



## **MICHIGAN STATE WATERWAYS COMMISSION**

February 23, 2018

Lansing, Michigan

### **PRESENT FOR THE WATERWAYS COMMISSION**

Commissioner, Chair, Dennis Nickels  
Commissioner, Vice-Chair, Ward Walstrom  
Commissioner, Denny Grinold  
Commissioner, Steve Arwood  
Commissioner, Mary Rising

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Ron Olson, DNR  
Vicki McGhee, DNR  
Jackie Blodgett, DNR  
Jordan Byelich, DNR  
Paul Petersen, DNR  
Linnae Dawson, DNR  
Maia Turek, DNR  
Michelle Wieber, DNR, Recorder

### **PRESENT VIA CONFERENCE**

Commissioner, James Hansen

### **GUEST SPEAKERS**

Ami Van Antwerp, DNR  
Kristin Phillips, DNR  
Kelly Wolgamott, Pure Michigan

### **NOT PRESENT**

Commissioner, Nicki Polan  
Anna Sylvester, DNR  
Scott Pratt, DNR



MINUTES  
MICHIGAN STATE WATERWAYS COMMISSION

**WORK SESSION UPDATES**

**MARKETING UPDATE**

A Marketing update was given by guest speakers, Ami Van Antwerp, Communications Coordinator, Parks and Recreation Division, DNR, Kelly Wolgamott, Director of Travel Marketing of Pure Michigan, and Kristin Phillips, Chief, Marketing and Outreach Division, DNR. Together, metrics and social media, marketing strategies, media relations and 2018 promotions were presented. Other marketing focuses include an update on the celebration of Michigan Boating Week (June 9-16), and the featuring of Water Trails during Trails Week (September 23-29). Chair to the Marketing Subcommittee, **Ward Walstrom** provided some quick points the committee will focus on in 2018 – water trails, water trail maps, women in boating, exploring underwater, and protecting our waters by connecting with local watershed councils.

**WAYS & MEANS UPDATE**

The group discussed Resolution number 02-2018-01, titled, To Propose the Michigan Boating Access, Public Safety, Economic Development Improvement Act of 2018. Some highlights of the resolution include the consideration of a nominal percentage increase in the registration fees for all vessels, register all rigid-hulled kayaks and canoes at a rate not to exceed \$10/year and provides for a seasonal pass for non-resident craft at \$10/year, and the consideration of a separate surcharge (sticker) for invasive species control for all vessels including nonresident craft.



## **OPENING COMMENTS**

Chair Dennis Nickels called the meeting to order at 1:04p.m., February 23, 2018. Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **PUBLIC APPEARANCE**

**Written Correspondence:** A written correspondence was submitted by the following individuals, each regarding the proposal for the registration of paddle sport equipment. A copy of each correspondence was included in the commissioner's packet for their review:

- Fred Sitkins, Inland Seas Education Association
- Michael Gray, American Canoe Association
- Steve Griffin, Midland Daily News
- Susan Wilgus
- Harry Burkholder, Land Information Access Association
- Dorelle Ackerman
- Daniel De Vita
- Norman Fred, Boardman River Clean Sweep
- John Heiam, Traverse Area Paddle Club
- Harold Lassers, Director, Traverse Area Paddler Club
- Jay Hanks, 50+ year Canoeist & Kayaker
- Cynthia Donovan
- Marcus Imes
- Linda Darnton

A written correspondence submitted by Brian Hodge, was included in each commissioner's packet for their review. Brian stated there are parking problems at the Little Glen Lake Public Access. Brian states there is room for 2 more rows of parking to be added, and that during the summer months, boaters are parking one half mile down Day Forest Road.

Kenneth C. Ryno, Adaptive Product Specialist and accessibility advocate, sent information regarding products to establish accessible kayak launches.

**Appearances:** Kayak Kenneth, introduced himself as a local volunteer and paddle sport enthusiast, who assists in working with youth, seniors, and the blind. Kayak Kenneth stated he has multiple kayaks, in which he uses with different groups and organizations to educate on water safety and to help keep the waterways clean by picking up trash while on paddling excursions.



## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Chair Dennis Nickels asked for a motion for approval of the minutes from the December 8, 2017 Michigan State Waterways Commission meeting. The motion was put into place by Commissioner Steve Arwood and was seconded by Commissioner Denny Grinold. Motion carried unanimously, 6-0.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

**MOTION:** Chair Dennis Nickels asked for a motion for approval of information supporting resolution number 02-2018-01, titled, To Propose The Michigan Boating Access, Public Safety, Economic Development Improvement Act of 2018. The motion was put into place by Commissioner Steve Arwood and was seconded by Vice-Chair Ward Walstrom. Motion carried unanimously, 6-0.

**MOTION:** Chair Dennis Nickels asked for a motion for approval of variance requests from the communities of Munising and Mackinaw City. The City of Munising, Bayshore Marina, had a commercial use request for a parasailing vessel, and would also like to increase seasonal slip allotment. Mackinaw City had a commercial use request for a charter fishing vessel. The motion was put into place by Commissioner Steve Arwood and was seconded by Commissioner Denny Grinold. Motion carried unanimously, 6-0.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **FINANCE UPDATE**

**Steve Arwood** stated the Finance Subcommittee met in late January in which great information was provided by **Jackie Blodgett**, catching newer committee members up to speed. Financial trends, standings, and future revenue sources were also discussed, as well as ways to help make more informed decisions.

### **MARKETING UPDATE**

The Marketing update was provided during the Work Session portion of the meeting. Please see page 2.

### **WAYS AND MEANS UPDATE**

The Ways and Means update was provided during the Work Session portion of the meeting. Please see page 2.



## **FACILITIES UPDATE**

**Steve Arwood** provided an update on what the Facilities Subcommittee discussed at their recent meeting: review of the breakdown of funding of grant ratios – go back to 50/50 rather than the current 75/25. Life cycles of facilities, dock variances, and canoe/kayak launch systems.

## **OPERATIONS UPDATE**

**Linnae Dawson** updated the committee that the slip-specific program was adding additional locations for the 2018 season. Locations include: Lexington, Beaver Island and Fayette.

## **INFORMATIONAL BUSINESS**

### **FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Supporting documents can be found in the Michigan State Waterways Commission meeting packet. Specific items covered by **Jackie Blodgett** detailed the Waterways Fund revenues and expenditures and comparisons between Fiscal Year 2017 Actual and Fiscal Year 2018 Projected amounts.

### **GENERAL UPDATES**

**Ron Olson** indicated the legislative process has begun for the Fiscal Year 2019 budget process. Ron also announced the newly appointed position of Parks and Recreation Assistant Chief has been filled by Jackie Blodgett, former Parks and Recreation Section Chief of Administrative Services.

### **PROJECT UPDATES**

**Jordan Byelich** provided project updates on the following State Projects: East Tawas – undergoing second phase of major renovation, and is currently under contract for the demolition of existing fixed and floating docks, to be completed April 1, 2018. Second contract involves 70 slips (seasonal) to be constructed. This phase should wrap by May 1, 2018. All construction is expected to be completed and open for Memorial weekend. Phase 3 – Remaining items of demo, dock expansion and improvements to the toilet shower building to take place as well.

**Paul Petersen** provided project updates on the following Grant-in-Aid Projects: Actual work is happening at Kawkawlin – river dredge, and will begin in April at Onekama's Portage Lake, with a projected finish date to be November, 2018. Projects in the design phase include Boyne City, Frankfort, Clark Township (Cedarville).



## **GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL REPORT**

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

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

**The next Michigan State Waterways Commission Meeting: Lansing, April 25, 2018**

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