Wonders of the Wetlands" educator workshop scheduled for September 27 at the Beach House.

4. Campground Operations

- Positive online reviews received for campground operations; specific recognition given to staff (Bev Watts).

5. Electrical System Update

- United Consulting proposed \$17,800 for preparing a Request for Proposals (RFP) package for electrical improvements.
- Plan to request funding from Commissioners and County Council at the September 15 meeting.

6. Financial Report – August 2023

- Year-to-date revenue: \$373,000+.
- Expenditures below revenue; overall cash balance stable.

- Utility costs remain elevated; superintendent to adjust budget line items as needed.

D. Other Business

- Discussion on pier installation/takeout contract cycle; proposal to align contract cycle with seasonal schedule. Board agreed to request a spring installation quote from current contractor for review at next meeting.
- Handicap parking lot flooding issue noted; included on punch list awaiting contractor response.
- Board members raised concerns about a missing concrete structure originally delivered to the site; follow-up needed.
- Superintendent confirmed renovation project documents available for public review at the Beach House.

5. Public Comment

- Members of the public commended the improvements at Bass Lake Beach and Campground.
- Recognition given to Superintendent Amie Flora for outstanding work.

6. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Amie Flora
Superintendent, Starke County Park Board

Richard Ballard-president

Tom Busch-vice president

Sam Byer-member

David Sinn-member

Teresa Trout-member

