

Michigan State Waterways Commission
Regular Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting of
Michigan State Waterways Commission
June 9, 2006

Little Bear East Arena and Event Center
St. Ignace, Michigan

A regular meeting of the Michigan State Waterways Commission was called to order by Chairman Todd Wyett at 10:00 a.m. on Friday, June 9, 2006, at Little Bear East Arena and Event Center, St. Ignace, Michigan. The following Commissioners were present:

Todd Wyett, Chairman
Bryan Amann
Denny Bailey
Bob Brown
Curtis Hertel, Sr.
Janet Mansfield
Carol B. Oakley

Resource Management Deputy Mindy Koch, Parks and Recreation Division Chief Ron Olson, and other Department of Natural Resources (Department) staff were present.

Chairman Todd Wyett thanked the City of St. Ignace for hosting the tour on Thursday and the Commission meeting today.

Public Appearances

Written correspondence

The Commission received the following written correspondence:

- A letter dated May 25, 2006, from Mayor Beach Hall of Rogers City, requesting a \$150,000 grant.
- A letter to Governor Granholm dated May 25, 2006, from Mr. Lawrence Peterson, P.E., regarding various Waterways Commission items.
- A portion of the project manual, dated November 2005, for phase two of the project at the Mackinaw City state harbor and other material, received from Mr. John Lechner.

These items were acknowledged and entered into the record for this meeting.

Appearances (Non-agenda Items)

Mr. Eric Dodson, City Manager for the City of St. Ignace welcomed the Commission and thanked them for their assistance with the project at the St. Ignace Municipal Marina.

Mayor Beech Hall of Rogers City invited the Commission to come to Rogers City for a future meeting and introduced the City's new harbor master, Mr. Brian Wagner. Rogers City is seeking assistance from the Commission for maintenance costs due to its deficit resulting from large bond payments. The Commission was unable to grant this request.

Mr. John Lechner, owner of Lechner Construction Company, spoke to the Commission regarding the project at the state dock in Mackinaw City. He was disqualified from bidding on the project. This issue is out of the jurisdiction of the Waterways Commission because it has been referred to the Department of Management and Budget.

Ms. Robin Lechner spoke to the Commission regarding the transport of dredge spoils.

Minutes:

April 21, 2006

MOTION: Commissioner Mansfield moved to approve the minutes of the April 21, 2006 Waterways Commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bailey and it carried unanimously.

Old Business:

Project Status Report

Mr. Bill Boik provided an update on current projects as follows:

Marinas/Harbors:

- An agreement was recently signed with the Chippewa Ottawa Resource Authority regarding the project at Whitefish Point in Chippewa County.
- Harrisville Harbor in Alcona County recently completed a harbormaster building construction project. The dedication of the new building is scheduled for Wednesday, June 21, 2006.
- George Kemp Municipal Marina in Chippewa County has completed a project to repair a heaved walkway. The water heaters will be replaced soon.
- The City of Muskegon's Hartshorn Marina in Muskegon County is nearing completion of a project for fixed pier removal/replacement and basin breakwater reconstruction.

Boating Access Sites (BAS)

- Ocqueoc River Mouth BAS in Presque Isle County is undergoing a project which includes spilt rail fence installation and construction of stairs.
- The project at Whirlpool BAS in Oscoda County will control bank erosion.

- South Higgins Lake State Park BAS in Roscommon County is completing a dredging project.
- The West Higgins Lake BAS (also in Roscommon County) is working on a project which includes entrance booth construction and dredging.
- The project at Clinton River Cutoff BAS in Macomb County is dealing with sediment accumulation.

Additional projects were discussed as follows:

- The recent discussion with the administrative law judge regarding the Crystal Lake BAS (in Benzie County) went well. This is also scheduled for a hearing in September.
- A public meeting regarding the proposed Walloon Lake BAS was held on Wednesday, June 7, 2006. The Department is proceeding with plans for the Forest, Mineral and Fire Management site.
- The Mackinac Island State Harbor (in Cheboygan County) has a \$600,000 shortage for the project.

Operations Status Report

Mr. Harold Herta provided a historical review of the Central Reservation System (CRS).

- Michigan's CRS was the first of its kind in the nation when it was established in 2001.
- A satellite network for all locations was added in 2002.
- Point of sale was added in 2004 to assist harbors in tracking pump-out and fuel sales.
- DSL was added in 2005.
- Revenue is increased for marinas that go online with CRS.
- FAQs were added to the site two years ago.
- Growth has occurred each year, including growth in internet use.

Presently:

- Reservations are down 6% with slip nights down 3% (compared to last year)
- This is possibly due to gas prices, but has improved from the numbers earlier this year.
- The reservation numbers have increased for several individual marinas.

Upcoming in 2006:

- A plan is in place to add interactive maps.
- DSL will be expanded.
- The reporting aspect of point of sale will be enhanced.
- Six new harbors have expressed interest.

- The new contract is in place for 3 years, with the option for two one-year extensions.

Standing Committees

The Operations/Policy Committee discussed proposed plans and policies.

The Walloon Lake Subcommittee discussed the plans for the BAS on Department (FMFM) land.

New Business:

Moorage Request for the Coast Guard Cutter Mackinaw

This request was removed from consideration as a site was found to moor the Mackinaw.

Grant-in-Aid (GIA) Audit Policy

A proposed GIA audit policy has been discussed previously. The Commission requested that feedback be sought from the GIA facilities. Mr. Herta indicated that letters are just now being sent to the GIA facilities and requested this item be tabled until the August 4, 2006 Commission meeting.

MOTION: Commissioner Hertel moved to table the GIA Audit Policy until the August 4, 2006 Waterways Commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bailey and it carried unanimously.

Other Business:

There was no other business.

MOTION: Commissioner Amann moved to adjourn this meeting of the Michigan State Waterways Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bailey and it carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.