

Meeting Minutes of the Meeting of
Michigan State Waterways Commission
September 25, 2009
Country Inn and Suites
6511 Centurion Drive
Lansing, Michigan

A regular meeting of the Michigan State Waterways Commission was called to order by Vice Chairperson Jan Mansfield at 9:30 a.m. on September 25, 2009, at the Country Inn and Suites in Lansing, Michigan. The following Commissioners were present:

Janet Mansfield
Carol Oakley
Denny Bailey
Gary Marowske
Michael Bryanton

PUBLIC APPEARANCES:

Helen Pasakarnis, TIFA Director for East Tawas
Jason Kulongowski, engineer with Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority
Robin Abshire, marina manager for City of South Haven
Steven Hume – representing Detroit Boaters (Grayhaven Marina)
Ray Underwood, Michigan Boating Industries Association

Written Correspondence

There was no written correspondence

Appearances (Non-agenda Items)

Helen Pasakarnis, the TIFA Director for East Tawas, talked about modifications to the state dock (cruise ships + activity) and distributed an Executive Summary Report on Dock Fees and Port of Call.

Jason Kulongowski, an engineer with the Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority, expressed appreciation for the finality of the project on the Authority's behalf.

Robin Abshire, marina manager for the City of South Haven talked about grant application/clubhouse facility north site, the showers not being handicap accessible, etc. Grant monies are being used to complete Phase I, a preliminary engineering plan, and marina office for manager.

Stephen Hume representing Detroit Boaters reported about the closed Grayhaven Marina in Detroit.

Ray Underwood from the Michigan Boating Industries Association commented on the renaming of Parks and Recreation Division. He supports Commissioner Oakley's proposal to incorporate "waterways" into the title. He also gave his support in the renaming of Tri-Centennial State Park to William G. Milliken State Park and Marina. He also stated we need to increase boat registration (survey boat owner re: increase), and the registration of all watercraft except paddle boats.

Commissioner Bailey suggested a diesel gas tax as a future agenda item.

Commissioner Oakley stated that we need to educate boaters in the need to support changing the waterways funds to include registering non-motorized water crafts. Registering non-motorized watercraft will improve boater safety. An invitation to meet with the Michigan Boating Industries Association meeting was received by the Commission.

Ronald Olson stated that we need to set up an organized process. Parks & Recreation Division will try to send someone to attend the Michigan Boating Industries Association meeting and get more information to develop a process.

Appearances (Agenda Items)

There were no appearances for agenda items

MINUTES

July 18, 2009 - Regular meeting

MOTION: Commissioner Marowske moved to approve the minutes of the July 18, 2009 Waterways Commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bailey and it was unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Staff Project Status Report

Paul Peterson – (PowerPoint presentation) stated he had a good conversation with the harbormaster at Leland. The Township is very pleased with this project. They are pleased with the fit and finish on how it all came together, and he thinks it is as good as they could ask for.

Regarding the Huron Clinton Metro Authority (HCMA) South Metro Park project, Mike Arens, engineer, said they have had some issues they have worked through; they didn't turn out to be very major issues. The project and work are progressing nicely.

Paul updated the Commission on the Naubinway harbor project. For fiscal year 2010, which has not been approved yet, the final engineering portion of the Naubinway infrastructure grant project for \$210,000 is approved for the breakwater, extending the bulkhead, and dredging.

John Terpstra was introduced. John is a new employee in the Waterways Planning Unit. John's background includes a Bachelor's degree in landscape architecture, and a Master's degree in Business Administration. John has 14 years of experience in design and development of landscape architecture and engineering projects, specializing in residential and land development. He has a builder's license, and has worked on planning efforts with Lowes, CVS, Meijers, and Walgreens, across the Midwest. John has already worked on federal funds for the Sleepy Hollow boat access site, Sport Fish Restoration Applications, and the fiscal year 2010 Boating Infrastructure Grant Program (BIGP) application.

Jordan Byelich reported on boating access site (BAS) developments and improvements throughout the state. Loon Lake, Rush Lake, Eight Point Lake, Stonington Farmer's Dock, Crystal Lake, Presque Isle, Indian River and Walloon Lake.

