



## **MICHIGAN STATE WATERWAYS COMMISSION**

August 19, 2016  
Frankfort, Michigan

### **PRESENT FOR THE WATERWAYS COMMISSION**

Commissioner, Chair, Gary Marowske  
Commissioner, Dennis Nickels  
Commissioner, Ward Walstrom  
Commissioner, Nicki Polan  
Special Consultant, R.J. Peterson

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Ron Olson, DNR  
Vicki McGhee, DNR  
Jordan Byelich, DNR  
Paul Petersen, DNR  
Jason Fleming, DNR  
Maia Turek, DNR  
Jacklin Blodgett, DNR  
Michelle Wieber, DNR  
Linnae Dawson, DNR  
Anna Sylvester, DNR

### **NOT PRESENT**

Commissioner, Vice Chair, Alex Declercq  
Commissioner, Dennis Grinold  
Commissioner, James Hansen



MINUTES  
MICHIGAN STATE WATERWAYS COMMISSION

**OPENING COMMENTS**

Chair Gary Marowske called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m., August 19, 2016. Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC APPEARANCE**

**Written Correspondence:** There was no written correspondence.

**Appearances:** Matt Zook, Mackinaw City Chamber of Commerce Executive Director, spoke along with David White, Mackinaw City Village Manager. Each expressed their interest in a partnership with the Michigan State Waterways Commission to explore the overall idea of rehabilitating the old ferry dock, wanting to make it a dock that Great Lakes cruise ships could use. They stressed the importance to not only the history of Mackinaw City, but to the state of Michigan as well. Although not many cruise ships are navigating the Great Lakes at this time, Mr. White stated it is a growing industry and by rebuilding the old ferry dock, it would be responsible for a boom in tourism, hunting, and other recreational activities. The site is at an ideal location, as Mr. Zook pointed out that all major landmarks in the Straits area are visible.

Jim Sarna, resident of Brighton, expressed his appreciation of how the Elk Rapids marina is managed. He went on to say that it is consistently spotless, attendants are very prompt, hard-working and polite, noting everything about the marina is a class act operation. Mr. Sarna appreciates the shuttle service they offer to surrounding areas, restaurants, and other local attractions. Lastly, Mr. Sarna wanted to convey the importance of marinas not allowing boaters to swim in the harbors. There is a dangerous combination of electricity and water that puts boaters at risk. Mr. Sarna is pushing for this to become a law and at least to have signs posted warning patrons of the danger. It was a common consensus by the Michigan State Waterways Committee to have the signs posted.

Roger Griner, Chairman of Benzie County Road Commission, came to the meeting to promote the Great Lakes cruise industry. Mr. Griner prepared packets to hand out which included a memo, pictures, and a history of Michigan's cruise scene. Chairman, Ward Walstrom would welcome the cruise industry if it were economically feasible.

Michael Moran, resident of Onekama, came to the meeting with concerns on Portage Lake's harbor. Mr. Moran mentioned that it's a big problem that the United States Army Corp of Engineers never completed the pier project that was once started. Per Paul Petersen, there was a glitch with funding, and they are very close to reaching a date to have the situation addressed.



## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Chair Gary Marowske asked for a motion for approval of the minutes from the June 24, 2016 Michigan State Waterways Commission meeting. The motion was put into place by Commissioner Dennis Nickels and was seconded by Commissioner Ward Walstrom. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **FACILITIES UPDATE**

**Vicki McGhee** referred to the documents in the packet when speaking of the Capital Outlay budget for fiscal year 2017. Subcommittee member, **Ward Walstrom** accepts the proposal as is. Ward motioned to pass and **Dennis Nickels** seconded the motion. No opposition.

### **MARKETING UPDATE**

**Maia Turek** mentioned the WJR airing went well. They had a successful outing with MBIA, helping to make people aware of public boating opportunities, marinas, invasive species, among other important topics.

### **WAYS AND MEANS UPDATE**

Documents to support this update were included in each commissioner's packet for their review. **Ward Walstrom** did discuss the plan to invite DEQ members to the October Michigan State Waterways Commission meeting.

### **FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Documents to support this update were included in each commissioner's packet for their review.

### **GENERAL UPDATES**

**Ron Olson** gave an update on the areas in the Upper Peninsula that were damaged by the strong July storms. Clean up and restoration is ongoing.



## OPERATIONS UPDATES

Per **Nicki Polan**, Michigan had its 7<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of growth amongst boat and accessory sales, with the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest marine market in the country. Low gas prices, high water levels, and warmer summer temperatures have all been contributing factors.

**Linnae Dawson** reported on updates with Milliken, in which the documents to support this update were included in each commissioner's packet for review. **Linnae** also stated that our marinas are saying business is up.

**Ron Olson** briefed on the private rescue craft using a slip on Mackinac Island, and if it's necessary. Mackinaw City officials say it is.

## PROJECT UPDATES

**Jordan Byelich** presented state project updates via Power Point presentation, with the following sites & work highlighted:

Dodge #4 BAS- Launch ramp parking redevelopment erosion control issues, grass, toilet, and redesign of the park entrance.

Fayette Snail Shell State Harbor- Dock replacement with finger piers, pedestals. Federal grant funded with all transient slips.

Conely Point BAS- New development, launch and maneuver area, dredging, shoreline stabilization, parking and toilet.

Belleville Lake East BAS- Located on the south side of the lake, ramp replacement, storage building, parking lot redesign and toilet. Very busy BAS, funded from 2013 emergency dredging funds.

Silver Lake State Park BAS- launch construction, dredging, new parking lot, and toilet. This is the only public BAS on this lake.

East Tawas State Harbor- 50+ transient slips, utilities, wave attenuator, dredging, shoreline stabilization, pump out attendant building, sidewalk. Delays have occurred, but dredging is to be done by mid-September. Phase 1 to be done by Spring, 2017.

**Paul Petersen** presented GIA project updates via Power Point presentation, with the following sites & work highlighted:

Saylor Park BAS- Launch and sidewalk improvements, dredging.

Kawkawlin River- Dredging, to be completed by late August.

Petoskey Municipal Marina- New decking on pier B, dock office construction.



## **GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL REPORT**

The US Army Corps of Engineers – Detroit District Great Lakes water level outlook was included in each commissioner’s meeting packet for their information.

## **OTHER**

Locations and dates for 2017 Michigan State Waterways Commission meetings are to be addressed.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:18 a.m.

**The next Michigan State Waterways Commission Meeting: East Tawas, October 21, 2016**