

# Michigan State Waterways Commission

## Meeting Minutes

Location: Menominee

Date: August 24, 2022

### Roll Call

#### Present for the Waterways Commission:

- Commissioner, Vice-Chair, Pat Egan
- Commissioner, Secretary, Mary Rising
- Commissioner, Fred Sitkins
- Commissioner, Elaine Isely

#### Others Present:

- Maia Turek, DNR, Traverse City, MI
- Jordan Byelich, DNR
- Michelle Wieber, DNR, Recorder
- Vicki McGhee, DNR
- Linnae Dawson, DNR

#### Not Present:

- Commissioner, Chair, Barb Brooks
- Commissioner, Mark Yonan
- Ron Olson, DNR
- Michael Desnoyer, DNR

#### Special Guests:

- Doug Rich, DNR
- Eric Cadeau, DNR

### Meeting minutes

## **Opening Comments:**

- Secretary, Mary Rising, called for the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m., August 24, 2022.
- The meeting began with reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **Public Appearance:**

- Nancy Douglas, Director, Menominee Business Development Corporation, offered a heartfelt thank-you and appreciation to the Commission for visiting and holding the meeting in Menominee.

## **Action Items:**

- MOTION: Secretary Mary Rising asked for a motion for approval for the minutes from the June 14, 2022, Michigan State Waterways Commission meeting. With suggested edits, the motion was put into place, by Commissioner Elaine Isely and seconded by Commissioner Fred Sitkins. Motion carried unanimously, 4-0.
- MOTION: Secretary Mary Rising asked for a motion for approval to support the Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) State Waterways Capital Outlay Funding Plan. The motion was put into place by Commissioner Pat Egan and seconded by Commissioner Elaine Isely. Motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

## **Committee Reports:**

- The Facilities Subcommittee met to discuss the recommended plan for Capital Outlay funding at state-owned facilities under the FY23 budget. The projects are priorities based upon an evaluation process that will enhance public recreational boating opportunities. The Michigan State Waterways Commission voted in support of the provided recommendation without opposition.

## **Informational Business:**

- Guest speakers, Dough Rich, Western Upper Peninsula District Manager, and Eric Cadeau, Western Upper Peninsula Regional Field Planner presented to the Commission. Challenges as well as highlights of upcoming repairs and upgrades at Cedar River State Harbor, Eagle Harbor State Harbor, and Menominee River Railroad Dock Boating Access Site were addressed.

## **General Updates**

- Vicki McGhee reported to the Commission that former Commissioner Shepler's vacancy had not been filled yet. Both Chicago to Mackinac Race and Port Huron to Mackinac sailboat races went well with no major issues reported. Bids are filing in for projects related to the American Rescue Plan Act.

## **Financial Updates**

- Financial information updates were provided to the Commissioners in the meeting packet.

## **Operations Updates**

- Linnae Dawson provided an Operations update to the Commissioners. Graphs and a variance request memo were submitted to the meeting packet. Net nights as well as slip reservations were slightly down through July, compared to 2021. Grand Haven Municipal Marina submitted a letter to request a time extension of 2 years to have the 5 additional seasonal slips. A review will be completed in 2024. The Operations Subcommittee approved of this request.

## **Marketing Updates**

- Maia Turek pointed the Commission in the direction of the site, [www.Michigan.gov/DNR/CelebrateBoating](http://www.Michigan.gov/DNR/CelebrateBoating) to check out the waterways 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary activities and celebrations. The boat recycling program has over 400 in its database. A boating photo mosaic video is being created. Labatt Brewing Company donated \$15,000 to the waterways program.

## **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. Construction to Lexington State Harbor's harbormaster building is basically complete. Port Austin State Harbor is slated to receive funding in 2023, and the design phase is at 50% completion. The Clinton River Cut-Off Boating Access Site (BAS) redevelopment has an anticipated completion date of late November/December. Federal funding for Little Lake State Harbor was not approved under the US Army Corps of Engineers FY22 Work Plan that included requests for structure maintenance and dredging environmental coordination. The next and last opportunity pending at this time is under the FY23 President's Budget package for initial design deficiency assessment for the harbor structure. This allows the Corps to determine how to best approach a possible re-design for a structure that may not be functioning as originally intended. Unanticipated growing project costs have been more challenging recently, as there has been an increase by approximately \$5.5 million from initial cost projections due to the high competition for contractors and increasing cost of some materials.

- Linnae Dawson spoke on Grant-in-Aid project updates. Efforts continue with executing 2022 grant agreements with the Communities. Many of our 2020 high water emergency repair projects are being finalized.

### **Transmittals**

- Commissioner Pat Egan submitted an article regarding electric boat charging to share with the Commission.

### **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**

- Those in attendance at the meeting received a special 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary boating notebook.
- Commissioner Pat Egan spoke on behalf of the Commission with a thoughtful thank-you to members of the Menominee Community for their time and kind ways of hosting us.

### **Adjournment**

- The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

The next Michigan State Waterways Commission Meeting: December 6, 2022.