Staff Operations Status Report

Harold Herta met with administrative heads of our vendor for reservation systems. They are an umbrella company that manages the two biggest systems out of three for reservation systems.

As a result of that discussion, it was discovered that there is no harbor application in the harbor reservation system. We asked for a proposal to split how we do reservations in Michigan and put parks on Reserve America and keep harbor on Infospherix.

Harold Herta suggested fixing what we have for the reservations system, move from the current system and get a harbor application; proposals were asked for. He stated that the present system would bog down because of parks. Reserve America is not comfortable using a split system. We are back to square one; so we need a new system to be bid on in 2012. Reserve America is going ahead and it will start working on a harbor system.

Commissioner Oakley expressed concern about the Tri-Centennial name change to Wm. G. Milliken State Park & Harbor. We will have a double entry for Tri-Centennial and Wm. G. Milliken State Park & Harbor in the Central Reservation System.

Harold Herta also stated that consideration in reprinting the harbor guide with a more substantial cover is being pursued. Leftover grant money may be used to get updated versions printed with added photos.

Commissioner Mansfield stated that the Michigan Boating Industry Association (MBIA) put out a publication and she thought that the Harbor Guide was included in the center of that publication. She suggested checking with any other agencies to see if they would like to partner with the DNR to save money.

Ron Olson stated that marketing across the DNR, whether it is for waterways or other DNR business, is being reformed. The ways in which marketing was done in the past, do not meet the needs of today.

Commissioner Mansfield stated that we should have a page with a map that is in the front of our guide that shows the different harbors and the boat launch facilities. This should also include information on how to access a better map, telephone numbers, and how to acquire a harbor guide or access the reservation system. Commissioner Oakley suggested partnering with other agencies to save money on a harbor guide.

Jason Fleming stated that all the Harbor Guide pages are available on line. Although it is not set up in the same PDF format to download the exact brochure, you can download that same information on line. It is a separate webpage, and the reason for that is that the Michigan Recreational Boating Information System (MRBIS) is where we provide both harbor and boating access site information.

Standing Committee Reports

There were no Standing Committee reports

NEW BUSINESS

Legislative update:

Discussed merger of DNR with Departments of Agriculture, and History, Arts and Libraries (HAL). Contingency plans are being made for the possibility of a state shut down. All waterways budgets and line items are intact as submitted.

With regard to the 2009 furlough days, the money collected and saved went into the waterways funds and will be used for capital outlay projects and operating expenses.

The DNR has been assured that the Senate is supposed to bring the Recreation Passport to the floor in mid to late October to consider the bill. Progress has been delayed due to other state budget issues.

Commissioner Marowske inquired about the revenues that the Waterways Fund receives for capital expenditures, and whether everything has to get expended that year or keep building the fund and maintain a fund.

Ron Olson stated that there are two parts to that question. For capital outlay projects, once legislature has appropriated it, there is a three year period to expend the funds so

the Parks & Recreation Division can sometimes save up for projects before starting construction. The operating budget gets appropriated annually, and anything that is unspent goes right back into the fund balance and gets reappropriated going forward. The Parks & Recreation Division does not lose any waterways funds if they re not expended.

CONSENT AGENDA

All the Commissioners approved to accept the resolutions; Commissioner Bailey motioned for same and it was seconded by Commissioner Bryanton and it carried unanimously:

Resolution 2009 Sept 25-01 to Support the Natural Resources Commission Proposal to Rename the Tri-Centennial State Park and Harbor to the William G. Milliken State Park and Harbor

Resolution 2009 Sept 25-02 to Recommend the Name of the DNR's Parks and Recreation Division

Resolution 2009 Sept 25-03 of the Natural Resources Commission to Rename the Tri-Centennial State Park and Harbor to the William G. Milliken State Park and Harbor

Commissioner Mansfield motioned to adjourn the meeting of the Michigan State Waterways Commission at 11:30 a.m., Commissioner Oakley seconded and it carried unanimously.

This meeting of the Michigan State Waterways Commission was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.