

Meeting Minutes of the Meeting of
Michigan State Waterways Commission
August 13, 2010

Drummond Island Resort
Drummond Island

A regular meeting of the Michigan State Waterways Commission was called to order by Chairperson Janet Mansfield at 10:30 a.m. on August 13, 2010, at the Annex at the Drummond Island Resort and Conference Center, Drummond Island, Michigan. The following Commissioners were present:

Janet Mansfield, Chairperson
Bob Brown
Gary Marowske
Denny Bailey
Mike Bryanton

Commissioner Curtis Hertel, Sr. was excused.
Commissioner Carol Oakley was excused.

Public Appearances:

Written Correspondence

There was no written correspondence

Appearances (Non-agenda Items)

Mr. Bill Vajda, City Manager of City of Marquette, took this opportunity to introduce himself to the Commissioners and observe what kind of items are typically on the agenda. Mr. Carl Zueger, Assistant City Manager of Marquette, was also in attendance.

Appearances (Agenda Items)

There were no appearances for agenda items.

Minutes

June 18, 2010 - Regular meeting

MOTION: Commissioner Bailey moved to approve the minutes of the June 18, 2010 Waterways Commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown and approved unanimously.

Old Business

Project Status Report

Mr. Paul Petersen provided the following Marina/Harbor updates as follows:

Harbors:

- This is the second growing season for the rain garden at Straits State Harbor, in Cheboygan County. The District Planner will work with staff to mow plants after a few frosts to manage growth and increase vegetation quality.
- The Manistee Municipal Marina in Manistee County is a Grant-in-Aid community. Total project cost is \$825,654. This project consisted of a toilet shower building construction. The completion date is November 15, 2010.
- The Cheboygan County Marina in Cheboygan County is a Grant-in-Aid community. The state grant was for \$107,323.50. This project consisted of electrical repairs. The date of completion was June 30, 2010.
- The Petoskey Municipal Marina in Emmett County is a Grant-in-Aid with a completion date of December 31, 2010. The state grant is for \$848,092. This project consisted of a pier construction, utility upgrades and a toilet shower building.

Mr. Petersen also provided the following Boating Access Site updates:

Boating Access Sites (BAS):

- The Port Austin Boating Access Site in Huron County is a state facility. The cost of construction is \$1,320,000. This project consisted of a parking lot and sidewalk construction. The anticipated completion date is August, 2010.
- The Sleepy Hollow State Park Boating Access Site in Clinton County is a state facility. The cost of construction is \$513,000. This project consisted of a parking lot redevelopment using porous concrete on a portion of the lot, a new entrance road, new toilet facilities, and a sidewalk. The anticipated completion date is August, 2010.
- The Frankfort Boating Access Site in Benzie County is a Grant-in-Aid community. The grant is for \$113,250. This project consisted of parking lot sealing, pier repair and replacement, and dredging. The anticipated completion date is August, 2010.
- The Melrose Township Boating Access Site on Walloon Lake in Charlevoix County is a Grant-in-Aid community. The grant is for \$340,979. This project consisted of a parking lot development, skid pier construction, dredging, a restroom building, and signage. The project is complete.

- Ludington Loomis Street Boating Access Site in Mason County is a Grant-in-Aid community. The grant was \$170,691.50. This project consisted of breakwater construction including a sidewalk and railing. The project is complete.
- Otsego Lake County Park Boating Access Site in Otsego County is a Grant-in-Aid community. The grant is for \$143,567. This project consisted of a ramp construction, dredging, skid pier construction, parking lot paving, a new vault toilet, and sidewalk. The project is substantially complete with an anticipated completion date of August, 2010.
- Saugatuck Spear Street Boating Access Site in Allegan County is a Grant-in-Aid community. The grant was for \$35,423.50. This project consisted in a ramp replacement. The project is complete.

Staff Operations Status Report

Mr. Jason Fleming provided an update on operations as follows:

Reservations are down 17 ½ percent from last year. At the end of the year we are going to receive an audit report from InfoSpherix, (the company that provides our Central Reservation System), as our figures indicate that reservations are up because of the reopening of Charlevoix Marina, additional dollars being received from gas tax, and an increase in boating registrations. In October, the Department will provide a thorough report.

The Recreation Division is looking into an opportunity to sponsor the Harbormaster's Conference at the Ralph A. McMullen Center on Higgins Lake. Further discussions will take place on this topic.

At the October meeting, we will have some analysis of the meter readings from Mackinac Island and Straits State Harbors. This useful information will provide data on the boat slips, such as the cost of utilities related to the size of boat.

Standing Committee reports

There were no Standing Committee reports.

