



MICHIGAN STATE WATERWAYS COMMISSION

December 8, 2017
Lansing, Michigan

PRESENT FOR THE WATERWAYS COMMISSION

Commissioner, Chair, Dennis Nickels
Commissioner, Vice-Chair, Ward Walstrom
Commissioner, Dennis Grinold
Commissioner, Nikki Polan
Commissioner, Steve Arwood
Commissioner, James Hansen
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
Scott Pratt, DNR

GUEST SPEAKERS

Shane Morse, DNR
Jim O'Brien, DNR

NOT PRESENT

Anna Sylvester, DNR



MINUTES
MICHIGAN STATE WATERWAYS COMMISSION

OPENING COMMENTS

Chair Dennis Nickels called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m., December 8, 2017. Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC APPEARANCE

Written Correspondence: A written correspondence submitted by Robert Herrmann, was included in each commissioners packet for their review. Robert stated his concerns regarding the level of customer service he experienced at multiple marinas throughout the summer of 2017. Recreational Harbor Coordinator, Linnae Dawson has responded to Mr. Herrmann.

DNR Director, Keith Creagh, sent a written letter welcoming new Michigan State Waterways Commissioner, Steve Arwood.

Governor Snyder sent a written letter verifying new Michigan State Waterways Commissioner, Mary Rising's appointment.

Appearances: Jim Sarna, Livingston County resident, commented to the Commission that the facilities at the Traverse City marina have improved. Mr. Sarna also indicated his concern for financial support for temporarily decreasing the water level at Woodland Lake.

Jon Allan, Office of the Great Lakes, introduced himself to the Commission. Office of the Great Lakes recently moved from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and leads efforts to protect, restore and sustain our state's water resources.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Chair Dennis Nickels asked for a motion for approval of the minutes from the October 6, 2017 Michigan State Waterways Commission meeting. Commissioner Nicki Polan requested the following edit to be incorporated into the October 6 meeting minutes: Motion for approval in support of a variance request from the city of New Buffalo with certain provisions assuring boater access would not be compromised. 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 with the following provisions: Weekdays only (no holidays); Assure all parking fees for cars in this area are the same fees paid by boaters for this



area, and are returned to BAS (separation of funds); Provide annual report on which days the overflow parking was used and showing vacancies in the BAS parking during these same days; and No restriping of the area. The motion was put into place by Commissioner Nicki Polan and was seconded by Commissioner Ward Walstrom. Motion carried unanimously, 7-0. The motion for the edited version of the October 6, 2017 meeting minutes was put into place by Commissioner Jim Hansen and seconded by Commissioner Denny Grinold. Motion carried unanimously, 7-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE UPDATE

No updates were provided.

MARKETING UPDATE

Commissioner, Ward Walstrom, provided a summary of activity for 2017. Items included, a WJR broadcast reaching boaters from Detroit to Bay Harbor, open houses and demos during June Boating Week. Newsletters made their way to 40,000 boaters, and a statewide harbormasters meeting was held in the fall.

WAYS AND MEANS UPDATE

Chair, Dennis Nickels discussed information for the upcoming webinar that will involve the paddlesports community. Topics included registration and the water trails initiative.

FACILITIES UPDATE

Commissioner, Jim Hansen had no current updates to provide. He mentioned the following priorities for the upcoming year: approval/disapproval of projects, education, product awareness, and pier construction.

OPERATIONS UPDATE

Commissioner, Nicki Polan gave a brief update which included no current variance requests, a working document for 2018, and reinforced goals of the Operations Subcommittee.



INFORMATIONAL BUSINESS

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Jackie Blodgett summarized financial reports, and discussed funding for 2018. Documents to support this update were included in each commissioner's packet for their review.

GENERAL UPDATES

Linnae Dawson touched on some highlights from the Harbormaster meeting, some topics covered were, the Central Reservation System, Electric Shock Drowning, Michigan Sea Grant – Sustainable Small Harbor Projects, Waterways Grants and Clean Marinas.

Linnae Dawson indicated that both reservations and slip nights are up over this time last year, 8.6% and 18%, respectively.

Commissioner, Nicki Polan provided a 2017 recap from the Michigan Boaters Industries Association (MBIA). The annual meeting was recently held with a good turnout, approximately 190 attendees. MBIA experienced the 8th consecutive year of growth, projecting growth into the next 1.5-2 years. Guest speakers included the Department of Natural Resources Director, Keith Creagh and Michigan State University Athletic Director, Mark Hollis. DNR's **Jordan Byelich** and Mike Evanoff provided an informational presentation on Electric Shock Drowning.

PROJECT UPDATES

Jordan Byelich provided project updates on the following state projects:

- Chestonia Bridge Boating Access Site (BAS) (Antrim County) – Site relocation/development, small craft launch, boardwalk/slide, parking lot, and bridge
- White Lake BAS (Oakland County) – Parking lot redevelopment and expansion and launch ramp expansion.
- Nhama BAS (Delta County) – Launch ramp replacement.
- Torch Lake West BAS (Antrim County) – Lake access inventory/analysis and DNR land inventory/analysis.

Some of the 41 active BAS projects of 2017 include: Otsego Lake State Park, Chippewa Lake, Tippy Dam, Ford River Mouth, Smallwood Lake, Ironton, Clinton River Cutoff, and Dowagiac River.

Some of the combined 16 active Harbor and other projects of 2017 include: Copper Harbor, Presque Isle, Lime Island, East Tawas, Cedar River, Cheboygan Lock and Dam, Escanaba Field Office, and South Fox Island.



Paul Petersen provided project updates on the following Grant-in-Aid projects:

- Munising Bayshore Marina (Alger County) – L-dock extension, floating piers, landside revetment wall, and sidewalk.
- Harrisville Harbor (Alcona County) – North and south dock replacement.
- L'Anse Municipal Marina (Baraga County) – Toilet /shower building, dock electric and lighting, and sidewalks.
- Grand Traverse Bay Harbor (Houghton County) – Dredging (stamp sands).
- Grand River Waterways Study (Kent & Ottawa Counties) – Dredging analysis.

There have been 7 completed Grant-In-Aid projects for 2017, a few include: Ontonagon Village Marina dredging, Elk Rapids Edward C. Grace Memorial Harbor electrical infrastructure improvements, and South Haven South Side Marina Harbormaster Building roof replacement.

Regional Major Maintenance & Construction Crew Update, presented by Rose Lake District members, **Jim O'Brien** and **Shane Morse**. Shane summarized the duties and types of projects the Jackson Field Office takes care of throughout the District. Of the 100+ BAS's, the Field Office maintains 42 of them. They also assist with 89 piers and 135 vault toilets. Being equipped with VTS trucks and multiple pieces of heavy equipment make the tasks more efficient. Rehabilitation, repair, entrance booth, and toilet construction are just a few things they will be working on in 2018.

OTHER

Dates were set for the 2018 meeting locations:

- February 23, 2017 – Lansing
- April 25, 2017 – Lansing
- June 7/8, 2017 – Bay City
- August 29/30, 2017 – Ontonagon
- October 4/5, 2017 – Mount Clemens
- December 7, 2017 – Lansing

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 4:45 p.m.

The next Michigan State Waterways Commission Meeting: Lansing, February 23, 2017.