

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF BERRIEN COUNTY:

Your County Personnel and Human Services Committee respectfully recommends the adoption of the following:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Berrien County owns and operates Paw Paw River County Park, located on the Paw Paw River water-trail, a very popular recreation area; and

WHEREAS, following the grant application process in 2019, the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund board recommended a grant to purchase 63 additional acres adjacent to Paw Paw River County Park and the Berrien County Parks Department will likely acquire this property in 2020; and

WHEREAS, the development of this 63 acres is a priority in the 2020-2024 Berrien County Parks and Recreation "Five Year Plan," and would provide accessible public access to the land along the Paw Paw River water-trail with a planned pedestrian bridge, development of barrier free hard surface trails, overlook decks with seating, and other possible recreational opportunities such as, cross-country skiing, outdoor photography, turkey and deer hunting and fishing opportunities within Paw Paw River County Park; and

WHEREAS, the estimated development project costs is \$400,000; and

WHEREAS, a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund development grant will cover up to 75% of the proposed development cost; and

WHEREAS, the grant requires a minimum of 25% grant match that will come from the 2021 or 2022 Berrien County Parks Commission budget or the Parks Endowment fund.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Berrien County Board of Commissioners does hereby authorize the Parks Department, to apply for a \$300,000 Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund development grant with a match provided of \$100,000 to develop the additional 63 acres of Paw Paw River County Park.

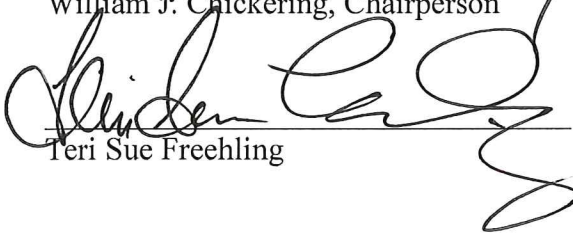
**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
BERRIEN COUNTY PERSONNEL AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**



William J. Chickering, Chairperson



David Vollrath, Vice-Chairman



Teri Sue Freehling

RESOLUTION APPROVED AS TO FORM	
Administrator <u>W</u>	Date <u>3/4/20</u>
Comments Attached _____	
Corporate Counsel <u>J</u>	Date <u>3-4-20</u>
Comments Attached _____	