

**MUSKINGUM VALLEY PARK DISTRICT
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
August 11, 2026**

The regular meeting of the Board of Muskingum Valley Park District Commissioners was held at park district headquarters at Mission Oaks Gardens. The meeting was called to order at 11:58am., by Board President Ty Kendrick.

Mr. Kendrick called roll and Commissioners Ty Kendrick, Ed Shaffer and Cole Ryan were present. Also present was Executive Director Russ Edgington and Administrative Assistant Willow Fracker.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

No guests were in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

APPROVAL OR AMENDMENT OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Mr. Kendrick called for discussion on, or revisions to the minutes from the July 14, 2026 regular meeting. Approval of the July minutes was suspended until the September meeting due to the absence of Mrs. Graham and Mr. Appleby.

PRESENTATION OF FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND EXPENDITURES:

Mr. Edgington presented board members with a copy of the July 2026 financial statement. After a brief discussion, President Kendrick asked for a motion to approve the statement. On a motion by Mr. Shaffer and second by Mr. Ryan. The motion carried by acclamation.

On a motion by Mr. Shaffer and second by Mr. Ryan the board voted to approve the 2027 Local Government Fund Certification. The motion carried by acclamation.

On a motion by Mr. Shaffer and second by Mr. Ryan, the board voted to approve a supplemental appropriation to 801-475-511162 Equipment and Repairs from unappropriated funds in the amount of \$2,000.00. The motion carried by acclamation.

On a motion by Mr. Ryan and second by Mr. Shaffer, the board voted to approve a supplemental appropriation to 801-471-511100 Contract Services from unappropriated funds in the amount of \$15,250.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT:

Glass Rock Trail – Mr. Edgington reported that he had spoken with the Ohio Rail Development Commission regarding the corridor's status. It was noted that transfer of the corridor to the park district was still on hold pending resolution of ongoing litigation. It was further noted that the Rail Commission will not approve any requests from outside agencies that will affect the integrity of the corridor.

Straker Landing – Mr. Edgington reported that demolition of all structures and removal of debris has been completed. It was noted that the Muskingum County Flood Plain Department has tentatively approved the construction of an entrance road and parking lot to service the existing boat ramp.

Mr. Edgington shared that the Muskingum County Prosecutor's Office is reviewing the crossing and gas line leases from the Genesee and Wyoming Railroad. It was further reported that the district's representative from the Public Entities Pool of Ohio is reviewing the railroad's liability insurance requirements.

On a motion by Mr. Ryan and second by Mr. Shaffer the board approved MVPD resolution 2026-05 authorizing Mr. Edgington to apply for grant funds from the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District's Connecting Communities grant program (see attached). The motion carried by acclamation.

Joe's Run Recreational Trail – Mr. Edgington reported that the Joe's Run Recreational Trail did not meet state and federal multimodal design guidelines recommending a minimum pavement width of 11 feet and maximum running slope of 8.33 percent. On a motion by Mr. Ryan and second by Mr. Shaffer, the board passed Muskingum Valley Park District Resolution 2026-004 (see attached) prohibiting the use of bicycles, e-bikes, skateboards, inline skates, scooters, and other wheeled recreational devices on the trail.

Canal Park Trail – Mr. Edgington reported that liability insurance requirements for historical boat tours on the canal are too costly. Conducting paid walking history tours on the trail is still being considered.

Westview Community Park – It was noted that the installation of surveillance cameras at the park has been tabled indefinitely.

CONSIDERATION OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS AND NEW BUSINESS

Appalachian Community Grant Program – Mr. Edgington provided a construction update on the Canal Park Trail project.

Programs and Events – Mr. Edgington provided an update on sponsorship and scheduling for Riverfest 2026.

Western Reserve Land Conservancy – On a motion by Mr. Ryan and second by Mr. Shaffer, the board voted to approve an agreement to purchase 110.09 acres+ of land known as the Big Run Wetland Preserve from DPTA LLC in the amount of \$960,000.00 (see attached). The motion carried by acclamation.

On a motion by Mr. Ryan and second by Mr. Shaffer, the board voted to approve Muskingum Valley Park District Resolution 2026-02 (see attached) authorizing Mr. Edgington to submit grant funding applications for the purchase and protection of the Big Run Wetland Preserve. The motion carried by acclamation.

