

**Minutes of the  
Michigan State Waterways Commission  
August 23, 2013**

The regular meeting of the Michigan State Waterways Commission (Commission) was called to order by Chairperson Gary Marowske at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, August 23, 2013 at the St. Ignace Municipal Building, 396 N. State St., St. Ignace, Michigan. The following Commissioners participated:

Commissioner Gary Marowske, Vice Chairperson  
Commissioner Al Declercq, Secretary  
Commissioner Dennis Nickels  
Commissioner Ward Walstrom  
Commissioner Jim Hansen  
Special Consultant R.J. Peterson

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Parks and Recreation Division (PRD) liaisons were also present.

**Chairperson Marowske** introduced himself and opened the meeting with public comment.

**I. PUBLIC APPEARANCE**

- A. Written Correspondence
- B. Appearances (Non-agenda items)

Mr. Mark Slown, City Manager for Rogers City, Michigan spoke to thank the Commission for their hard work and efforts during the requests for dredging funding from so many municipalities. He updated the Commission on Roger City's progress on their request for dredging and some of the issues regarding the application process. He also thanked them for the funding to support a floating gas dock project the City of Rogers is currently working on.

**II. ACTION ITEMS**

- A. Approval of the June 21, 2013 and July 12, 2013 (Special Meeting) Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Commissioner Marowske moved to approve both the June 21, 2013 and the July 12, 2013 (Special Meeting) Minutes of the Michigan State

Waterway Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Walstrom and it carried unanimously.

- B. City of Ludington Resolution regarding Commercial Use. This resolution was brought up for review and discussed, however, it will be considered for action at the October Waterways Commission Meeting.
- C. 2014 Grant-in-Aid and State Waterways Projects. Handouts from Bill Boik and Paul Petersen/Capital Outlay Funding Reports. Ward Walstrom had concerns about Dodge #4 and Higgins Lake funding in the Capital Outlay documents . After discussion of the funding projects, Resolution No. 08-2013-02 was up for motion.

MOTION: Commissioner Ward Walstrom moved to approve Resolution No. 08-2013-02. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jim Hansen and it Carried unanimously.

### **III. OLD BUSINESS**

- A. Mooring Balls- The topic of mooring balls and the designation of ownership between those already in the water and newly placed mooring Balls was brought up. There continues to be questions regarding enforcement actions and regulating “pirate” moorings (not permitted, illegal). At one point a public mooring system was suggested but additional investigation was required and there has been no further action or discussion on the issue.
- B. Emergency Dredging Program Update – Paul Petersen discussed The Emergency Dredge Program status as of August 23, 2013. Thirty Six (36) dredge projects have been approved but physical Dredging has not yet started. Six (6) physical dredging projects have started but are not complete. Twelve (12) dredge projects are complete. It was agreed by the Commissioners that a letter be drafted and sent to those communities that have not completed their dredging projects. The purpose of the letter will be for those communities to be given a deadline to state what their status/reason for the delay in completing the dredging project is and whether or not they intend to finalize it.
- C. Eagle Lake Update – Jordan Byelich – On July 18<sup>th</sup> the DNR presented to the Cass County Road Commission the proposed acquisition and development, specifically how a new boating access site would improve safety along the road. An Ontwa Township Planning Commission meeting scheduled for August 7<sup>th</sup> was canceled as the Lake Association submitted an appeal challenging the proposed project as meeting the definition of a “park” per the Township’s zoning ordinances. A Township Zoning Board

of Appeals meeting is to occur on September 3<sup>rd</sup> to review this appeal. DNR staff will be present.

- D. Committee Reports – Commissioner Marowske wanted to know if committee dates for 2014 have been established. He would like to see those put in place and a list of the committees/dates/locations be drawn up and distributed to all Commissioners.
- E. Operations Update – Harbor slips were down from the previous year (7% pr 2,665 nights) statewide but were almost even for the marinas within the Straits area.
- F. Financial Update was given by Jackie Blodgett. She gave a slide presentation of where the budget and finances were broken down by revenue and expenditures
- G. Legislative Update. There was no legislation to present pertaining to the Waterways.

#### IV. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Presentation of the new Central Reservation System (CRS) was given by **Jason Fleming**. He provided slides of actual reservation processes and how the new system compared to our current process. The new system will be in effect on November 3, 2013. There are still updates and new items being added to the CRS system but it will be ready to be in place as anticipated in October.
- B. Boating Facility Summary regarding the St. Ignace Region was given by **Rich Hill, Gaylord District Supervisor. Tom Paquin, Eastern UP, PRD** gave an overview of the Cheboygan area.