



MICHIGAN STATE WATERWAYS COMMISSION

August 25, 2017
Lexington, Michigan

PRESENT FOR THE WATERWAYS COMMISSION

Commissioner, Chair, Gary Marowske
Commissioner, Dennis Grinold
Commissioner, Nikki Polan
Commissioner, Dennis Nickels

OTHERS PRESENT

Ron Olson, DNR
Jackie Blodgett, DNR
Jordan Byelich, DNR
Paul Petersen, DNR
Linnae Dawson, DNR
Maia Turek, DNR
Michelle Wieber, DNR, Recorder

GUEST SPEAKERS

Mike Terrell, DNR

NOT PRESENT

Commissioner, James Hansen
Commissioner, Ward Walstrom
Commissioner, Vice Chair, Alex Declercq
Vicki McGhee, DNR
Anna Sylvester, DNR
Scott Pratt, DNR



MINUTES
MICHIGAN STATE WATERWAYS COMMISSION

OPENING COMMENTS

Chair Gary Marowske called the meeting to order at 9:42 a.m., August 25, 2017. Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC APPEARANCE

Written Correspondence: A written correspondence submitted by Steve Elles, was included in each commissioner's packet for their review. Steve stated his concerns regarding the new marina that is looking for additional docking slips on Gun Lake.

Appearances: G. Michael Walsh, resident of Lexington, Michigan. Mr. Walsh spoke about the registration of kayaks, canoes, and pontoon boats, asking if this would be another fee, tax and cost to the public. Currently there is not a registration process for non-motorized craft, with the exception of rental opportunities.

Jeff Phillips, legislative aide to Representative Shane Hernandez, thanked the commission for supporting efforts at Lexington State Harbor.

Jim Sroka, resident of Port Sanilac, Michigan, requested that the Michigan State Waterways Commission look at design options for ramp docks throughout the state. Specifically float docks, and adding an extension to existing.

Ron Cuther, resident of Lexington, Michigan, and representing Model T Charters. Mr. Cuther requested that during the parking lot update that the restrooms and fish cleaning station be updated and the restrooms be relocated.

Judy Ogden, board member of Blue Water Sport Fishing of Port Huron, voiced her concern for ramp extensions and electrical upgrades. Judy mentioned they should be state of the art, and they are not.

Gerald T. Wroblewski, Chairman of Caseville Harbor, spoke to the commissioners regarding issues at Caseville Marina. Mr. Wroblewski stated that this marina is too small, too crowded, as it only has 1 pump-out, and a 2 lane launch.

Douglas North, resident of Jackson, Michigan. Mr. North is kindly offering to donate a wolverine statue to each of Michigan's 19 State Harbors. The statue would be in honor of the late President Gerald Ford.



State Senator, Phil Pavlov, 25th District. Senator Pavlov spoke to the commission seeking a resolution in support to oppose the nuclear waste burial, which would be in close proximity to the shores of Lake Huron in Kincardine, Ontario, Canada.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Chair Gary Marowske asked for a motion for approval of the minutes from the June 9, 2017 Michigan State Waterways Commission meeting. The motion was put into place by Commissioner Dennis Nickels and was seconded by Commissioner Nicki Polan. Motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

ACTION ITEMS

MOTION: Chair Gary Marowske asked for a motion for approval of information supporting a resolution regarding FY2018 State Waterways Capital Project Plan. The motion was put into place by Commissioner Denny Grinold and was seconded by Commissioner Nicki Polan. Motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCE UPDATE

Documents to support this update were included in each commissioner's packet for their review.

MARKETING UPDATE

Maia Turek provided an update on the boating survey which ran from June 13, 2017- August 10, 2017 and produced over 3,600 responses.

WAYS AND MEANS UPDATE

Dennis Nickels discussed the non-motorized watercraft registration possibilities, as he has in the past meetings. Dennis sought a motion in support, and **Dennis Grinold** seconded the motion.

FACILITIES UPDATE

Jordan Byelich reviewed some projects that are a part of the FY2018 State Waterways Capital Project Plan. Some locations that projects will take place are, Union Lake, Lexington State Harbor, East Tawas State Harbor, and Eagle Harbor State Harbor.



OPERATIONS UPDATE

There are no updates from the Operations Subcommittee to provide at this time.

INFORMATIONAL BUSINESS

FINANCIAL UPDATE

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

GENERAL UPDATES

Ron Olson updated the commission on the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP), concentrating on the waterways. For example, members of the SCORP have a focus on the need to protect wetlands in order to maintain quality of Michigan's water resources, as well as other wildlife, flood control and environmental benefits.

Linnae Dawson indicated that both reservations and slip nights are up over this time last year.

Mike Terrell, Metro District Supervisor, updated the commission of major maintenance and construction projects that are happening in his district. Some of these projects include, vault toilets, skid piers, parking lot rebuilds, road rebuilds, and continuous debris removal at the Clinton River cut-off BAS.

PROJECT UPDATES

Jordan Byelich provided project updates on the following State Projects: Chestonia Bridge BAS (Antrim County), undergoing site relocation and development, small craft launch, boardwalk, parking lot and bridge. White Lake BAS (Oakland County), parking lot redevelopment and expansion, along with launch ramp expansion. East Tawas State Harbor – Phase 1 (Iosco County), involves 50+ transient slips, utilities, wave attenuator, dredging, shoreline stabilization, pump out, attendant building, and a sidewalk. East Tawas State Harbor – Phase 2 (Iosco County), includes pier removal, approximately 70 slips, over 500 feet of broadside dockage, utilities, walkway and dredging. Please note that the Phase 2 plan is not final.

Paul Petersen provided project updates on the following Grant-in-Aid Projects: Manistique Municipal BAS (Schoolcraft County), which will include parking lot upgrades, launch construction and a restroom building. Crescent Shores Road BAS, located in Long Lake Township (Grand Traverse County), updates include launch ramp replacement, parking lot development, and sidewalk construction.



OTHER

The following locations were proposed for the 2018 meeting locations: Detroit, Mount Clemens, Bay City, Ontonagon, East Tawas, and 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 11:15 a.m.

The next Michigan State Waterways Commission Meeting: Mackinaw City, October 6, 2017