

Meeting Minutes of the Meeting of
Michigan State Waterways Commission
June 12, 2009

Marquette Commons Building
Marquette, Michigan

A regular meeting of the Michigan State Waterways Commission was called to order by Chairperson Bob Brown at 9:30 a.m. on June 12, 2009, at the Marquette Commons Building in Marquette, Michigan. The following Commissioners were present:

Bob Brown
Janet Mansfield
Carol Oakley
Denny Bailey

Commissioner Michael Bryanton was excused
Curtis Hertel, Sr, was absent

Public Appearances:

Written Correspondence

There was no written correspondence

Appearances (Non-agenda Items)

Mr. Steven King was present to inquire about the Naubinway Marina that was built in 1968 and for the past four years has had serious sedimentation problems at the boat launch. Mr. William Boik responded that there is a proposal for capital outlay funding for \$1.8 million for this project, including a plan to construct a breakwater around the bay to address the source of the sedimentation problem.

Mr. Karl Zueger, Assistant City Manager for Marquette, distributed a handout entitled, "Reinventing Marquette's Downtown Waterfront," and presented an overview of the process of a community trying to reinventing itself. Mr. Zueger provided a brief history of Marquette's waterfront that features two Waterways grant in aid facilities, Presque Isle Marina and Cinder Pond Marina.

Due to the age of the marina, there is a need to revitalize Presque Isle. There has been about a twenty percent loss of usable space due to the erosion of the bin wall construction as well as other issues. It is very important to the

community to keep the waterfront public, and they have made efforts to purchase additional property as it becomes available.

A consultant has done the master planning for Presque Isle Marina. They are looking at both marinas to decide what makes sense for the boaters and the City. A preliminary engineering design study has focused on the reuse of the Presque Isle Marina. Some of the issues include: significant build up of shoal because of location of breakwall, inadequate utilities, and the fuel dock being in a poor location.

Mr. Ron Olson stated that one of the concerns is to insure that as a grant in aid facility, the revenues that are generated are to be put back into the marina. Is there a harbor fund that is being managed and is there a fund balance built up to be used toward the improvement of the facility?

Mr. Zueger responded that it is a true enterprise fund. Harbor marina funds are subsidized by the general fund in that the revenues that are gained do not meet the expenditures that they have. The City is in the process of developing a brownfield plan for Founders Landing, which will make it eligible to be paid for with Tax Increment Financing (TIF) funding. The Presque Isle Harbor Fund was used in the development of Cinder Pond.

Appearances (Agenda Items)

There were no appearances for agenda items.

Minutes

April 17, 2009 - Regular meeting.

MOTION: Commissioner Brown moved to approve the minutes of the April 17, 2009 Waterways Commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bailey and it was unanimously approved.

Old Business

Staff Project Status Report

Mr. Bill Boik provided the following updates:

- St. Ignace
- Straits State Harbor in Cheboygan County is almost complete. The paved parking lot is complete. The wind turbines are turning. The dedication for this new harbor is scheduled for July 18 with planned festivities.