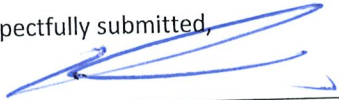
On a motion by Mr. Shaffer and second by Mr. Ryan, the board voted to approve Muskingum Valley Park District Resolution 2026-03 (see attached) authorizing Mr. Edgington to apply for Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Grant Funding for the purchase and protection of the Big Run Wetland Preserve. The motion carried by acclamation.

Program Coordinator Position - Mr. Edgington requested as sense of the board for seeking a partnership with the city of Zanesville to fund a full-time Program Coordinator position for the district. The board concurred.

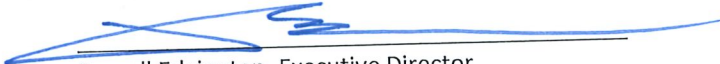
ADJOURNMENT

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Kendrick called for a motion to adjourn the meeting. On a motion by Mr. Shaffer and second by Mr. Ryan, the meeting was adjourned by acclamation at 12:50pm. The next meeting date is September 8, 2026, at noon.

Respectfully submitted,



Ty Kendrick, President



Russell Edgington, Executive Director

**Muskingum Valley Park District
Board of Park Commissioners
RESOLUTION 2026-02
August 11, 2026**

**AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF MUSKINGUM VALLEY PARK DISTRICT
TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR GRANT FUNDING FOR THE PURCHASE
AND PROTECTION OF THE BIG RUN WETLAND PRESERVE**

WHEREAS, Muskingum Valley Park District desires financial assistance for the purchase and protection of the approximately 110-acre Big Run Wetland Preserve property ("the Property") located in Muskingum Township in Muskingum County, Ohio and;

WHEREAS, Muskingum Valley Park District will own and manage the Property, operating it as a public park in line with other park operations; and

WHEREAS, the acquisition of the Property is needed for increased public park access, particularly increased passive recreation opportunities for residents of Muskingum County; and

WHEREAS, the preservation of the Big Run Wetland Preserve property will protect approximately 110 acres of mixed landscape including a large Category 3 wetland and agricultural fields which will be restored to open meadow and pollinator habitat.

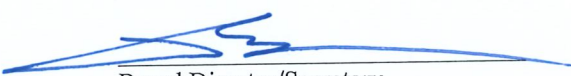
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That Executive Director Russell Edgington is hereby authorized and directed to execute and file applications for grant funds, seeking support for the purchase of this approximately 110-acre Property, and;
2. That Executive Director Russell Edgington is authorized to enter into any agreements as may be necessary and appropriate for obtaining this financial assistance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution become part of the correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened Board meeting held on this 11th day of August 2026.

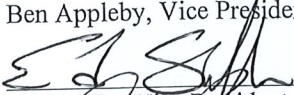
Certificate of Recording Officer

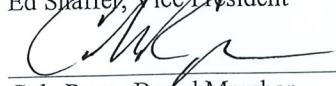
I, the Undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of resolution adopted by the Board of Park Commissioners on this 11th day of August 2026 and that I am duly authorized to execute this certificate.


Board Director/Secretary


Ty Kendrick, President

Ben Appleby, Vice President


Ed Shaffer, Vice President


Cole Ryan, Board Member

Marianne Graham, Board Member

**Muskingum Valley Park District
Board of Park Commissioners
RESOLUTION 2026-03
August 11, 2026**

**RE: AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF MUSKINGUM VALLEY PARK DISTRICT
TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR CLEAN OHIO GREEN SPACE CONSERVATION GRANT FUNDING FOR THE
PURCHASE AND PROTECTION OF THE BIG RUN WETLAND PRESERVE**

WHEREAS, the State of Ohio, through the Ohio Public Works Commission, administers financial assistance for conservation purposes through the Clean Ohio Green Space Conservation Grant Program ("Clean Ohio"); and

WHEREAS, Muskingum Valley Park District desires financial assistance for the purchase and protection of the approximately 110-acre Big Run Wetland Preserve property ("the Property") located in Muskingum Township in Muskingum County, Ohio and;

WHEREAS, Muskingum Valley Park District will own and manage the Property, operating it as a public park in line with other park operations; and

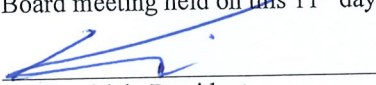
WHEREAS, the acquisition of the Property is needed for increased public park access, particularly increased passive recreation opportunities for residents of Muskingum County; and

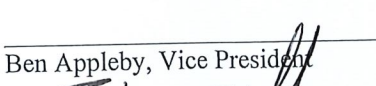
WHEREAS, the preservation of the Big Run Wetland Preserve property will protect approximately 110 acres of mixed landscape including a large Category 3 wetland and agricultural fields which will be restored to open meadow and pollinator habitat.

