

**MICHIGAN STATE WATERWAYS COMMISSION  
RESOLUTION NO. 04-2018-06**

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT OF A PLAN TO ADDRESS  
CURRENT AND FUTURE PUBLIC WATERWAY INFRASTRUCTURE AND  
PROGRAM NEEDS

**Whereas**, the Michigan's recreational boating industry generates over \$7.4 billion to the economy annually;

**Whereas**, Michigan State Waterway Commissioners and DNR Parks and Recreation staff has developed an assessment of infrastructure needs for public boating facilities and water access statewide;

**Whereas**, the over 63 harbors of refuge (Grant-in-Aid) communities are required to have on file with the DNR Parks and Recreation Division, a 5 year Recreation Plan to qualify for states waterway grants;

**Whereas**, the identified needs for State and Grant-in-Aid operated public boating infrastructure and water access. At present the total is estimated to be in excess of \$50 million;

**Whereas**, trends in boating have identified new water based recreation that is in need of funding to develop an appropriate water access, programs and supportive infrastructure. A current example is water trails;

**Whereas**, aquatic invasive species have impacted numerous Michigan inland lakes that affected the quality of recreational boating and access to fishing;

**Whereas**, lake property owners have assessed themselves for aquatic weed control in excess of \$30 million for the routine treatment of aquatic weeds;

**Whereas**, there is a need to develop a method to generate greater financial resources to address the current and future infrastructure demands and program needs;

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That the Michigan State Waterways Commission supports developing a plan to address the infrastructures and public recreation boating program needs. The plan will include the following;

- 1) Complete the assessment of all facility needs for the nearly 80 harbors of refuge along the great lakes based upon 5 year Recreation Plans.
- 2) Complete an assessment of public boating and water access facilities statewide based upon 5 year Recreation Plans.
- 3) Complete a water trail program plan and associated options and cost estimate.
- 4) Complete a strategy to address funding assistance for lake aquatic weed management that is linked to the existing Michigan invasive species programs.
- 5) Identify funding options to address priorities of the plan.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That this process to develop the plan would include:

- 1) Develop an inclusive workgroup that would involve local government partners, state wide boating organizations, members of the legislature or assigned staff, and other appropriate water recreation entities to insure well balanced involvement.
- 2) Align with DNR Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan.
- 3) Include public workshops, surveys and other methods to insure robust involvement.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, That by August, 2018, a plan outline will be presented to the Waterways Commission developed with the DNR PRD staff for further review and consideration.

Submitted by: Michigan State Waterways Commissioners,  
Steve Arwood, and Chairman Dennis Nickels

Date: April 25, 2018

**Voting Record:**

**Motion by: Steve Arwood**  
**Motion seconded by: Denny Grinold**

**Yea: 5**  
**Nay: 0**

