



MICHIGAN STATE WATERWAYS COMMISSION

October 6, 2017

Mackinaw City, Michigan

PRESENT FOR THE WATERWAYS COMMISSION

Commissioner, Chair, Gary Marowske
Commissioner, Vice Chair, Alex Declercq
Commissioner, James Hansen
Commissioner, Ward Walstrom
Commissioner, Dennis Grinold
Commissioner, Nikki Polan
Commissioner, Dennis Nickels

OTHERS PRESENT

Ron Olson, DNR
Vicki McGhee, DNR
Jackie Blodgett, DNR
Jordan Byelich, DNR
Linnae Dawson, DNR
Anna Sylvester, DNR
Michelle Wieber, DNR, Recorder

GUEST SPEAKERS

Keith Cheli, DNR

NOT PRESENT

Maia Turek, DNR
Paul Petersen, DNR



MINUTES
MICHIGAN STATE WATERWAYS COMMISSION

OPENING COMMENTS

Chair Gary Marowske called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m., October 6, 2017. Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC APPEARANCE

Written Correspondence: There was no written correspondence.

Appearances: Mr. Robert Heilman, President of the Village of Mackinaw City, greeted and welcomed the Michigan State Waterways Commission to Mackinaw City and thanked the Commission for coming to town.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Chair Gary Marowske asked for a motion for approval of the minutes from the August 25, 2017 Michigan State Waterways Commission meeting. The motion was put into place by Commissioner James Hansen and was seconded by Commissioner Nicki Polan. Motion carried unanimously, 7-0.

ACTION ITEMS

MOTION: Commissioner Nicki Polan asked for a motion for approval in support of a variance request from the City of New Buffalo. The City has requested to use a portion of their boat launch as overflow parking for the beach parking lot directly across the street. Of the 33 spaces requested, 20 would be approved. The motion was put into place by Commissioner Nicki Polan and was seconded by Commissioner Ward Walstrom. Motion carried unanimously, 7-0. ****see edit in the December Minutes****

MOTION: A special resolution of recognition for Chairman Gary Marowske and Co-Chairman Alex Declercq for serving on the Michigan State Waterways Commission was motioned by Commissioner Denny Grinold, and was seconded by Commissioner Ward Walstrom. Both Gary and Al served on the Michigan State Waterways Commission for 8 years. This was their last meeting to serve on. Motion carried unanimously, 7-0.



MOTION: Commissioner Alex Declercq motioned to nominate Commissioner Dennis Nickels to assume the position of Chairman, and Ward Walstrom to assume the position of Co-Chairman. Commissioner Nicki Polan seconded this motion. Motion carried unanimously, 7-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE UPDATE

Commissioner Alex Declercq commented on how financials were strong and on track; a great improvement over the past few years. Documents to support this update were included in each commissioner's packet for their review.

MARKETING UPDATE

Commissioner Ward Walstrom mentioned the Marketing Subcommittee is emphasizing getting out on the water, especially getting millennials involved. Ward also said that the Women on the Water campaign went well, as did the coverage through WJR. Marketing also put out a boater survey, those results will be available at the December meeting.

WAYS AND MEANS UPDATE

No updates to provide at this time.

FACILITIES UPDATE

Commissioner Nicki Polan informed the Commission that there will be a decision made by December as to what the bottom land lease rates will be.

OPERATIONS UPDATE

Commissioner Nicki Polan gave recognition to Mackinac Island State Harbor, Straits State Harbor and Mackinaw City Municipal Marina for being classified as Certified Clean Marina's. **Linnae Dawson** provided an update on the 2017 Waterways Boater Survey. Preliminary numbers show the quality of the harbor is most important to boaters, followed by the boaters enjoyed a previous visit, shopping/restaurants, and lastly the proximity of the marina to home. A presentation of the final results will be presented at the December meeting.

Anna Sylvester discussed issues regarding Cheboygan Inland Waterway, Mullet Lake target level and the desire to acquire or use the DNR property along the Cheboygan River adjacent to the County Marina in the City of Cheboygan by the Cheboygan Yacht Club. Supporting documents were passed during the meeting.



INFORMATIONAL BUSINESS

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Supporting documents can be found in the Michigan State Waterways Commission meeting packet.

GENERAL UPDATES

Ron Olson mentioned that the DNR has met with officials regarding the Torch Lake property, which was then followed by a public meeting. A feasibility study has been done and a consultant has been hired. Possible carry down site, but it appears township zoning will be an issue.

Keith Cheli, DNR Field Planner for the Mackinac Region, updated the Commissioners on the recent, current, and future major maintenance and construction projects. Sites that were discussed are:

- Jewell Road BAS concrete ramp
- Aloha State Park BAS park redevelopment
- Burt Lake BAS
- Black River marina (proposed BAS)
- Torch Lake West BAS, Inland Waterway
- Chestonia Bridge BAS (Jordan River)
- Cheboygan Lock & Dam
- Mackinac Island State Harbor comfort station replacement
- De Tour State Harbor BAS break wall repair
- Lime Island State Harbor mainland acquisition, redesign and development
- County Line BAS
- Whitefish Point State Harbor – market and development, survey dredge needs
- Culhane Lake BAS – concrete ramp update

Meeting locations for 2018 are still being decided, will finalize at the December meeting.

PROJECT UPDATES

Jordan Byelich provided project updates on Nhama BAS ramp replacement, White Lake, and West Torch Lake.



In Paul Petersen's absence, Jordan Byelich provided project updates on the following GIA sites: Bayshore Marina expansion (Alger County), Onekama-Portage Lake Navigational Channel revetment wall repairs (Manistee County), Ontonagon Marina dredging (Ontonagon County), and lastly, Long Lake Township – Crescent Shores Road BAS project (Grand Traverse County).

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.

OTHER

No updates to provide at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:52 a.m.

The next Michigan State Waterways Commission Meeting: Lansing, December 8, 2017.