- Leland Township Marina in Leelanau County – project issues with permitting and easements have all been resolved, and the docks will be ready by June 26.
- Sleepy Hollow State Park BAS in Clinton County - adding an additional ramp and redoing parking and entrance road.
- Elmwood Township Marina in Leelanau County will be completed by June 30. There is nothing in the Construction Codes that addresses floating docks specifications, and after working with Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth, we have submitted six changes to the Construction Codes, which get updated every 3 years.
- Lake Mecosta BAS in Mecosta County - paving projected now completed. Striped area is ADA accessible route up to the ramp.
- South Bay Hubbard Lake BAS in Alcona County - parking lot paving has been completed.
- Tawas Lake BAS in Iosco County – parking lot paving.
- Kak’s Lake and the Twin Lake BAS were combined in the same contract for parking lot paving.
- Mitchell State Park Boating Canal in Wexford County – Connects Cadillac and Mitchell Lakes. An extensive steel sheet wall with concrete walkway was installed. Boaters can tie up their boat here along the sheet wall. This project was partnered with Federal Sport Fish Restoration funds, who provided 75% of the funding.
- Forks BAS in Cheboygan - recently completed, and is successfully using solar lighting.
- Eight Point Lake in Clare County – the building has been removed, project has been bid out.
- Kemp’s Point BAS in Chippewa County – is a future new development
- Pine River BAS in Mackinac County - future new development, located upstream of the bridge crossing. The Rivermouth has good depth and provides good access to the bay on Lake Huron.
- Grand Haven East End Park Boating Access Site in Ottawa County – a grant-in-aid project where rip rap and dredging has been completed.
- Indian River BAS in Cheboygan County, Tuscarora Township. Work has begun for the sheet pile installation,
- Alanson Lock in Emmet County - is operational with repaired gear box in place. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has stimulus money to do a major overhaul in the fall.
- Crystal Lake BAS now has a final date this month for a settlement.

Chairman Brown inquired about the progress at Walloon Lake BAS. Melrose Township had acquired property for the parking lot. Plan reviews and revisions have been made to the concept plan. The project is moving forward.

Staff Operations Status Report

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

- Straits State Harbor, Consumers Energy, and the state agreed to alternate language as it relates to indemnification in the Consumers Energy terms and conditions for connection to the power grid.
- Portage Restaurant lease at Presque Isle Harbor has been signed with a list identifying what has to be done in the first 5 years.
- Site Acquisition Policy is in final draft form as well as a companion policy that will address major renovations as well as routine maintenance, and will be presented at next meeting.
- The land use orders have been updated. We are now at 75 fee sites.
- The Central Reservation System (CRS) has been going thru an adjustment period since the current upgrade. We are in the process of improving the system. There had been a program malfunction in the harbor reservation system back in March where a number of slips were assigned a per night fee of \$27.00 no matter the size of the boat. We have since identified all those instances. The vendor has been instructed to focus on the grant-in-aid facilities first to receive full compensation for those fees. Fortunately, this is no longer a problem at this time. We are continuing our efforts to install DSL and air cards at the marinas to insure connectivity with the CRS system.

Standing Committee reports

There were no Standing Committee reports.

New Business

Legislative update:

The Recreation Passport Bill has passed thru the House and Senate committees. The next step is to go to the full House and full Senate to move it forward. We are cautiously optimistic, and should hear the results any day now.

There has been another boating related bill introduced. This bill would combine the Boating Access Site Permit and the Motor Vehicle Permit into one permit. Currently, Boating Access Site fees go to the Waterways fund, and the Motor Vehicle Permit fees go to park improvement fund as established by statute. The intent of this Bill is to simplify things for park/boat users. There would not be an increase in fees, and this would significantly reduce our revenue. The Department of Natural Resources does not support this bill.

Work plan:

The future of boating is ever changing and revenues have flattened as has harbor usage. These issues need to be strategically discussed. A meeting with the Michigan Boating Industry Association and key stakeholders will take place in the fall to discuss the status of boating.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Mansfield approves to accept resolutions A, B and C as presented, and Commissioner Oakley seconded the motion and it carried unanimously. The action items stand approved.

Resolution #06-2009-01 – Emergency Dredging Grant to Caseville Harbor

Resolution #06-2009-02 – Supplemental Funding for Jackson County

**Resolution #06-2009-03 – To Permit Commercial Use at Fort Street Dock,
City of Port Huron**

The next scheduled Waterways Meeting is scheduled on a mandatory furlough day (August 7) for State of Michigan employees, and that date will be changed and a new date will be posted to the Internet. It was suggested to hold the meeting July 18 to coincide with the Straits State Harbor dedication.

Commissioner Bailey moved to adjourn this meeting of the Michigan State Waterways Commission. Commissioner Mansfield seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

This meeting of the Michigan State Waterways Commission was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.