

**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,** Berrien County has acquired an additional 63 acres along the Paw Paw River, across the river from the Paw Paw River County Park; 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 River water-trail with a planned pedestrian bridge, development of approximately two (2) miles of barrier free hard surface trails, overlook deck(s) 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,** a Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund development grant will cover up to 75% of the proposed development cost; and

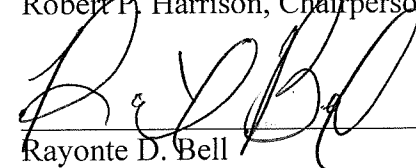
**WHEREAS,** the grant requires a minimum of 25% grant match that will come from either the 2023 or 2024 Berrien County Parks & Recreation budget and/or the Parks Endowment fund; and

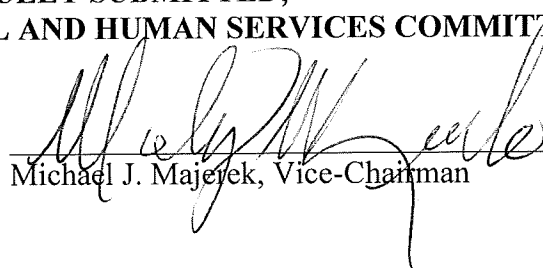
**WHEREAS,** both local municipalities, Watervliet Charter Township and the City of Watervliet have provided letters of support for the grant application.


**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 for an estimated overall project cost of \$400,000.

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

  
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Robert P. Harrison, Chairperson

  
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Rayonte D. Bell

  
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Michael J. Majerek, Vice-Chairman

RESOLUTION APPROVED AS TO FORM	
Administrative 	Date 3-8-22
Comments Attached	
Corporate Council TH	Date 3/9/22
Comments Attached	