

Jennings County Parks and Recreation Board

Meeting Minutes

Date: April 28, 2026

Time: 5:30 PM

Location: Conference Room – Jennings County Government Center

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM by Kristin Wiley.

Note: The meeting was not recorded due to an issue accessing the recording equipment.

Roll Call

Present Board Members:

- Emily Thompson (ET)
- Elizabeth Eaken (EE)
- Kristin Wiley (KW)
- Bill Ertel (BE)

Present Staff:

- Seth Jones (SJ)

Absent:

- None
-

Approval of Previous Minutes

A motion was made by BE to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2026, meeting. ET seconded the motion.

KW, ET, BE, and EE signed the approval form.

Old Business

Master Plan Update:

The first Steering Committee meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 4, 2026, at Muscatatuck County Park (MCP) Dining Hall at 5:30 PM.

New Business

Culvert Repair at Eco Lake Park:

SJ requested approval from the Board to use \$6,250 from non-reverting funds to repair the culvert on the campground road at Eco Lake Park. The road has washed out twice due to heavy rain. Work will be completed by Day and Sons, with scheduling dependent on contractor availability and campground operations.

A motion to approve was made by EE and seconded by ET.

Vote: BE, EE, KW, and ET – yes. Motion carried.

BE, EE, KW, and ET signed the approval request forms.

Director's Report

Personnel:

- Muscatatuck Camp Host – Some interest has been generated from advertisements; however, SJ has not yet identified a suitable candidate.
- Fifth Board Member position remains vacant. SJ submitted a recommendation to the County Council following the March meeting; no feedback has been received.

Administrative:

- SJ will be unavailable for the regularly scheduled June meeting (June 23, 2026). The meeting is tentatively rescheduled to June 16, 2026. All Board members confirmed availability; SJ will confirm room availability.
- Master Plan and Steering Committee updates (see Old Business).
- Dining hall will be used for a benefit ride event on May 30 where alcohol will be served. SJ confirmed MCP requirements with the Indiana Alcohol & Tobacco Commission.
- The County has implemented a new time clock system ("Attendance on Demand"). Park staff are currently being migrated to the new system.

Grounds – Muscatatuck Park

- Public restroom renovation began April 6, 2026, and is expected to be completed within the next few weeks. JCPR will cover the cost of a water leak outside the building. \$820 has already been paid for new locks; both expenses are funded from the Building and Grounds Fund.
- Campground bathhouse is experiencing hot water issues; parts are on order.

Walnut Grove School:

- Roof replacement completed; gutter replacement pending scheduling.

Vinegar Mill:

- Graffiti removal was successful on the building; removal from rock faces is still needed.
- Concrete has been poured for a new bench at the riverfront.

Splash Pad:

- Open Memorial Day through Labor Day.
- Service appointments scheduled for April 16 and May 13 (if needed).
- UV water cleaning component may have a minor leak.
- To-do items include repairing blue surface material and installing "hours of operation" signage.

Liability and Signage Updates:

- New liability statement approved following County legal review.
- Plan to replace three signs (2 at Muscatatuck, 1 at Eco Lake).
- May request use of non-reverting funds pending final pricing.

Grounds – Eco Lake**• Portable restrooms:**

- \$1,200 paid from non-reverting funds on April 17, 2026.
- Units installed April 28, 2026; contract covers service through October 5, 2026.

• Campground bathhouses:

- Hot water issues; plumber has ordered parts for repair.

• Culverts/Lake Inlets:

- See New Business.

Equipment

- No issues reported.

Financial Report

- Bank Balance: \$11,560.29 (as of April 27, 2026)
- Non-Reverting Fund: \$217,731.28 (as of April 28, 2026)
- 2026 Outlook: projected income \$100,000; projected year-end balance \$293,406.28
- Year-over-year income and monthly transactions reviewed.

Events

- Sassafras Festival – April 25–26 (approximately 200–300 attendees on Saturday; smaller crowd on Sunday)
- Day of Caring / United Way – June 4 (FC Tucker volunteering; projects under discussion)
- Library WoW Bus – June 11, June 24, July 9, July 22 (12:30 PM)
- DINO – July 10–12 (trail running/mountain biking)
- INDOT Company Picnic – September 23 (new event; ~300–400 attendees expected)
- Hoosier Beemers – September 24–27
- JCMS Cross Country – August 20; September 10, 14, 28
- JCHS Cross Country – TBD
- NICA – October 2–4

Comments from Guests

No comments were recorded.

Next Meeting

May 26, 2026

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by EE and seconded by BE.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 PM.
