



MICHIGAN STATE WATERWAYS COMMISSION

June 9, 2017
Escanaba, Michigan

PRESENT FOR THE WATERWAYS COMMISSION

Commissioner, Chair, Gary Marowske
Commissioner, Vice Chair, Alex Declercq
Commissioner, James Hansen
Commissioner, Ward Walstrom

OTHERS PRESENT

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

GUEST SPEAKERS

Eric Cadeau

NOT PRESENT

Commissioner, Dennis Grinold
Commissioner, Nikki Polan
Commissioner, Dennis Nickels
Scott Pratt, DNR
Maia Turek, DNR



MINUTES
MICHIGAN STATE WATERWAYS COMMISSION

OPENING COMMENTS

Chair Gary Marowske called the meeting to order at 9:52 a.m., June 9, 2017. Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance, led by Scouts, Dylan Ballinger and Dawson LaPalme, of Boy Scout Troop 411 from Escanaba, Michigan.

PUBLIC APPEARANCE

Written Correspondence: A written correspondence submitted by Linda Richards, was included in each commissioners packet for their review. Linda stated her concerns with the reservation systems for boating.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Chair Gary Marowske asked for a motion for approval of the minutes from the April 28, 2017 Michigan State Waterways Commission meeting. The motion was put into place by Commissioner Ward Walstrom and was seconded by Commissioner Al Declercq. Motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

ACTION ITEMS

MOTION: Chair Gary Marowske asked for a motion for approval of information supporting a resolution regarding Support of Earlier Cleanup of Kalamazoo Lake's Superfund Project. The motion was put into place at the April 28, 2017 meeting, by Commissioner Jim Hansen and was seconded by Commissioner Nicki Polan. Motion carried unanimously, 6-0.

MOTION: Chair Gary Marowske asked for a motion for approval of information supporting a resolution regarding the Parks and Recreation Division's Draft Strategic Plan. The motion was put into place by Commissioner Ward Walstrom, and was seconded by Commissioner Jim Hansen. 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

Ward Walstrom provided an update, recapped the 2016 tour schedule. Ward also reminded the commission that Michigan Boating Week will run from June 10-16, 2017.

WAYS AND MEANS UPDATE

Commissioner **Dennis Nickels** is continuing his efforts with the paddle sports, no update provided at this time from the Commissioner, as he was absent from the meeting.

FACILITIES UPDATE

Commissioner **Jim Hansen** discussed the ESD brochures/signage/decals. These will make their way to the harbors soon, as a June 21, 2017 delivery date is expected. A Harbor Inspection Checklist was presented and an update on the Clinton River dredging and Portage Lake stamp sands was given as well.

OPERATIONS UPDATE

Linnae Dawson provided an update on 2 different variances, St. Clair Boat Harbor, and Port Austin State Harbor. Operations subcommittee supports the variance requests.

INFORMATIONAL BUSINESS

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Supporting documents can be found in the Michigan State Waterways Commission meeting packet. Boating registration is up, as well as the gas tax.

GENERAL UPDATES

Eric Cadeau, DNR Field Planner for the Western Upper Peninsula District, which consists of 11 state parks and recreation areas, 169 boating facilities, 4 state harbors, 2 scenic sites, 2 major maintenance crews and 57 forest recreation facilities. Eric presented to the commissioners a few



of the major projects that are ongoing around the district. A couple of dredging projects include the Grand Traverse Bay (Schoolcraft Township Grant-In-Aid) – proposed to be dredged in August of 2017, also the Oman Creek Boating Access Site (BAS), which is routinely dredged to maintain boating access to Lake Superior. Recently completed projects include Bergland BAS in Ontonagon County, Oman Creek BAS in Gogebic County, and Snail Shell Harbor in Delta County.

Eric noted some boating challenges the Upper Peninsula faces – harbor viability with declining USACE funding for harbor break wall and navigational channel maintenance,

integrating and coordination of Forest Recreation facilities with limited PRD resources, and dynamic shoreline conditions impacting small to medium boating facilities.

Linnae Dawson submitted a bottom lands lease update. Documents to support this update were included in each commissioner’s packet for their review.

PROJECT UPDATES

Jordan Byelich provided project updates on East Tawas State Harbor, Chestonia Bridge BAS and the Clinton River Cutoff BAS. East Tawas has updates that include 50+ transient slips, utilities, wave attenuator, dredging, shoreline stabilization, pump out, attendant building, and a sidewalk. Chestonia Bridge is undergoing a site relocation and new development. Lastly, the Clinton River Cutoff BAS is dealing with debris that appears to be accumulating from the spillway, and currently blocks boating access. Crews are working on clearing out as a short-term solution. A long-term solution will be a study that looks at the source of the debris, water dynamics, and alternative access points.

ESD sample signage and decals were shown to the commission, with an expected delivery date of June 21, 2017. Harbors to post on power pedestals, and signs should be posted in common areas.

Paul Petersen provided project updates on Saylor Park BAS in Acme Township, and Crescent Shores Road BAS in Long Lake Township. Saylor Park project updates include launch improvements, sidewalk construction and dredging. Crescent Shores project updates include launch ramp replacement, parking lot development, and sidewalk construction.



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 11:29 a.m.

The next Michigan State Waterways Commission Meeting: Lexington, August 24/25, 2017