



MICHIGAN STATE WATERWAYS COMMISSION

August 30, 2018
Ontonagon, Michigan

PRESENT FOR THE WATERWAYS COMMISSION

Commissioner, Chair, Dennis Nickels
Commissioner, Vice-Chair, Ward Walstrom
Commissioner, Steve Arwood
Commissioner, Mary Rising
Commissioner, James Hansen
Commissioner, Nicki Polan, via phone

OTHERS PRESENT

Ron Olson, DNR, via phone
Vicki McGhee, DNR
Linnae Dawson, DNR
Michael Desnoyer, DNR
Maia Turek, DNR
Paul Petersen, DNR
Jordan Byelich, DNR, via phone
Michelle Wieber, DNR, Recorder

GUEST SPEAKER

Dan Dowdy, Baraga State Park Supervisor
Doug Rich, Western U.P. District Manager
Michael Morrison, Statewide Water Trails Coordinator

NOT PRESENT

Commissioner, Denny Grinold



MINUTES
MICHIGAN STATE WATERWAYS COMMISSION

OPENING COMMENTS

Chair Dennis Nickels, called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m., August 30, 2018. Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC APPEARANCE

Written Correspondence: A written correspondence was submitted by Tom Lopiccolo, regarding a proposed boat launch at Belle Isle Park.

A written correspondence was submitted by Patrick O'Brien, regarding his positive experiences while staying at Harrisville, Mackinac Island and Mackinaw City harbors.

All correspondence was included in each commissioners meeting packet for their information.

Appearances: Tina Dale, Bergland Planning Commission Chair, mentioned the Bergland Boating Access Site (BAS) was the focus of clean up, day mooring, accessibility, and safety. Following Ms. Dale's comments, it was recommended that Ms. Dale contact the Upper Peninsula's Michigan Natural Resource Trust Fund for assistance.

Jim Bradley, resident of Ontonagon and member of the Michigan State Parks Advisory Committee, approached the Commission, seeking information on the water trail system. Mr. Bradley was pleased to hear that water trail systems was a topic on the agenda.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Chair Dennis Nickels asked for a motion for approval of the minutes from the June 8, 2018 Michigan State Waterways Commission meeting. The motion was put into place by Commissioner Jim Hansen and was seconded by Vice-Chair, Ward Walstrom. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

ACTION ITEMS

MOTION: Chair Dennis Nickels asked for a motion for approval of information supporting resolution number 08-2018-07, titled, FY2019 Waterways Capital Outlay Funding Plan. The motion was put into place by Chair Dennis Nickels and seconded by Commissioner Jim Hansen. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0. Of the mentioned projects, the Commissioners recommended postponing the Oman's Creek project of constructing a groin to achieve dredging efficiencies



and to protect State of Michigan and adjacent properties from lake erosion. The commission voted unanimously, 5-0.

MOTION: Chair Dennis Nickels asked for a motion for approval of allowing the city of Tawas City to proceed with a boating infrastructure grant program (BIGP) application proposal to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), resolution number 08-2018-08. The motion was put into place by Commissioner Steve Arwood and seconded by Vice-Chair Ward Walstrom. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FACILITIES UPDATE

Vicki McGhee, of the Facilities subcommittee discussed the Waterways Program Assessment. A draft outline was distributed for Commission review. The effort will consist of numerous studies, reports, and collaboration with various stakeholders. The assessment will evaluate the program in relation to facility infrastructure, boater trends, as well as other boating related initiatives. Supporting documents were included in each commissioner's meeting packet.

FINANCE UPDATE

The Finance update was provided during the Financial Update portion of the meeting, rather than during the Committee Updates. Supporting documents were included in each of the commissioner's meeting packet.

MARKETING UPDATE

Maia Turek provided an update on the Michigan State Park Centennial, which will be celebrated throughout 2019. The campaign's mission is to create a unified voice across all DNR programs to tell our story of relevance to past, current and future generations, while creating engagement opportunities through visitation, volunteerism and investment.

OPERATIONS UPDATE

No updates to provide at this time.

WAYS AND MEANS UPDATE

No updates to provide at this time.



INFORMATIONAL BUSINESS

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Michael Desnoyer recapped the financial report, in which the supporting documents can be found in the Michigan State Waterways Commission meeting packet.

GENERAL UPDATES

Western Upper Peninsula District Manager, **Doug Rich** and Unit Supervisor, **Dan Dowdy** presented on Major Maintenance and Construction Crew projects. With the major storm that hit the Keweenaw Peninsula in June, the focus has been rebuilding and reconstructing countless damaged areas that include Boating Access Sites (BAS), trails, and erosion issues. Lily Pond BAS, Boston Pond BAS and Boot Jack BAS have all recently re-opened after suffering heavy damage.

Michael Morrison, State Water Trails Coordinator, provided information on the State Water Trails Program. Some goals of the program include: To create a sustainable system of water trails that are geographically dispersed, locally supported, and offer a diversity of experiences. To provide sound and consistent information to help users make safe recreational choices and to provide a level of user expectation for the water trail experience. Lastly, to encourage healthy lifestyles through physical activity and increased public access to the outdoors. Michael also discussed the program components. Some components include: safety, stewardship, historic and cultural interpretation, and technical process.

PROJECT UPDATES

No updates to provide at this time.

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 12:28 p.m.

The next Michigan State Waterways Commission Meeting: Mount Clemens, October 5, 2018