

Michigan State Waterways Commission
Minutes of October 19, 2007

Regular Meeting
Minutes of the Meeting of
Michigan State Waterways Commission
October 19, 2007

Stephens T. Mason Building
6th Floor East Conference Room
Lansing, Michigan

A regular meeting of the Michigan State Waterways Commission was called to order by Chairman Bryan Amann at 11:18 a.m. on Friday, October 19, 2007, at the Stephens T. Mason Building, 6th Floor East Conference Room, Lansing, Michigan. Due to the early start, no action items will be voted on until 11:30 a.m. The following Commissioners were present:

Bryan Amann, Chairman
Bob Brown
Janet Mansfield
Carol Oakley

Commissioners Denny Bailey, Curtis Hertel, Sr., and Todd Wyett were excused.

Parks and Recreation Chief Ron Olson and other Department of Natural Resources (Department) were present.

Public Appearances:

Written Correspondence

There was no written correspondence.

Appearances (Non-agenda Items)

Mr. Jim Sarna, from Brighton, addressed the Commission regarding the number of days boaters may stay in harbors. He believes there should be consistency in the number of days allowed. Staff will prepare information on length of stay for the December 14, 2007 Waterways Commission meeting. It will be discussed during the Facilities, Operations/Policy, and Boating Access Committee meeting prior to consideration by the full Commission.

Former Senator John Pridnia commended the Commission for its work in support of boating communities throughout the State. The facility at Port Austin is 52 years old. Northwest Design has been engaged by the Department to assist with this project. He attended the Commission meeting with Mr. Lou Schillinger, Chair of the Harbor Commission in Port Austin. Mr. Schillinger stated that there are no

floating docks and the current docks are about eight feet above the water. Mr. Schillinger invited the Commission to visit Port Austin.

Ms. Derith Smith, Elmwood township supervisor addressed the Commission regarding the Township's recent Waterways grant. The grant was issued with a standard contract, requiring all transient slips the first year. On behalf of the Township, she is requesting some seasonal slips and is asking what information needs to be supplied. Elmwood Township would like to be on the December agenda for this request.

Mr. Barry Smith, Harbormaster for Clinch Marina in Traverse City and Chair of the Michigan Harbormasters Association, invited the Commission to the annual Harbormasters' meeting on November 28, 2007. The meeting starts at 1:00 p.m. and there will be a lot of questions on the Central Reservation System (CRS). Time is set aside for CRS from 3:45 to 4:45 p.m.

Minutes

August 10, 2007

MOTION: Commissioner Janet Mansfield moved to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2007 Michigan State Waterways Commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bob Brown and it carried unanimously.

Old Business:

Project Status Report

Mr. Paul Petersen provided an update as follows:

Harbors:

- The project under construction at Charlevoix Municipal Marina (Charlevoix County) includes new floating docks, bulkhead construction, a new harbormaster building, utility improvements, and a parking lot. It is scheduled to be completed at the end of December 2007.
- Mackinac Island State Harbor (Mackinac County) is undergoing a major renovation to be ready for the 2008 season.
- Quite a bit of discussion is occurring regarding the stonework for the Mackinac Island project. Staff and Commissioners have been receiving complaints because of the stonework, which is composed of a manufactured material, which was chosen due to cost, installation, and maintenance factors. Mr. Petersen provided a timeline on the item, as it went to the Mackinac Island Planning Commission twice. Commissioner Bob Brown commended staff for the manner in which this has been handled.

Mr. Jordan Byelich provided an update on Boating Access Site projects as follows:

Boating Access Sites:

- The parking lot project at Ocqueoc River Mouth BAS (Presque Isle County) was recently completed.
- Parking lot upgrades at Jordan Lake BAS (Barry County) have been finished.
- The project at Homestead Dam (Benzie County) carry down access site included barrier-free path installation and carry down access development.
- The M-37 Bridge BAS (Lake County) has undergone parking lot paving and sidewalk construction.
- Campbell Lake BAS (Kent County) received parking lot upgrades.
- The Pine Street BAS (Newaygo County) project consisted of parking lot paving, sidewalk construction, and rip rap shoreline protection.
- The project at West Houghton Lake BAS (Roscommon County) included parking lot paving, sidewalk construction, ramp relocation, road work/paving, vault toilet installation, and staging piers.

