

Minutes of the
Michigan State Waterways Commission
February 19, 2015

**THESE MINUTES WERE APPROVED BY THE WATERWAYS
COMMISSION
AT THE MAY 1, 2015 COMMISSION MEETING IN
DETROIT, MICHIGAN**

The regular meeting of the Michigan State Waterways Commission (MSWC) was called to order by Commissioner and Chair, Gary Marowske at 9:45 a.m., on Thursday, February 19, 2015, at the Outdoor Adventure Center, 1801 Atwater St., Detroit, MI 48226.

The following Commissioners were present:

Commissioner Nicki Polan
Commissioner/Vice Chair Alex Declercq
Commissioner/Chair Gary Marowske
Commissioner Ward Walstrom
Commissioner Dennis Grinold via telephone

The following Commissioners were excused from today's meeting:

Commissioner James Hansen
Commissioner Dennis Nickels
Special Consultant R.J. Petersen

The following staff from the Department of Natural Resources was present:

Chief Ronald A. Olson
Jason Fleming
Bill Boik
Paul Petersen
Jackie Blodgett
Vicki Anthes
Darlene Moore

Chair Gary Marowske opened the Michigan State Waterways Commission meeting at 9:45 a.m., February 19, 2015.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. PUBLIC APPEARANCE

A. Written Correspondence

There was no written correspondence.

B. Appearances (Non-agenda items)

III. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of the December 5, 2014 Minutes.

MOTION: Chair Gary Marowske asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 5, 2014 Michigan State Waterways Commission meeting. The motion was put into place by Commissioner Ward Walstrom and was seconded by Commissioner Alex Declercq. It carried unanimously, 4-0.

B. Review of Long Range Waterways Capital Infrastructure Needs Process. **Commissioner Declercq** spoke about the need to facilitate a program (Maximo) was given as a comparison, to implement and help construct information/reports to determine what our long range numbers look like and what we need to do to meet those needs. A report will tell us what it will cost over the next ten years to maintain what we have.

C. Review Group Reservation Policy at State Operated Harbors – **Jason Fleming, Resource Management Chief.** Jason said that one of the things that had to be looked at and a change made, was how to handle group reservations during a period of construction at a harbor. How to keep the site running when construction gets close and during the work so people do not book into that period and/or we can accommodate all reservations elsewhere. Commissioner Ward Walstrom asked if there is an alternative to look at other slips elsewhere to handle reservations during a construction event. Another issue is booking group events. A change that has been implemented in the CAMIS system is to have the reservation under one name and then others can book into it. These events are under the care of the local unit but if the unit is not timely in dealing with the event date, it could cause issues.

D. Status and Future of Public Harbors in Downtown Detroit. – **Jason Fleming, Resource Management Chief.** Detroit currently has three public harbors, Wm. G Milliken, Erma Henderson and Grayhaven. In the long term what we want to explore is will there be an advantage for Belle Isle to offer transient boating or a boating access site. There was some money put in for engineering dollars to be used on the T-dock at Belle Isle and we are resubmitting a grant request for those funds to have engineering funds available. There is also a real need for

public access to the waterway in and around the Detroit area and Belle Isle may have some advantages for launching boats.

E. WJR Michigan Boating Marketing Proposal - Commissioner Dennis Grinold joined us via telephone. He was brought up to date on an early morning discussion about a marketing opportunity in the Detroit area by Commissioner Walstrom. Commissioner Gary Marowske has been talking to the folks at WJR Radio Station about doing an "On A Boat" radio campaign. There may be an opportunity through WJR Radio promoting boating in Detroit to feature a one or two day pilot program on this. Al Declercq spoke about the future of the importance of Belle Isle as a transient boating point. He believes that Belle Isle could be comparable to Mackinac Island in that it is a stop where families can get off their boat and find lots of things to do, not only the resources on the island but in the City of Detroit as well. It is understandable that the money to develop Belle Isle to that grandeur is not available right now, but it is certainly an area that clearly would bring back the dollars that would be put into it

Public Comment:

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. **General Update- Bill Boik, Programs and Grants Unit Manager** discussed "Harbor Sustainability Integrated Assessment." The first meeting of the Sustainable Small Harbors was well attended in New Baltimore two weeks ago (this was one of the case study locations) and "packed the house." People in attendance are excited about the future of this program.

The Army Corps of Engineers 2015 Work Plan was included in the packet and Bill Boik went over some add-ons that were incorporated into the plan. These add-ons were made possible due to the passing of the Water and Resource Recovery Development Act. This added more money to the Corps of Engineers. This is Harbor Trust Fund maintenance money that was charged on cargo coming into the Great Lakes and is being distributed back to the Corps of Engineers to be used on Corps Projects.

The disappointing part of the project add-ons, is that no recreational harbors were granted any money.

B. **Operations Update – Jason Fleming, Resource Management Chief**

The numbers for boating nights booked are comparable, booking in the 3,800 range both this year and last year.

There is a current employee, Kevin Klco that will be re-assigned to work out of Muskegon that will be utilized in two capacities, one on trespass issues relating to trails and secondly on operation components such as the collection of financial statements from the grant-in-aids and pulling those together. He

will be helping coordinate with seasonal rates requests for increases/decreases as well.

- C. **Financial Update – Jackie Blodgett, Chief of Program Services** Jackie reviewed several financial documents she included in the agenda packet. The numbers seemed to be on target and there were no significant outstanding areas that are of concern at this time in the projections.

Public Comment: There was no public comment.

Meeting adjourned.

The next Waterway Commission Meeting: June 19, 2015 in Manistee, Michigan with the meeting location to be announced later.

Persons with disabilities needing accommodations for this event should contact Darlene Moore at 517-284-6138 a minimum of five (5) business days before this meeting. Requests MADE LESS THAN FIVE BUSINESS DAYS BEFORE THIS EVENT may not be accommodated. Look for this agenda and other Waterways Commission items on the DNR web page at: <http://www.michigan.gov/dnr>

Unless otherwise noted, all meetings are open to the public.

[v= verbal update; w= written materials]