

Meeting Minutes of the Meeting of
Michigan State Waterways Commission
April 18, 2008

Department of Natural Resources
Stevens T Mason Building
1921 Conservation Conference Room
Lansing, Michigan

A regular meeting of the Michigan State Waterways Commission was called to order by Chairperson Carol Oakley at 10:02 a.m. on Friday, April 18, 2008, at the Department of Natural Resources, 1921 Conservation Conference Room, Lansing, Michigan. The following Commissioners were present:

Carol Oakley, Chairperson
Denny Bailey
Bob Brown
Mike Bryanton
Curtis Hertel
Janet Mansfield

Commissioner Bryan Amann participated by phone.

Parks and Recreation Chief Ron Olson and other Department of Natural Resources (Department) were present.

Public Appearances:

Written Correspondence

There was no written correspondence.

Appearances (Non-agenda Items)

Mr. Stephen Hume sent a copy to the Waterways Commission of a letter he sent to Attorney General Michael Cox. Mr. Hume indicated that Mr. Michael Riley (Office of the Attorney General) stated that the case will be in discovery until August. Mr. Hume also commented that some of the homes in the area were built on State land. He believes a compromise would save taxpayer's money. Mr. Hume thinks the City of Detroit should be allowed to keep the property on the side of the canal where homes are already built. He believes this is the best solution if the City attorneys will agree to stop the claim against the Grayhaven Marina property. Chairperson Carol Oakley thanked Mr. Hume and stated that, because the property is in the hands of the Attorney General, the Waterways Commission has no input in the matter. She requested that DNR staff prepare a

letter for the Commission in time for the June meeting and asked staff to check into whether that is appropriate.

MOTION: Commissioner Bob Brown moved to make Mr. Stephen Hume's (check date) letter to Attorney General Michael Cox a matter of public record. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Denny Bailey and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Leonard Mannausa sent a letter to Resource Management Deputy Mindy Koch and copied the Waterways Commission. Commissioners also received a copy of the Department's response. Mr. Mannausa conducted a presentation on sedimentation in the Huron River (the area is from the Huron River, beyond Ann Arbor to Lake Erie; South of Detroit, Wyandotte, and Trenton and north of Monroe) in Brownstown Township. The sedimentation is worsened by storms. He is requesting that the Waterways Commission consider constructing a seawall. The Commission recognized Mr. Mannausa's legitimate concerns in his desire to keep the Huron River open; however, other agencies are more capable of looking at this and dealing with the issues. The Waterways Commission does not have the ability to fund a dyke. Mr. Mannausa's next step will be to address the Army Corps of Engineers with his request.

Minutes

February 15, 2008

MOTION: Commissioner Janet Mansfield moved to approve the minutes of the February 15, 2008 Waterways Commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bob Brown and unanimously approved.

March 28, 2008

MOTION: Commissioner Bob Brown moved to approve the minutes of the Special Waterways Commission meeting of March 28, 2008. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Denny Bailey and unanimously approved.

Old Business

Project Status Report

Mr. Paul Peterson provided an update on marina and harbor projects as follows:

Harbors:

- Bids have been received for the seawall project at Port Austin (Huron County). The low bid came in at \$353,000, with the high bid double that amount. This project will move ahead to the Administrative Board on May 6, 2008.

- The project underway at Mackinac Island (Mackinac County) is underway and includes utility upgrades, new decking, a new pump out facility, harbor wall repair, sidewalk replacement, and comfort station upgrades.
- The project at Grand Haven Municipal Marina (Ottawa County) includes utility upgrades, dock replacements, and shoreline rip rap improvements. May 1, 2008 is the expected completion date.
- Cheboygan Lock and Dam (Cheboygan County) Dam is in the midst of a project that includes dam structural repairs, spillway repair, cribbing repair, buttress repair, and a lamprey trap. The project is coming along well.
- The Charlevoix Municipal Marina (Charlevoix County) harbor master building is scheduled to be finished on May 1; 2008. This project also includes dock construction, seawall/dock connections, utility improvements, and a new parking lot. Everything is due to be completed in mid-June of this year.

