

Michigan State Waterways Commission

Meeting Minutes

Location: Eagle Harbor, Michigan

Date: August 17, 2023

Roll Call

Present for the Waterways Commission:

- Commissioner, Susan Stewart
- Commissioner, Elaine Isely
- Commissioner, Scott Labonte
- Commissioner, Candice Miller
- Commissioner, Fred Sitkins
- Commissioner, Craig Lehrke

Others Present:

- Michael Desnoyer, DNR
- Jordan Byelich, DNR
- Michelle Wieber, DNR, Recorder
- Doug Rich, DNR

Not Present:

- Commissioner, Mary Rising
- Ron Olson, DNR
- Vicki McGhee, DNR
- Nick Van Bloem, DNR
- Linnae Dawson, DNR
- Maia Turek, DNR

Meeting minutes

Opening Comments:

- Vice-Chair, Elaine Isely called for the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m., August 17, 2023.
- The meeting began with reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.
- A warm welcome was given to newly appointed Commissioner, Craig Lehrke.

Public Appearance:

- Eagle Harbor Township Supervisor, Rich Probst, was pleased to welcome the Michigan State Waterways Commission to Eagle Harbor.

Written Correspondence:

- There was not any written correspondence to include in the meeting packet.

Action Items:

- MOTION: Vice-Chair, Elaine Isely asked for a motion for approval for the minutes from the April 28, 2023, Michigan State Waterways Commission meeting. The motion was put into place by Commissioner Susan Stewart and was seconded by Commissioner Fred Sitkins. Motion was carried unanimously, 6-0.
- MOTION: Vice-Chair, Elaine Isely asked for a motion for approval of the Bylaws, which went under review and revision. The motion was put into place by Commissioner Candice Miller and was seconded by Commissioner Craig Lehrke. Motion carried unanimously, 6-0.
- MOTION: Vice-Chair, Elaine Isely asked for a motion to approve the Resolution of Support for FY2024 Waterways Capital Outlay Funding Plan. The motion was put into place by Secretary Scott Labonte and was seconded by Commissioner Fred Sitkins. Motion carried unanimously, 6-0.
- The Commissioners re-worked the Subcommittee assignments to add newly appointed Commissioner, Craig Lehrke to sit on some Subcommittees.

Committee Reports:

- Secretary, Scott Labonte stated the Facilities Subcommittee recently met and discussed the Capital Outlay project recommendations. Scott expressed his gratitude towards Jordan's diligent work on this process.

Informational Business:

General Updates

- Michael Desnoyer reported to the Commission the Waterways Grant Coordinator position will soon be filled. The Coordinator will regularly attend future Michigan State Waterways Commission meetings.
- Commissioner Fred Sitkins reminded the Commission of the Commissioner Matrix, of which was thoroughly explained to new Commissioner, Craig Lehrke.

Financial Updates

- Financial information updates were provided to the Commissioners in the meeting packet. Michael Desnoyer provided detailed financial updates to the Commission. Discussion regarding watercraft registration fees came up, Commissioners had a healthy conversation. The Commissioners were interested in a work session before the October meeting to discuss this further. The Commissioners are seeking resolution assistance to get motion.

Operations Updates

- Linnae Dawson provided a written update to the Commissioners in the meeting packet.

Marketing Updates

- No updates to report.

Project Repots

- The Michigan State Waterways Development Program Project Report was included in each Commissioner's meeting packet for their information.
- Jordan Byelich provided an update to the Commission on various State projects. This included Clinton River Cutoff Boating Access Site (BAS) and Little Lake State Harbor. Clinton River Cutoff BAS is back on again as of mid-August, the ramp base issue caused delays. Approximately \$1.2 million in contract change order equating to adding \$1 million to project budget (had some contingency). Dewatering and removal of sediments at the new launch ramp location are underway. The site has an anticipated completion date of late October/early November. The Corps received emergency funding as of August 2nd for dredging the channel at Little Lake State Harbor. They will be performing the dredging in two parts. First, they will be dredging the channel to a depth of 4' beginning this August, followed by a more substantial dredge next summer 2024. The Corps is also working on a design deficiency study to assess the shoaling issues experienced at this harbor. A deficiency study will look at the effectiveness of the breakwater. If the design is deemed insufficient, this study then provides the green light to work on a new design, but only able to change design height and not the horizontal footprint of structures, as they are authorized by dimension.

With a recommendation from a deficiency study, however, this is the first step in allowing a re-design of the footprint, in which the Corps would request separate design and construction funds.

Transmittals

- A letter was in the meeting packet for review regarding responses offered to public comments.

Great Lakes Water Level Report

- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District Great Lakes water level outlook was included in each Commissioner's meeting packet for their information.

Non-Agenda Items

- Nothing to report.

Adjournment

- The meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

The next Michigan State Waterways Commission Meeting: October 6, 2023.