



## **MICHIGAN STATE WATERWAYS COMMISSION**

October 5, 2018

Mount Clemens, Michigan

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

Commissioner, Chair, Dennis Nickels  
Commissioner, Steve Arwood  
Commissioner, Mary Rising  
Commissioner, James Hansen  
Commissioner, Nicki Polan

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

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

### **NOT PRESENT**

Maia Turek, DNR  
Jackie Blodgett, DNR



MINUTES  
MICHIGAN STATE WATERWAYS COMMISSION

**OPENING COMMENTS**

Chair Dennis Nickels, called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m., October 5, 2018. Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC APPEARANCE**

**Written Correspondence:** A written correspondence was submitted by Wendy Dixon, regarding the water levels at Mullet Lake. The DNR responded to Ms. Dixon, explaining there was an engineering/design study for the Cheboygan lock that has been funded. Dredging took place mid-late September at the mouth of the Cheboygan River, which is anticipated to better manage water level draw down and assist with raising levels to the summer target elevation.

A written correspondence was submitted by Amy Trotter, Deputy Director for Michigan United Conservation Clubs (MUCC). MUCC is the largest statewide conservation organization in the nation. Their mission is to unite citizens to conserve, protect and enhance Michigan's natural resources and outdoor heritage. Ms. Trotter went on to thank the Michigan State Waterways Commission for the services provided to our waterways. Ms. Trotter also included recent resolutions that MUCC had passed. Resolution #19, titled, Establish Designated Water Trails Program, and Resolution #21, titled, Work with the DNR to Expand Public Access to the Detroit River and Lake St. Clair by Constructing a Public Boating Access Site on Belle Isle.

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

**Appearances:** Jerry Comfort, member of the Lake St. Clair Walley Club, approached the Commission, expressing his desire to have better access to boat launches near Detroit.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Chair Dennis Nickels asked for a motion for approval of the minutes from the August 30, 2018 Michigan State Waterways Commission meeting. The motion was put into place by Commissioner Steve Arwood and was seconded by Commissioner, Nikki Polan. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.



## **ACTION ITEMS**

**MOTION:** Commissioner, Jim Hansen spoke of the issues at Oman’s Creek, located along the western shores of Lake Superior. This area is heavily battered by storms. At the August 30, 2018 meeting, the site was toured, and was recognized as a project for FY19 funding.

At the August meeting, the Commission motioned to have this project put on hold pending further review. After further consideration and discussion, the Commission voted in favor of funding the groin to achieve dredging efficiencies, and to protect State of Michigan and adjacent properties from lake erosion at Oman’s Creek, and recommended it be reinserted on the FY19 project list. The motion was put into place by Commissioner Jim Hansen, and seconded by Commissioner, Steve Arwood. The commission voted unanimously, 5-0.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **FACILITIES UPDATE**

A discussion was continued regarding the Waterways Program Assessment. 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. There are plans to continue discussion at the next Michigan State Waterways meeting.

### **FINANCE UPDATE**

Year-end financial details are expected to be presented at the December meeting. Standard financial supporting documents were included in each of the commissioner’s meeting packet.

### **MARKETING UPDATE**

No updates provided at this time.

### **OPERATIONS UPDATE**

No updates provided at this time.

### **WAYS AND MEANS UPDATE**

No updates provided at this time.



## **INFORMATIONAL BUSINESS**

### **GENERAL UPDATES**

**Linnae Dawson** announced that starting in 2019, Straits State Harbor will be offering 15 seasonal boating slips. Currently, the harbor is transient only.

### **PROJECT UPDATES**

No updates provided 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 12:14 p.m.

**The next Michigan State Waterways Commission Meeting: Lansing, December 7, 2018**