Mr. Jordan Byelich provided an update on Boating Access Sites as follows:

Boating Access Sites (BAS):

- The Forks BAS (Cheyboygan County) project includes ramp construction, parking lot construction, maneuver area construction, grading and drainage, retaining wall, vault toilet, skid piers, and dredging. Completion is expected by mid-August.
- Kollen Park BAS (Ottawa County) is undergoing a project including ramp relocation, new parking lot, new maneuver area, access road construction, and sidewalk construction. Completion is expected in fall of this year.
- The Charlevoix Ferry Avenue BAS (Charlevoix) project includes launch ramp extension, courtesy pier extension, and floating breakwall relocation. It should be completed next week and is considered to be a unique project as there is no fill under the launch ramp extension.
- Grindstone City BAS (Huron County) will undergo a dredging project. The pre-construction meeting will be in early May and the project is expected to be completed this summer.
- The pre-construction meeting was held this past Wednesday for the Onnekema Village Park BAS (Manistee County) project. Portage Lake is connected to Lake Michigan through a canal and has significant wave action. A jetty is being constructed on the west side of the launch to offer protection. The project also includes dredging.
- The paving projects at Burt Lake and Bear Lake BAS (Hillsdale County) were bid together. The pre-construction meeting will occur in the next two weeks.

Operations Status Report

Mr. Harold Herta provided an update on operations as follows:

- DSL will be used for the Central Reservation System (CRS) at the Charlevoix Marina (Charlevoix County).
- Fog can degrade the signal for CRS for those utilizing satellite for the connection. Department staff are looking at more use of DSL
- The Harbor Guide has undergone editing on its content. The new Guide will be out in May.
- Harbor reservations are down a little compared to last year.

Standing Committee Reports

There were no Standing Committee Reports.

Strategic Planning Process Update

Ms. Vicki Anthes introduced Mr. Paul Curtis and he provided an update on the Strategic Plan. A great deal of public input has been incorporated into the process. This material is being accessed. The presentation will be done for Statewide Council. Letters have gone to stakeholders requesting their input on objectives and goals for the new Strategic Plan. Comments were requested by the end of April. The final Plan document will be prepared in June.

Chairperson Oakley suggested the Parks and Recreation Division consider a name change to Parks, Harbors, and Recreation Division.

New Business

Michigan Boating Industries Association (MBIA) – Status of Boating in Michigan

Mr. Van Snider of MBIA provided an overview of MBIA (www.mbia.org) and the boating industry in Michigan. The MBIA has roughly 370 members (at times, up to 400) and five full-time employees. Along with other activities to support boating, the organization provides scholarships to college students and publishes an annual boating publication. The MBIA participates in a clean marina program and there are fifteen clean marinas in Michigan. The boating industry in the Great Lakes provides 244,000 jobs and \$7.2 billion in personal income. In 2006 Michigan was fourth in the country in boat registrations. Boat sales have been down this year, including those for personal watercraft. There was an increase of 19.2% in attendance at the Detroit Boat Show. Statistics on boating are available at www.marinaeconomics.com. Another good boating web site is www.discoverboating.com.

U.S. Army Corps (Corps) of Engineers Dredging Projects

The staff member from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was unable to attend. The Corps will be invited to attend another meeting.

DEQ Land and Water Management Overview

Mr. Jim Milne from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Land and Water Management Division addressed the Commission regarding dredging. State permits from DEQ are required for the Corps' dredging projects. The DEQ hopes to fill some positions soon, which will help speed up the issuance of dredging permits. Dredging is a two permit process. The Corps retains jurisdiction over Section 10 waters, which are navigable waters (includes the Great Lakes, Lake St. Clair, and navigable portions of inland lakes and streams). The Corps issues a separate permit for Section 10 waters and DEQ issues permits statewide.

Mr. Ron Olson provided information to the Commission regarding Great Lakes water levels.

North Channel Off-Season Use

Harson's Island is located just south of the North Channel. Access to the island is by ferry and it cannot operate during ice jams. The ferry is located west of the North Channel BAS. There has been a request to use the North Channel BAS for an air boat during ice jams when the ferry cannot operate. Use has never been granted for anything other than boating. The BAS closes from November to March. Clete Township has a key for emergency use (police and fire). Last year, the ferry was unable to operate for ten days due to ice jams. The Township opened the BAS for the air boat. The Department is working with the Township on a permit to facilitate this use for a limited time when ice jams occur.

Red Bull Flight Event

The Red Bull flight event was projected to be right in front of Tricentennial State Harbor, but is now further down and should not conflict with use of the Harbor. The dates for the event are May 31, and June 1, 2008.

Garfield Township Variance Request, Bay City Variance Request, South Haven Variance Request, and 2008 Grant Awards

MOTION: Since the above items were all discussed in detail at the Facilities, Operations/Policy, and Boating Access Committee meeting, Commissioner Michael Bryanton moved to approve all New Business Action Items. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Janet Mansfield and approved unanimously.

OTHER BUSINESS

MOTION: Commissioner Denny Bailey moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bob Brown. This meeting of the Michigan State Waterways Commission adjourned at 11:46 a.m.