Mr. Bill Boik provided additional information as follows:

- The Department received an award from the Michigan Digital Government Summit for the best public information system for the recreation boating website. This is the third national award the website has received.
- Last week, Mr. Petersen and Mr. Boik participated in a workshop with the Great Lakes Commission and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on aging infrastructure around the Great Lakes. Their participation occurred via conference call due to travel restrictions.
- The International Joint Commission is conducting an international upper Great Lakes water level study. Mr. Boik is the contact person for the State.
- After the Harbormasters Conference on November 30, 2007, a workshop will occur to discuss Great Lakes shallow harbors and dredging.
- The waterways program audit was completed on Wednesday of this week. The financial audit will continue for a few more months.
- The tribal application to the State for funding was denied earlier this year because the State does not have the authority to provide funding to the tribes. The State was asked to support the tribe's Federal grant application for the Boating Infrastructure Grant Program. The grant will assist in funding construction of a marina in Peshawbestown (Leelanau County).

Operations Status Report

Mr. Harold Herta provided an update on operations as follows:

- The CRS vendor (Spherix) has been bought out by Active Network. The Department has been assured it will be dealing with the same people and will have the same contract. Additional information will be provided at the December meeting.
- At the Charlevoix meeting concern was expressed regarding placement of a dish on the harbormaster's building to facilitate a connection for CRS. That type of set-up will not work and it appears that DSL will be the answer to this issue.
- Charlevoix will be required to join the CRS system.
- Boating nights are down about 1 1/2% and the final report will be out before the next meeting. Mr. Jason Fleming will provide information on trailerable boats.

Update on the Portage Restaurant at Presque Isle

Mr. Herta stated that staff will publish a request for information (RFI) in an attempt to receive additional ideas on how to proceed. For example, the restaurant could be built in a different location on the property. The RFI will include a detailed engineering report in case someone wants to repair the current structure. It is not a bid document. A request for proposal (RFP) will be sent out at a later date and will include a 25-year lease for the property.

Chairman Amann presented a simplified explanation of the terms: "An RFP says 'do you want to go out tomorrow night?,' an RFI says 'let's maybe see each other around and see how we like each other and figure out, conceptually, whether we even want to talk.'"

Update on Grayhaven Marina and Reid Ramp

Mr. Fleming stated that the case was filed, but the Department has not received the documents. Riverside was shut down as a Homeland Security requirement. Mr. Olson has spoken with Detroit's Assistant Parks and Recreation Director and a meeting of the interested parties will be scheduled soon.

Update on Inspections

Waterways staff is increasing efforts to get inspections done on a timely basis.

Eight Point Lake

Mr. Ron Olson provided an update to the Commission regarding a proposed BAS on Eight Point Lake.

Mr. Kelly Bartlett addressed the Commission in opposition to the proposed Eight Point Lake BAS. He is not a property owner; but has several concerns. He will provide his comments to the Commission in written format.

Standing Committee Reports

The Committee discussions will be reflected by the action items that follow.

Strategic Planning Process Update

The survey was continued through the Labor Day weekend; however a poor return was realized. Currently three staff members are conducting a verbal survey via phone. A draft strategic plan will be drafted and presented to the Commission as part of the approval process. Stakeholder outreach will also occur at upcoming shows. Commissioner Oakley suggested contacting individual boat clubs.

New Business

Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)

Dr. Charles Nelson presented an overview of the SCORP plan to the Commission. The entire plan is available on the Department's website. It is a five-year overall recreation plan and is required for the Department to be eligible for Land and Water Conservation Fund monies. The plan must be completed by December 31, 2007.

Capital Outlay

MOTION: Commissioner Mansfield moved to approve the resolution on capital outlay projects as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Oakley and it carried unanimously.

Proposed 2008 Rates (this item was removed from the agenda and reinstated)

Commissioner Mansfield moved to approve the resolution to maintain the rates at the 2007 level. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown and approved by acclamation.

Grant Agreement Changes

MOTION: Commissioner Mansfield moved to approve the resolution on grant agreement changes as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown and unanimously approved.

Grant Award Recommendations

MOTION: Commissioner Oakley moved to approve the grant award recommendations. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown and approved unanimously.

Other Business

Blue Bikes

Commissioner Brown offered 50 to 60 bikes to the Waterways program to be used for this project.

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MOTION: Commissioner Oakley moved to adjourn this meeting of the Michigan State Waterways Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown. This meeting of the Michigan State Waterways Commission was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

The next meeting will be held in the Lansing area on Friday, December 14, 2007, beginning at 9:00 a.m.