

Meeting Minutes of the Meeting of  
Michigan State Waterways Commission  
MDOT Horatio S. Earle Learning Center, 7575 Crowner Drive, Dimondale, MI

April 9, 2010

A regular meeting of the Michigan State Waterways Commission was called to order by Chairperson Mansfield at 8:30 a.m. on April 9, 2010 at the MDOT Horatio S. Earle Learning Center, Dimondale, Michigan. The following Commissioners were present:

Bob Brown  
Janet Mansfield  
Carol Oakley  
Denny Bailey  
Michael Bryanton

Excused: Gary Marowske  
Curtis Hertel

DNR Appearances:

Vicki Anthes  
Phyllis Bianchi  
William Boik  
Jordan Byelich

John Terpstra  
Paul Petersen  
Ron Olson

Excused: Harold Herta  
Jason Fleming

Public Appearances:

Steven Hume – representing Detroit boaters (Greyhaven Marina)  
Jim Schiffer – Engineer representing The Schiffer Group, Inc.  
James Sarna – Traverse City Transient Stay/Central Reservation System  
Helen Pasakarnis – East Tawas TIFA Director, representing East Tawas and Development losco, Inc

**Written Correspondence**

There was no written correspondence

**Appearances (Non-agenda Items)**

- Commissioner Mansfield expressed appreciation to Commissioner Brown for his service as Chair of the Waterways Commission.

- Helen Pasakarnis gave updates and a final report on the East Tawas State Dock. She acknowledged Paul Petersen and Bill Boik, as well as our DNRE staff as being instrumental with getting the report and pictures done. She is representing the East Tawas TIFA and Development losco, Inc. to show support of the review of the variance for the state dock use.
- Stephen Hume talked about the Greyhaven Marina. He is disturbed by the lack of use during this lawsuit. Vandals keep cutting holes in the fence and he keeps fixing it. He suggested transporting people in and out by water taxi, and not use the parking lot; any way that we can use the marina, he is open to suggestions. Ron Olson stated that a settlement was reached with the city, but has to be adopted by the city, then the litigation will be resolved. Commissioner Hertel may be able to offer some assistance in this regard.
- James Schiffer passed out Fox Island Lighthouse Association information. They are trying to come up with a process to move forward. FILA public meetings helped to acquire new members with great spirit to continue on with restoration efforts. Two of the islands were reviewed after the winter and all of it still looks in great shape.
- James Sarna talked about boat slips at Mackinac Island having reservations issues regarding boat size. He and others are having issues with time stated for getting slips 15 days in advance to get into the Duncan Glen Marina, (during the Traverse City Cherry Festival) then additional charges are added. He would like to see a variance for the week of the Traverse City Cherry Festival for boat slips, because 15 day reservations do not give others a chance to get a boat slip. He believes there should only be a seven day reservation at festival time in order to give others a chance to get in and enjoy the festival.

#### **ACTION ITEMS:**

Minutes from September 25, 2009 – motion to approve as circulated by Commissioner Bailey, seconded by Commissioner Brown.

Minutes from January 22, 2010 – motion to approve by Commissioner Bailey, seconded by Commissioner Oakley.

#### **Appearances (Agenda Items)**

There were no appearances for agenda items.

## Old Business

### **Staff Project Status Report**

Bill Boik gave updates on the legal proceedings regarding Torch Lake; the Crystal Lake public boating access site is going as planned and the locals are in agreement with the plan. Dredging locations in the thumb area have ongoing sediment disposal site problems, the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers are assisting and the funds are in place. The Alanson Lock is being put back together using the old equipment until the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers can gather the rest of the new equipment for the rehabilitation project. Our field staff have been in touch with Emmett County and local units of government, sharing information and exploring their interest in taking over operations of the Lock.

U.S. Homeland Security had requested a slip in the DeTour State Harbor and has been approved for the slip. The Chamber of Commerce has requested that the U.S. Customs locate an office in the harbor for boaters crossing the international border to check in. Currently, a Customs check-in station is located on Drummond Island at Yacht Haven Marina.

Bill Boik also stated that adding bigger slips and the new configuration at DeTour State Harbor was a concern due to a historic shipwreck in the harbor. Documentation was provided to dispute the assertion that the Superior shipwreck was in the harbor, and the permit has now been released. Construction begins once the grant is approved and bidding has been completed. There is a possibility of dredging this year and actual work starting next year.

The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers has the City of Cedarville on their list to dredge and discussions about disposal are ongoing.

Paul Petersen – (PowerPoint presentation) introduced the new Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) logo that was designed and selected by DNRE staff, after being voted on among several alternatives.

Paul Petersen gave grant-in-aid project updates on Metro Beach Metropark Marina, and Ludington Municipal Marina, as well as Straits State Harbor.

At Huron Clinton Metro Authority (HCMA) Metro Beach Metropark Marina the contractor has installed the harbormaster booth, and continues to work on the harbormaster building. The installation of the water heater, furnace, acoustical ceiling tile, and shower wall tiles have been completed in the harbormaster building. The floor tile is to be completed by the end of April. The project is on schedule with a June 1, 2010, completion date.

For the broadside transient dockage project at Ludington Municipal Marina the contractor has completed the seawall and minimal dredging in the dockage area.