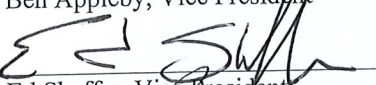
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

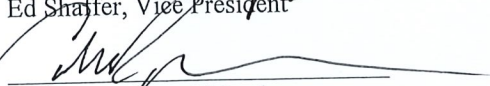
1. That Executive Director Russell Edgington is hereby authorized and directed to execute and file an application with the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) for Clean Ohio Conservation Program funds seeking grant support for the purchase of this approximately 110-acre Property, and;
2. That Executive Director Russell Edgington is authorized to enter into any agreements as may be necessary and appropriate for obtaining this financial assistance.

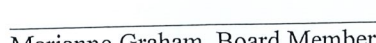
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution become part of the correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened Board meeting held on this 11th day of August 2026.


Ty Kendrick, President


Ben Appleby, Vice President

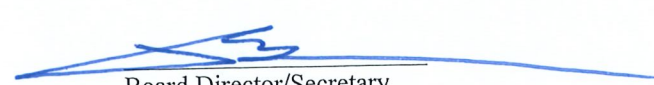

Ed Shaffer, Vice President


Cole Ryan, Board Member


Marianne Graham, Board Member

Certificate of Recording Officer

I, the Undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of resolution adopted by the Board of Park Commissioners on this 11th day of August 2026 and that I am duly authorized to execute this certificate.


Board Director/Secretary

RE: Prohibiting bicycles, e-bikes, skateboards, inline skates, scooters, and other wheeled recreational devices on the Joe's Run Recreational Trail.

WHEREAS, The Ohio Department of Transportation’s (ODOT) Multimodal Design Guide (MDG) recommends a minimum pavement width of 11 feet for multi-use recreational trails; and

WHEREAS, the Joe's Run Recreational Trail has an average width of 8.5 feet and running slopes exceeding 17 percent:

That the Board of Muskingum Valley Park District Commissioners hereby prohibit the use of bicycles, e-bikes, skateboards, inline skates, scooters, and other wheeled recreational devices on the Joe's Run Recreational Trail.

Second By: Mr. Shaffer

3 Yeas: Cole Ryan, Ed Shaffer, Ty Kendrick

Nays: _____

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Muskingum Valley Park District Commissioners held on the 11th day in the month of August 2026, and that I am duly authorized to execute this certificate.

August 11, 2026

Date _____

**Muskingum Valley Park District
Board of Park Commissioners
RESOLUTION 2026-05
August 11, 2026**

**RE: AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE MUSKINGUM VALLEY PARK DISTRICT
TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR THE MUSKINGUM WATERSHED CONSERVANCY DISTRICT'S
CONNECTING COMMUNITIES GRANT PROGRAM.**

WHEREAS, the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District offers grant funds to expand public access to outdoor recreation areas across its region through their Connecting Communities Grant Program; and

WHEREAS, Muskingum Valley Park District desires financial assistance for the development of Straker Landing located in Falls Township in Muskingum County, Ohio.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. That Executive Director Russell Edgington is hereby authorized and directed to execute and file an application with the Muskingum Watershed Conservancy District for Connecting Communities Grant funds for the development of recreation amenities at Straker Landing, and;
2. That Executive Director Russell Edgington is authorized to enter into any agreements as may be necessary and appropriate for obtaining this financial assistance.

Motion By: Mr. Ryan, to adopt the Resolution.

Second By: Mr. Shaffer,

Upon roll call the vote was as follows:

3 Mr. Kendrick, Mr. Ryan, Mr. Shaffer
 Yeas: _____

Nays: _____

CERTIFICATE OF RECORDING OFFICER

I, the undersigned, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Board of Muskingum Valley Park District Commissioners held on the 11th day in the month of August 2026, and that I am duly authorized to execute this certificate.


Russell Edgington, Executive Director/Secretary

August 11, 2026

Date