NEW BUSINESS
Information items:

Update on Recreation Passport

Mr. Ron Olson passed out various marketing materials that are being used to promote the Recreation Passport, which becomes effective on October 1, 2010. The Recreation Passport replaces the state park sticker. For \$10, and by checking "yes" when you renew your license plate, Michigan residents can gain entry to all state parks, boating access sites, and state forest campgrounds. If

the Recreation Division receives 60% participation from vehicles registered in the State of Michigan, it will bring in \$3.5 million a year. On August 15th, the Secretary of State will begin including important recreation passport information in their mailings to folks who are scheduled to renew their license plate in 2010/2011. The success of the Recreation Passport program will also allow grant funding opportunities for local park and recreation agencies to receive funds.

There is a "camp green" brochure available for people that are camping. It includes a check-off reminder to help conserve energy. This helpful brochure could become available to boaters as well.

Mr. William Boik stated that the States Organization for Boating Access (SOBA) award went to Straits State Park for marina development, and to Eight Point Lake boating access site for small access as outstanding projects.

Review of Check-in/Check-out Times for Mackinac Marina and Other Harbors

Mr. Fleming stated that the Recreation Division reviewed Mackinac Island State Dock for the month of July. The Department took a look at the number of open slips, and determined which of those open slips were reserved. Overall for the month, the slips were occupied 90% of the time. Of the remaining 10%, 133 of them were not reserved.

Commissioner Marowske stated that occasionally boaters arrive at 7:00 a.m. or 8:00 a.m. in the morning to request a boat slip, and that the immediate response from the Harbor Master is that they are full, and advises checking back again at 5:00 p.m. Most boaters may not be able to wait until 5:00 p.m. for an opening and we could possibly lose slip fees. Commissioner Marowske suggested that DNRE readdress the cancellation policy on how long to hold a boat well before we cancel the reservation.

Mr. Fleming said that the Recreation Division will look at some other options as we are showing some vacancies do occur.

Review Options for Diesel Fueled Boats at Harbor

The Recreation Division does receive diesel fuel tax of approximately \$.15 on the dollar from the sale of marine fuel. In 2008, we had a net revenue of \$257,372 from marine fuel, and in 2009, we had a net revenue of \$221,943. In 2009, the Recreation Division refunded \$65,000 from the Waterways funds for commercial boats who submitted a request for a refund. It was determined that Waterways receives some funding from the marine diesel tax. While the contribution seems small in comparison to the gas tax, requiring additional fees to boats that use diesel fuel may present other issues.

Estimated Number of Non-motorized Boats in Michigan

Studies have shown that about 44% of the fatalities that occur in the Great Lakes Region are based on non-motorized activities, such as kayaking, canoeing, and paddle boating. Waterways registrations support local and State law enforcement/public safety, and they currently do not receive money for most non-motorized water craft. This statistic presents a good reason to add a fee to all non-motorized water activities in the future. This would not only increase our registrations, but would help our match for federal dollars. The Department will provide further information about adding that fee, and increase overall fees by a small percentage to help keep up with inflation.

Resolution #08-01 – To honor Carol Oakley’s years of service on the Michigan State Waterways Commission from October 2003 through July 2010.

MOTION: Commissioner Bailey moved to approve the Resolution. Commissioner Bryanton seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

Commissioner Marowske inquired how the Department of Natural Resources and Environment, Recreation Division, determines who receives Waterways funds. Mr. Boik responded that the community would submit a grant application and that application would be reviewed by Recreation Division staff and prioritize the request based on project scope and funding availability. This grant request would also require a match amount.

Commissioner Bryanton updated the Commission on an issue of controversy surrounding the Elk Rapids Marina upgrade proposal. It had been presented previously in the press, and in the community, that because of the proposed upgrade in adding additional slips, they were going to need additional parking spots and would need to move the boat launch to the other side of the mouth of the harbor, and pave a natural area. Commissioner Bryanton spoke with Ms. Cheryl Werth, the Harbor Master at Elk Rapids, and determined that the proposed upgrade was for larger slips for transient boaters, and that no additional parking spaces would be needed.

On another note, the possibility of Elk Rapids hosting a Waterways Commission meeting in June of 2011 was also suggested. Commissioner Bryanton will be writing a letter to Mr. Olson requesting consideration of this matter.

Commissioner Bryanton asked if the Department of Natural Resources and Environment has any influence on the Pure Michigan ads, and whether those ads could feature the importance of boating as a recreational pursuit. Mr. Olson

Michigan State Waterways Commission
Minutes of August 13, 2010

stated that Travel Michigan has been able to help us communicate some of the events that we have going on in our parks, and he will contact Mr. George Zimmerman with this suggestion.

The Department will look into the suggestion of making short sleeve shirts available to the Commissioners for private sales.

Commissioner Bailey moved to adjourn this meeting of the Michigan State Waterways Commission. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

This meeting of the Michigan State Waterways Commission was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

The next meeting of the Michigan State Waterways Commission is scheduled for Friday, October, 8, 2010, at Huron Valley MetroPark in Harrison Township.