



MICHIGAN STATE WATERWAYS COMMISSION

December 7, 2018

Lansing, Michigan

PRESENT FOR THE WATERWAYS COMMISSION

Commissioner, Chair, Dennis Nickels
Commissioner, Vice-Chair, James Hansen
Commissioner, Secretary, Mary Rising
Commissioner, Steve Arwood
Commissioner, Nicki Polan
Commissioner, Pete Beauregard
Commissioner, Barb Brooks

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

SPECIAL GUESTS

Ward Walstrom
Denny Grinold



MINUTES
MICHIGAN STATE WATERWAYS COMMISSION

OPENING COMMENTS

Chair Dennis Nickels, called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m., December 7, 2018. Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC APPEARANCE

Written Correspondence: A written correspondence was submitted by Governor Rick Snyder. Governor Snyder announced and welcomed newly appointed Michigan State Waterways Commission Commissioners, Pete Beauregard and Barb Brooks. Mr. Beauregard replaces former Commissioner Denny Grinold, and Ms. Brooks replaces former Commissioner Ward Walstrom. The Governor also renewed Chair, Dennis Nickels' term for another three years.

A written correspondence was submitted by Kenneth Orr. Mr. Orr went on to discuss what he sees as a need for dinghy docks in Grand Haven's Municipal Marina. Mr. Orr mentioned the location of where boaters can currently dock a dinghy is insufficient. The wave action is high, and there is just one cleat, which is on the opposite side of the dock. Mr. Orr is in support of a new dingy-only dock. Mr. Orr also submitted pictures of the situation, which were included in the meeting packet for all Commissioners to review. Statewide Harbor Coordinator, Linnae Dawson, will prepare a response to Mr. Orr's letter.

A written correspondence was submitted by Pete DeBoer. Mr. DeBoer was interested in finding information on new water access points. Mr. DeBoer was given the correct contact information regarding his inquiry.

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

Appearances: Andrew Peters, Harbormaster, West Basin Marina in St. Joseph, stated he was attending the meeting, to check it out, as he's never attended a Michigan State Waterways Commission meeting before.

Jim Sroka of Port Sanilac attended our meeting, as he has in the past. Mr. Sroka stated he was interested in an update on resolution no. 04-2018-06, titled, Resolution to Support Development of a Plan to Address Current and Future Public Waterway Infrastructure and Program Needs.



APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Chair Dennis Nickels asked for a motion for approval of the minutes from the October 5, 2018 Michigan State Waterways Commission meeting. The motion was put into place by Commissioner Steve Arwood and was seconded by Commissioner, Jim Hansen. Motion carried unanimously, 7-0.

ACTION ITEMS

MOTION: A special resolution of recognition for Commissioner Ward Walstrom for serving on the Michigan State Waterways Commission, was motioned by Commissioner Steve Arwood, and was seconded by Commissioner Jim Hansen. Ward served the Commission for 2 terms, totaling 6 years. Motion carried unanimously, 7-0.

MOTION: A special resolution of recognition for Commissioner Denny Grinold for serving on the Michigan State Waterways Commission, was motioned by Commissioner Jim Hansen, and was seconded by Commissioner Steve Arwood. Denny served the Commission for 2 terms, totaling 6 years. Motion carried unanimously, 7-0.

MOTION: Each December, officer elections take place. Current Chair, Dennis Nickels was nominated to remain Chair of the Michigan State Waterways Commission. This motion was put into place by Commissioner Nicki Polan and was seconded by Commissioner Jim Hansen. Motion carried unanimously 7-0.

MOTION: Commissioner Jim Hansen, was nominated to assume the Vice-Chair position of the Michigan State Waterways Commission. The motion was put into place by Commissioner Nicki Polan and was seconded by Commissioner Steve Arwood. Motion carried unanimously, 7-0.

MOTION: Commissioner Mary Rising, was nominated to assume the Secretary position of the Michigan State Waterways Commission. The motion was put into place Commissioner, Nicki Polan and was seconded by Commissioner Steve Arwood. Motion carried unanimously, 7-0.

MOTION: The Michigan State Waterways Commission Subcommittee assignments were reviewed. Chair, Dennis Nickels, assigned the positions to the members, and each member agreed to keep the Subcommittee assignments as is. Motion was put into place by Commissioner Jim Hansen and was seconded by Commissioner Steve Arwood. Motion carried unanimously, 7-0.



MOTION: The Michigan State Waterways Commission meeting schedule for 2019 was approved, for the dates submitted. The locations published are subject to change. Motion put into place by Commissioner Steve Arwood, and seconded by Commissioner, Pete Beauregard. Motion carried unanimously, 7-0.

GENERAL UPDATES

Ron Olson mentioned in a quick update that the DNR is partnering with Tower Marine of Douglas, MI, to become a public harbor. Tower Marine is currently a private marina.

FINANCIAL UPDATES

Michael Desnoyer provided a summary of updates from the information provided in the meeting packet, which was provided to all Commissioners for their information. Areas specifically covered included, Waterways Fund revenue and expenditures, appropriated funds, and federal funds.

OPERATIONS UPDATES

Linnae Dawson updated the Commission on the status of the Retriever, a vessel used by the Boy Scouts. The Retriever will be docked at Straits State Harbor. Straits State Harbor is also listed to be a port for hosting a luxury cruise ship. Transient and seasonal slip rates for the 2019 season have been posted, the rates will remain the same as they were in 2018.

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 3:01 p.m.

The next Michigan State Waterways Commission Meeting: Lansing, February 8, 2019