

Minutes of a regular meeting of the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners, held at the Chippewa County Courthouse, 319 Court St., Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan on the 13th day of June 2023 at 4:30 p.m.

PRESENT: Jim Martin, Robert Savoie, Scott Shackleton, Damon Lieurance and Jim Traynor

ABSENT: None

The following preamble and resolution was offered by Commissioner Shackleton and seconded by Commissioner Savoie.

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-08

REOPEN THE NATIONAL FOREST SERVICE

CHIPPEWA COUNTY CAMPGROUNDS

WHEREAS, the USDA Forest Service cancelled reservations on May 17, 2023 for campgrounds in the Hiawatha National Forest, including Monocle Lake, Soldier Lake and Bay View campgrounds, located in Chippewa County; and

WHEREAS, the closure includes Mackinac County's Brevoort Lake, Carp River and Lake Michigan campgrounds; this is 233 campsites, 108 in Chippewa County and 125 in Mackinac County;

WHEREAS, tourism is one of Chippewa County's and the Eastern Upper Peninsula's largest industries bringing in traveler's dollars spent each year that are necessary for our small business owners to survive; and

WHEREAS, this shutdown not only disrupts vacations and events families have had planned; but it will hurt the small businesses owners who rely on income from these visitors; it will harm the gas stations, restaurants, markets, as well as, the local community events; and

WHEREAS, many local hotel rooms are under long term contracts for the Soo Locks project, which already limits the number of visitors and is affecting businesses and the tourism opportunities locally; and

WHEREAS, tourism is an immensely important industry in Chippewa County and all of northern Michigan; and the loss of 233 campsites nightly will undoubtedly have negative affects on Chippewa County and the Eastern Upper Peninsula's tourism industry; and

WHEREAS, the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners recognizes that the Hiawatha National Forest has stated that this a priority and has said they are “committed to resolving this situation as soon as possible” but every day campgrounds are closed are negatively affecting the families wanting to camp and the local business community; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners **STRONGLY** urges the USDA National Forest Service to resolve the issue quickly; so that the negative impact to Chippewa County’s tourism industry is reduced; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Chippewa County Resolution 2023-08 be forwarded to U. S. Senators Honorable Gary Peters and Honorable Debbie Stabenow and U. S. Representative Honorable Jack Bergman, calling their attention to the need to re-open the Hiawatha National Forest campgrounds in Chippewa County and the Eastern Upper Peninsula.

A VOTE WAS TAKEN AS FOLLOWS

AYES: Jim Martin, Robert Savoie, Scott Shackleton, Damon Lieurance and Jim Traynor

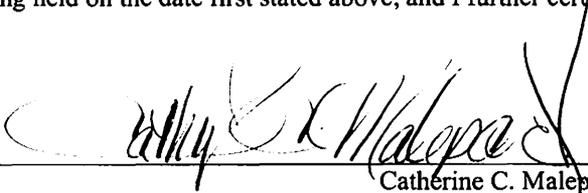
NAYS: None

ABSTAINED: None

RESOLUTION DECLARED ADOPTED.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) ss.
COUNTY OF CHIPPEWA)

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of the resolution adopted by the County Board of Commissioners of Chippewa County at a regular meeting held on the date first stated above, and I further certify that public notice of such meeting was given as provided by law.



Catherine C. Maleport, County Clerk