

The regular meeting of the Board of County Road Commissioners of Newaygo County was called to order by Vice-Chairman Harmon at 8:00 a.m. on Monday, May 11, 2026, at the road commission offices.

Commissioner present: Douglas Harmon  
Staff present: Derek Wawsczyk, Manager and Kerry Hewitt, Clerk  
Others present: Gary Timmer

Vice Chairman Harmon reported with Commissioner Fetterley unable to attend the meeting we will not be able to approve the meeting minutes of April 29, 2026, or bills and payroll for May 8, 2026.

**Public Comment:** none

Kerry presented the board with an updated cash flow, an updated spreadsheet for township projects, and fuel savings through April.

Kerry informed the board that we received a check from CRASIF for dividend distributions in the amount of \$26,829.77, and notification that \$5,510 will be credited from our 2026-2027 invoices.

Kerry informed the board that she has uploaded all our flood damage reports, pictures, and material slips to a shared folder that Emergency Services provided. To date, we have over \$251,000 in expenses. Kerry noted that this does not include the culvert that was special ordered for Lee Ave., and the paving over the replaced crossroad culverts that is happening today.

Kerry informed the board that she was contacted by the State Trunkline Auditors informing her that they will begin the audit on the 24FY.

Derek informed the board that he will be meeting with the union on the 12<sup>th</sup> to start the first round of contract negotiations.

Derek informed the board that he and Wayne will meet with MDOT and West Michigan Trails on the 19<sup>th</sup> regarding our involvement in sponsoring wayfinding signs for bicyclists. Derek mentioned that 1% of our MTF revenue needs to be utilized on non-motorized projects.

Commissioner Harmon reported that segment 7 of the Dragon Trail was damaged by the flood. It is estimated to be near a million dollars in needed repairs. Commissioner Harmon mentioned the Parks Director might be contacting Derek regarding property the road commission owns and if it can be utilized for Dragon Trail parking.

Derek reported that we have a draft policy for an adopt a road program here in the county. Discussion took place regarding the program. Derek will provide the proposed policy package to all the commissioners at a later meeting.

Derek informed the board that he has created a bid spec for a new heavy haul lowboy trailer. It is time to replace the existing trailer before it becomes a safety issue. The board had no objections.

Derek reported that we will be attending the Paul Bunyan meeting on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Commissioner Harmon indicated he will be attending and hopes the new commissioner will be able to attend as well.

Derek informed the board that he and Kerry will be meeting with Jeniffer Martin from the Hilb group to discuss the upcoming insurance renewal rates and options.

Derek reported that we have received an invoice regarding the Wetland Mitigation Bank that we have sponsored for engineering services. We will pay the invoice, and the Michigan Wetland Mitigation Bank will reimburse us.

Derek informed the board that he has authorized the Muskegon Conservation District to address Japanese Knotweed at one location in Sheridan township. The cost was only \$300. Derek mentioned that he has asked the district to look at other areas as well. The board had no objections.

Derek informed the board that he had a discussion with the undersheriff about possible locations on road commission property for a gun range. Once a suitable location is agreed upon, Derek will contact MCRSIP for guidance.

Derek reported that Mike Phillips will be here on June 2<sup>nd</sup> for backing up and blind spot training along with traffic regulator training for our summer help.

Derek provided a construction update.

**Public Comment:**

Gary Timmer inquired about the increased gas prices and how that effects our budget.

Gary Timmer asked if we will be reimbursed by FEMA for the flood expenses.

Gary Timmer asked if we are liable for the car that ended up in the hole on Parson Ave.

Gary Timmer suggested giving Mr. Beagle notification of the outdated information in the union contract from our labor attorney.

Gary Timmer asked if mowing will happen sooner this year because the grass is growing quicker than normal years.

Gary Timmer inquired about the golf outing date for this year.

**Commissioner discussion items:**

Commissioner Harmon mentioned that the Hazardous Waste Collection is this Saturday. Derek reported that we will clean out the garage this week for the event and put the message board out front.

Commissioner Harmon informed the board that he had a parks meeting and then had a good conversation with Mr. Twing afterwards.

Commissioner Harmon reported an issue at Sandy Beach where a resident wanted to have a shed brought in. It is Consumers Energy's property, and they have a no shed policy. Commissioner Harmon mentioned the State has a no-shed policy as well.

Commissioner Harmon reported that the Dragon Trail has a lot of damage from the flood event. There was also discussion at their last meeting about selling merchandise. Commissioner Harmon mentioned events at the Dragon Trail, currently this is allowed on a portion of the trail for ½ of the day, leaving the other segments open to the public.

Gary Timmer mentioned being involved more with Garfield Township and attending the County Board meetings regularly. Gary Timmer suggested getting the union involved with the insurance decisions. Derek mentioned that we plan to form a health insurance committee with the union.

With no objections, Vice Chairman Harmon adjourned the meeting at 8:47 a.m.

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Douglas Harmon, Vice-Chairman

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Kerry Hewitt, Clerk