

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 Madeline Bertrand County Park, a park that is regionally recognized as the location that uniquely borders Indiana with shared trails, is located on the St. Joseph River, and is a very popular recreation area for both Michigan and Indiana residents; and

WHEREAS, an adjacent property owner, with approximately thirty-three (33) acres along the St. Joseph River has a desire for their property to become part of Madeline Bertrand County Park and are willing to remove the property from the market and work with Berrien County Parks on a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund acquisition grant; and

WHEREAS, this acquisition, which is a priority in the 2020-2024 Berrien County Parks and Recreation “Five Year Plan,” would protect the property from future development, add public access and land along the St. Joseph River Water-trail and provide possible recreational opportunities such as hiking trails, biking areas, cross-country skiing, outdoor photography, turkey and deer hunting and fishing opportunities within Madeline Bertrand County Park; and

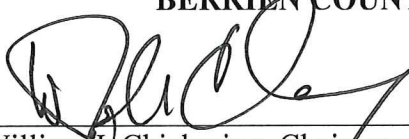
WHEREAS, the estimated fair market value purchase price for the property is \$400,000; and

WHEREAS, a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund grant will cover up to 75% of the DNR determined fair market value of the purchase of the property; and

WHEREAS, the grant requires a minimum of 25% grant match that will come from the 2021 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 acquisition grant with a match provided of \$100,000 to acquire an additional 33 acres, for Madeline Bertrand County Park.

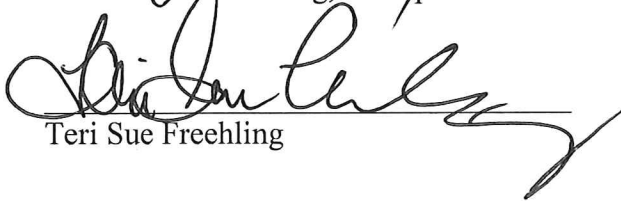
**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,
BERRIEN COUNTY PERSONNEL AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**



William J. Chickering, Chairperson



David Vollrath, Vice-Chairman



Teri Sue Freehling

RESOLUTION APPROVED AS TO FORM	
Administrator <u>hw</u>	Date <u>3/4/20</u>
Comments Attached _____	
Corporate Counsel <u>rw</u>	Date <u>3.4.20</u>
Comments Attached _____	