



## MICHIGAN STATE WATERWAYS COMMISSION

April 28, 2017

Saugatuck/Douglas, Michigan

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

Commissioner, Chair, Gary Marowske  
Commissioner, Vice Chair, Alex Declercq  
Commissioner, Dennis Nickels  
Commissioner, Dennis Grinold  
Commissioner, James Hansen  
Commissioner, Nicki Polan

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

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

### **GUEST SPEAKERS**

Mike Evanoff, DNR  
Martin Vander Velde, DNR  
Ami Van Antwerp, DNR

### **NOT PRESENT**

Commissioner, Ward Walstrom  
Scott Pratt, DNR  
Anna Sylvester, DNR



MINUTES  
MICHIGAN STATE WATERWAYS COMMISSION

**OPENING COMMENTS**

Chair Gary Marowske called the meeting to order at 10:55 a.m., April 28, 2017. Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC APPEARANCE**

**Written Correspondence:** A written correspondence is included in the Michigan State Waterways Commission meeting packet submitted by David Green, Director of Public Services for the City of Traverse City. David wrote regarding the operations of Duncan L. Clinch Marina using a ratio of fifty percent seasonal boaters and fifty percent transitional boaters. David went on to state that due to a waiting list of 148 boaters requesting a seasonal slip, they feel they need to petition the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and the Michigan State Waterways Commission to issue formal approval for the City to revise the slip usage percentage at Clinch Marina from the current 50-50 ratio to 60-40 ratio. By approval, this would allow 71 seasonal slips vs the current 59, and 47 transitional slips vs the current 59 transitional slips.

**Appearances:** Dermot Putnam, Chair, Precinct Development, Allegan County, said it used to be that every mile of shoreline, a 66 foot access point was designated, and that this particular access point, 121<sup>st</sup> Street in Ganges Township, was shut down by the Township (Trustee, Dick Hutchins) without notification to the public. Dermot went on to say that this heavily used easement was given to a resident of Illinois. The process was for the Township to inform the DNR, in which they did, but the DNR was not interested in the purchase. Parks and Recreation Chief, Ron Olson stated that it may be possible for DNR to figure out a different public access site nearby. Dermot concluded with the request that a process be put in place to where the DNR could identify these lakeshore communities and townships, to stay informed should they hear of another public easement or access site being given up, in hopes to keep it public.

Sheila Putnam, local citizen, brought to the group, what she called a legislation issue. Sheila is for public access, not privileged access, as there was a public access between South Haven and Saugatuck that she frequented, until it was gated up without notice to the public, in September of 2016.



Martin Colburn, City Manager of Traverse City – with David Green, Director of Public Services for the City of Traverse City, discussed the capacity at Duncan L. Clinch Marina in Traverse City. There is currently a waiting list of 148 boaters who wish to have a seasonal boat slip. In order to increase the amount of seasonal slips to alleviate some of the waiting list, Martin and David are seeking approval to go from 59 to 71 seasonal boat slips, and from 59 to 47 transient slips. David wrote a letter regarding this topic, which can be found in each commissioner's packet for their review.

Bill Boik, representing the Kalamazoo Lake Harbor Authority (KLHA) and Port City Collaborative, stated that he's going through efforts with a super fund clean-up of the Kalamazoo River. Kalamazoo Lake is unfortunately at the end of the list to clean up. Concerning factors include public safety, protection of Lake Michigan, and the local economy. Kalamazoo Lake is the only lake that has to dredge on a regular basis due to the Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB's) in the riverbed, so public safety is a big concern with this area being dredged as it should be. Bill is requesting from the commission, a resolution in support and letter of support for the prevention of PCB's making their way into Lake Michigan.

Lisa Greenwood, member of KLHA – representing Douglas, and the topic of the pending grant on the Great Lakes Water Trails. Douglas and the City of Saugatuck have a pending grant with the Great Lakes Trails Commission to do a non-motorized water trail, connecting 4 points – upstream Richmond, a DNR site, Wade's Bayou, and Coghlin Park. First time around, the grant was rescinded, the separate communities of Douglas and Saugatuck then filed a joint community application. This grant will help Douglas with installing the already developed plan and will help Saugatuck further their research engineering survey.

Laura Judge, citizen of Holland, voiced her opposition to the North Shores of Saugatuck boat basin and marina project that is proposed adjacent to Saugatuck Dune state park. This proposal was just approved in the last week of April. Upon further conversation, this site is not represented by the DNR. Other contacts were suggested to Laura for further information.

