

Michigan State Waterways Commission  
Regular Meeting

Minutes of the Meeting of  
Michigan State Waterways Commission  
August 4, 2006

Hartwick Pines State Park Visitor Center Classroom  
Grayling, Michigan

A regular meeting of the Michigan State Waterways Commission was called to order by Chairman Todd Wyett at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, August 4, 2006, at Hartwick Pines State Park Visitor Center, Grayling, Michigan. The following Commissioners were present:

Todd Wyett, Chairman  
Bryan Amann  
Bob Brown  
Curtis Hertel, Sr.  
Janet Mansfield  
Carol B. Oakley

Commissioner Denny Bailey was excused.

Resource Management Deputy Mindy Koch, Parks and Recreation Division Chief Ron Olson, and other Department of Natural Resources (Department) staff were present.

Public Appearances

**Written correspondence**

The Commission received the following written correspondence:

- A letter dated July 12, 2006, to Chairman Todd Wyett from Senator Tony Stamas and Representative Joel Sheltrown regarding the East Tawas State Dock.
- A letter dated July 6, 2006, from Dr. Dennis Cadreau regarding the Boyne City Municipal Marina.
- A facsimile sent to Commissioner Janet Mansfield from Harrisville Harbor regarding the Central Reservation System (CRS).

**Appearances (Non-agenda Items)**

There were no public appearances related to non-agenda items.

Minutes

**June 9, 2006**

MOTION: Commissioner Hertel moved to approve the minutes of the June 9, 2006 Michigan State Waterways Commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mansfield and it carried unanimously.

Old Business:

**Project Status Report**

Mr. Bill Boik provided an update on current projects as follows:

Marinas/Harbors:

- Harrisville Harbor in Alcona County has completed a harbormaster building construction project. The dedication of the new building was held on Wednesday, June 21, 2006.
- The project underway at East Tawas Harbor in Iosco County consists of new benches, tables, and trash receptacles.
- The Mackinaw City State Harbor in Cheboygan County is working on Phase II of its project, which includes dredging, rip rap, and steel removal.

Mr. Boik distributed two reports: The Soil Erosion and Sedimentation Control Inspection Report and the Project Report (from the Department of Management and Budget).

Boating Access Sites (BAS)

- The Round Lake BAS in Hillsdale County is undergoing a project including ramp construction and rip rap installation

Mr. Boik provided copies of a letter he received from the City of Port Huron regarding the potential for harbor development. Port Huron would like to be on the agenda for the October 13, 2006 meeting.

**Operations Status Report**

Mr. Harold Herta provided an update with regard to operations.

- A few ramps have been closed for a portion of the summer due to routine repairs. This has not caused a major disruption to boaters.
- With regard to the Central Reservation System (CRS), boater nights are down approximately 11 percent as of July 29, 2006.
- The CRS call center is on track to move (by September 5, 2006) from Maryland to Indian River, Michigan. The call center will have approximately 100 to 125 seats with 30 of those filled at the start of operations. A joint press release will be produced by the Department of Management and Budget and the Department of Natural Resources to announce the opening of this facility.
- Staff is still receiving written feedback from GIA facilities regarding audits and the fee plan for next year.

- Criteria for the fee structure will change to reflect amenities, popularity, and access.
- Presque Isle asked to charge a monthly rate, which is a pro-rated annual fee. The same may be allowed elsewhere. The suggestion was made to offer extended stay rates on the CRS, but this is presently handled by the facility.

### **Standing Committees**

The Operations/Policy Committee discussed the proposed GIA audit policy.

The Walloon Lake Subcommittee discussed offering the affected citizens and homeowners a cut-off date of September 15, 2006, to acquire a piece of suitable (to Department staff, the Waterways Commission, and the local municipality) property as an alternate site for the boat launch. Otherwise, plans will proceed for the BAS to be built on the State Forest land, including disbursement of the funds for the project. At that point, the subcommittee will disband.

MOTION: Commissioner Mansfield made a motion to proceed with this item as proposed by the Walloon Lake Subcommittee. Commissioner Mansfield also requested (as part of this motion) documentation of the process the Department and the Waterways Commission have followed in seeking an alternate site. The motion was seconded by Commission Amann and it carried unanimously.

### New Business:

#### **Grant-in-Aid (GIA) Audit Policy**

The proposed GIA audit policy has been discussed at prior meetings and feedback has been received from the GIA facilities.

MOTION: Commissioner Brown moved to approve the proposed GIA audit policy as written. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mansfield and it carried unanimously. Commissioner Oakley thanked staff for their efforts in drafting this policy.

#### **DeTour Lighthouse Tours**

Staff will advise the lessee that they must apply for a use permit and provide a certificate of general liability insurance. This type of use is considered a commercial operation, which is the reason a use permit is required.

MOTION: Commissioner Oakley moved to require the lessee to apply for a use permit and to provide a certificate of insurance to protect the Department from liability. The vendor will be ordered to cease and desist if they do not comply with this request.

During discussion of this item, Department staff requested approval from the Commission to proceed with negotiations to allow commercial use of State facilities. The motion was amended to reflect this process and seconded by Commissioner Mansfield. The motion carried unanimously. The Commission supports the lighthouse tours, but the correct process must be followed.

### **Presque Isle Fees**

Due to the number of vacancies in transient slips at the marina, Presque Isle has been allowed to offer a special rate for boaters staying for 30 days. A final report will be provided at the end of the year.

### **Presque Isle Restaurant**

The township may be allowed a long-term lease of the building allowing them to find an operator for the establishment. Conversations have taken place with Representative Gillard and the township regarding this option. The Department may allow a long-term lease with the township, but not with an individual vendor.

### **Fee Process**

A letter went to the GIA facilities requesting input on the fee process. Limited response has been received thus far. A fee proposal will be ready for the October meeting along with documentation detailing the process for determining the fee structure each year.

### **Non-Resident fees**

Further information on this topic will be provided at the October 13, 2006 Commission meeting.

### **Vision 20/20**

The Parks and Recreation Division developed its Vision 20/20 plan in 1992. This document is being updated and Department staff wants to include the strategic plan for the Waterways Commission in this process. The Operations/Policy Committee will work with Parks and Recreation staff and the Citizens for State Parks Committee.

Commissioner Amann suggested establishing a process to provide information and outreach on the Waterways Commission at boat shows. Commissioner Oakley would like the Department to resume printing of the Harbor Guide (the last one was published in 2001). She further suggested that advertising could be utilized to offset the cost.

### **Other Business:**

Commissioner Oakley thanked Department staff for yesterday's tour. She enjoyed the opportunity to view dredging at South Higgins Lake State Park. Commissioner Oakley believes the tours are very worthwhile and provide important information.

Commissioner Amann proposed annual meetings with lessees and GIA facilities. The Harbormaster's conference is held in conjunction with the Michigan Boating Industry Association conference each year.

Chairman Wyett proposed revising the format for Waterways Commission meetings to one day and perhaps reducing the number of meetings per year. Resource Management Deputy Mindy Koch was asked to look at the enabling legislation to see if there is a requirement for a certain number of meetings.

MOTION: Commissioner Amann 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 10:04 a.m.