

TO THE HONORABLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF BERRIEN COUNTY, MICHIGAN: Your County Personnel and Human Services Committee respectfully recommends the adoption of the following:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, it is the mission of Berrien County Government to provide: leadership, cooperation with all units of government, sound fiscal management, and planning; thereby promoting public safety, health, well-being and prosperity in order to improve the quality of life for present and future generations; and

WHEREAS, it is proven that more physical activity can greatly improve the overall health and well-being of our residents and visitors alike; and

WHEREAS, the Berrien County Parks and Recreation 5-Year Plan for 2020-2024, lists Berrien County Linear Trail, Water-Trails, Trails, and Greenways as one of the goals and objectives; and

WHEREAS, Berrien County recognizes the value and importance of interconnectivity of trails, greenways, linear parks and water-trails and states in the 5-Year Plan that the county will continue to be a leader in support of water-trails and linear trails; and

WHEREAS, the Indiana-Michigan River Valley Trail is currently a system of land trails that connect Niles, Michigan to South Bend/Mishawaka, Indiana; and

WHEREAS, the vision for that trail is to expand it through Berrien Springs and ultimately to Lake Michigan, providing opportunities for walking, biking, observing wildlife, non-motorized transportation and recreational use; and

WHEREAS, the mission of the Indiana-Michigan River Valley Trail Partnership is to unite locally and to use the collective and cooperative energies of all the partners to support projects that further the vision; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to have staff from the Berrien County Parks and the Road Departments involved in that mission, while representing Berrien County and its mission.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Berrien County Board of Commissioners authorizes staff from the Parks & Recreation Department and the Road Department to work with other agencies on the Indiana-Michigan River Valley Trail project and to execute the Memo of Understanding for that Partnership.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Memo of Understanding is neither a fiscal nor funds obligation document and as such, any endeavor involving funds between the parties will be made in accordance with the policies and procedures of the Berrien County Board of Commissioners.

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

Robert P. Harrison, Chairman

Michael J. Majerek, Vice-Chairman

Rayonte D. Bell

RESOLUTION APPROVED AS TO FORM	
Administrator 	Date <u>8-2-21</u>
Comments Attached _____	
Corporate Council 	Date <u>8-2-21</u>