



MICHIGAN STATE WATERWAYS COMMISSION

April 30, 2019
Lansing, Michigan

PRESENT FOR THE WATERWAYS COMMISSION

Commissioner, Chair, Dennis Nickels
Commissioner, Secretary, Mary Rising
Commissioner, Steve Arwood
Commissioner, Barb Brooks
Commissioner, Pete Beauregard
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

Commissioner, Vice-Chair, James Hansen
Jackie Blodgett, DNR
Maia Turek, DNR

SPECIAL GUESTS

Joanne Foreman, DNR
Bill Boik, Consultant



MINUTES
MICHIGAN STATE WATERWAYS COMMISSION

OPENING COMMENTS

Chair Dennis Nickels, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m., April 30, 2019. Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Written correspondence: George Kemp Marina of Sault Ste. Marie submitted a letter to the Michigan State Waterways Commission, requesting a variance to add 5 additional seasonal slips. The request was approved.

There were no public appearances or comments.

Non-agenda items: Commissioner, Barb Brooks initiated conversation towards the vacancy at the Portage restaurant located at Presque Isle State Harbor. The Portage is leased from the DNR to a concessionaire and is a critical component to the harbors' business. It was announced on May 1, 2019 that the current concessionaire was the sole bidder for this contract.

ACTION ITEMS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Chair Dennis Nickels asked for a motion for approval of the minutes from the February 8, 2019 Michigan State Waterways Commission meeting. The motion was put into place by Commissioner Steve Arwood and was seconded by Commissioner Mary Rising. Motion carried unanimously, 6-0.

MOTION: Chair Dennis Nickels asked for a motion for approval in support of resolution number 04-2019-01, Resolution to Approve the Grant Awards for Waterways Funding. The motion was put into place by Commissioner Barb Brooks and was seconded by Commissioner Steve Arwood. Motion carried unanimously, 6-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FACILITIES

Paul Petersen discussed the list of communities who applied for Grant-in-Aid funding for various improvements. A total of 22 applications were submitted by the April 1, 2019 deadline.



FINANCE

The Finance Subcommittee met on April 19, 2019. **Michael Desnoyer** mentioned that reservation numbers are strong at 50%, as of the end of March.

FINANCIAL UPDATES

Michael Desnoyer provided a summary of updates based on the information provided in the meeting packet, which was provided to all Commissioners for their information. The update included an explanation of funding sources, revenue, and expenditures.

OPERATIONS UPDATES

Linnae Dawson provided the only update to the Commission, one variance request came through from George Kemp Marina. The marina requested to increase their seasonal slip allotment by 5 slips. The Operations Subcommittee supported the request.

GUEST SPEAKER

Special guest, **Joanne Foreman**, Invasive Species Program Communications Coordinator, Department of Natural Resources, addressed the Commission with information regarding Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). Through the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program (MISGP), the goals are: Prevent new introductions of invasive species through outreach and education, monitor for new invasive species as well as expansions of current invasive species, respond and conduct eradication efforts to new findings and range expansions, and lastly, manage and control species in a strategic manner. MISGP has awarded nearly \$1 million to treat phragmites on Michigan's coastlines and inland areas.

Special guest, **Bill Boik**, Consultant, spoke to the Commission regarding the Michigan Port Collaborative. Bill provided the Commissioners with the Economic and Fiscal Impacts of Michigan's Ports and Harbors, 2017. In summary, the study builds and analyzes comprehensive economic impact models of Michigan's ports, and harbors. These comprehensive models include traditional maritime measures, but also estimate other economic engines in the ports and harbors, most notably, the impacts associated with water-based tourism and recreation.

PROJECT REPORT

The Michigan State Waterways Development Program Project Report was included in each commissioner's meeting packet for their information.



GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL REPORT

The U.S. 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 11:42 a.m.

The next Michigan State Waterways Commission Meeting: June 19, 2019