Backfill material is currently being placed behind the wall, and the sidewalk is being prepared for being poured. The project is on schedule with a May 20, 2010, completion date.

The power of nature is shown in the slides of Straits State Harbor, where ice this winter produced formations 12-14 ft high.

Paul also referenced the March 2010 Waterways Facilities Construction Workshop where presentations, idea exchange opportunities, and funding discussions were held with field staff.

Commissioner Oakley stated there should be a meeting of harbor masters and harbor facility staff where they are all represented. Bill Boik replied that there is great difficulty in getting harbor masters all together for meetings due to seasonal needs. The harbor masters conference was canceled last year due to low attendance numbers.

A discussion developed on several issues regarding the Village of Elk Rapids preliminary engineering grant-in-aid project. During the project planning process, the Elk Rapids Harbor Commission explored potentially relocating the boating access site within the harbor to a couple of different sites that the community currently owns. Concern exists from a grant-in-aid standpoint, and the preliminary engineering status will need to be monitored, as the favored potential boating access site relocation may actually require more maintenance than the current location. One of the proposed relocated boating access sites also has the potential for conflicts with the existing beach use.

The status of the City of Petoskey grant-in-aid fixed pier and harbor master building addition project was briefly discussed. It was presented that the City had received project bids and was securing all the financial components before awarding the bid.

Jordan Byelich – (PowerPoint presentation) began the boating access site portion of the project presentation with updates on Selfridge BAS, Frankfort BAS, Loomis St. BAS (Ludington), Sleepy Hollow State Park BAS, and Indian Lake State Park BAS.

Selfridge Boating Access Site, a State facility, on Lake St. Clair, is in the final design stages. Once the design is complete, including permits, an application for a federal grant will be submitted. Once the project is complete, it will be one of the largest boating access sites in the state.

The Frankfort Boating Access Site, a grant-in-aid facility, consists of refurbishing skid piers, ramp and pier construction, parking lot upgrades, dredging, signage, and utility work. Anticipated completion is spring 2010.

The City of Ludington's Loomis Street Boating Access Site, a grant-in-aid facility, has a project underway that includes minor dredging, breakwater construction, and a sidewalk on the breakwater. Anticipated completion is spring, 2010.

Sleepy Hollow State Park Boating Access Site is a federally granted project that will be under construction this spring. The next Waterways Commission meeting on June 18 will tour this project under construction. Being under construction, it will give a good understanding of what the project entails. The scope includes a brand new entrance road, new vault toilets, parking lot redevelopment and paving, sidewalks, and site restoration. A ramp lane was previously added to accommodate the site's use and demand.

Indian Lake State Park Boating Access Site is in the upper peninsula in Schoolcraft County. The project included dredging work through the ice. It was completed this past winter. The DNRE utilized major maintenance crews out of the Norway and Baraga offices from the western UP. The DNRE has used this combination of crews for a few years now for winter dredging at this boating access site. It is an extremely efficient practice to use DNRE crews as opposed to contracting the work out.

Bill Boik gave an update on the Crystal Lake settlement. The property was purchased back in 1997 known as the "outlet property", this received opposition. Negotiations with concerned parties wanted the DNR to find another site and not change where people go swimming and did not want a boat launch there. An alternate site was purchased in 2002, the DNR started the process, had two public meetings, and more opposition was received. Litigation commenced in 2003 and was just recently settled.

Project overview of the project and plans: Mollineaux Rd. goes straight in off a curve from M-115. The Benzie County Road Commission wanted a safer, 90 degree intersection and we agreed for the safety of drivers and boaters accessing our property. Concerned parties wanted the road done before anything on site and the DNRE has agreed to stage construction to correct the road first. There were various issues that were negotiated during the court settlement and a final plan has been approved.

Bill Boik stated that DNRE had 20 grant-in-aid applications this year. We have applications totaling approximately \$2.8 million. DNRE's recommendations for awards will be presented at the next meeting. Of the \$2.8 million, DNRE has \$1.4 million available for grant projects.

### **Operation status report**

No report provided

### **Standing committee reports**

None

## **New business information items**

None

## **Legislative update**

Ron Olson gave an update on the Recreation Passport as passed by Michigan Legislature.

He then explained the DNRE Transition Plan, the reorganization/merger and the three new bureaus. He will give another update at the next meeting.

Commissioner Oakley asked about the Recreation Passport and a portion of fees going to boating access sites, referring to the media briefing sheet. Ron Olson explained that the goal of the legislation is to ensure that the revenue and funds for boating are maintained.

## **Action items:**

Recommended meeting dates are the same, however, locations for the three dates have been changed.

An attendee questioned as to why the change in locations. Ron Olson explained that the DNRE tries to have a meeting in the upper peninsula once a year. Last year was Marquette this year will be Drummond Island/Detour Harbor.

Commissioner Bailey motioned to accept the location changes for 2010; Commissioner Brown seconded.

## **Consent items:**

Variance requests: Resolution No. 04-2010-01 – Variance on Commercial Rate at the East Tawas State Dock.

Commissioner Oakley motioned to approve resolution No. 04-2010-01; Commissioner Bryanton seconded.

Commissioner Bailey motioned to adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Oakley seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.