Greg Weykamp of Edgewater Resources spoke briefly supporting Bill Boik's comments today. Edgewater has worked with both Saugatuck and Douglas for the past 5 years on the dredging issue. Greg states there is a very comprehensive, well organized plan adopted by both communities in conjunction with the state, for a resolution to the ongoing dredging issue.



## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Chair Gary Marowske asked for a motion for approval of the minutes from the February 17, 2017 Michigan State Waterways Commission meeting. The motion was put into place by Commissioner Jim Hansen and was seconded by Commissioner Denny Grinold. Motion carried unanimously, 6-0.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

**MOTION:** Chair Gary Marowske asked for a motion for approval of information supporting a resolution regarding FY2017 Grant Award Recommendations. The motion was put into place by Commissioner Jim Hansen and was seconded by Commissioner Denny Grinold. Motion carried unanimously, 6-0.

**MOTION:** Chair Gary Marowske asked for a motion for approval of information supporting a resolution regarding Waterways Supplemental FY2017 Funds. The motion was put into place by Commissioner Jim Hansen and was seconded by Commissioner Denny Grinold. Motion carried unanimously, 6-0.

**MOTION:** Chair Gary Marowske asked for a motion of approval of information supporting a resolution regarding the request of a resolution and a letter of support for the Kalamazoo Lake superfund project. The motion was put into place by Commissioner Jim Hansen and was seconded by Commissioner Nicki Polan. Motion carried unanimously, 6-0. A formal resolution will be presented at the June meeting.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **FINANCE UPDATE**

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

### **MARKETING UPDATE**

DNR staff member, Ami Van Antwerp presented a PowerPoint presentation on the boating marketing plan. Ami highlighted the importance of social media, email subscribers, and cross promotion. It was announced that the Boating Week for 2017 will run from June 11-18. Documents to support this update were included in each commissioner's packet for their review.



## **WAYS AND MEANS UPDATE**

The topic of paddle sports was discussed during the work session. Commissioner, Dennis Nickels will plan a conference call with the group prior to the June meeting.

## **FACILITIES UPDATE**

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

## **OPERATIONS UPDATE**

**Jason Fleming** spoke of the Clinch Marina variance request. At the opening of the meeting, Traverse City officials, Martin Colburn and Dave Green asked for support in altering the current slip arrangement. The request was in support of going from 50/50 to 60/40 in seasonal to transient boat slips. By supporting this request, it would help alleviate boaters on the lengthy waiting list for seasonal slips. Commissioners were in support of this request, with some adjustments to be made, Commissioner Jim Hansen requesting the motion and Commissioner Dennis Nickels seconding the motion. There was no opposition. A formal resolution will be presented at the June meeting.

**Nicki Polan** informed the group that there is a meeting regarding bottom land leases set for May 3; an update will be provided at the June meeting.

## **INFORMATIONAL BUSINESS**

### **FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Supporting documents can be found in the Michigan State Waterways Commission meeting packet. Highlights include- boating registration revenue is up, at \$2.2 million compared to \$1.8 million at this time last year, and the trend for recreation passport over last year is projected to increase by at least 2%.

### **GENERAL UPDATES**

**Ron Olson** briefed on the Grand Traverse Harbor – Schoolcraft Township Systems Update. Access to the harbor has been blocked due to needed dredging. Emergency dredging was done 3-4 years ago, but the channel is blocked again, to the point where flooding has occurred due to the blockage. Going through the permit process now, and working on an emergency grant to assist with the dredging.



**Martin Vander Velde**, DNR supervisor for the Allegan Field Office and Construction Crew explained in detail the future acquisition of major maintenance equipment to be purchased with waterways funds. A few of the items include, a 321 Case Wheeled Loader for the Newberry Field Office, which will replace a 1979 John Deere 450 track loader, a 20-ton tag trailer for the Grayling Construction Crew, which will replace a 10-ton tag trailer that has been out of service for 15 years, and a Noram motor grader with front dozer blade and rear ripper for the Baraga Field Office, in which a savings of \$92,000 will occur due to an ORV restoration grant that will cover half the total cost. Among other tasks, this new equipment will benefit the Michigan State Waterways Commission by assisting in river bottom restorations, taking out dams, and improving work at boating access sites.

**Mike Evanoff**, Safety Officer for Parks and Recreation, briefed the group on the importance of Electric Shock Drowning (ESD) awareness and prevention. A brochure is in the final design stages. Once finalized, the ESD brochures will be available at state harbor facilities. A link on the harbors website will also be available for users to access the information that will be included in the brochure. There is also a decal in the works that will be fixed to the power pedestals as a reminder to the potential danger of electric currents in the surrounding waters.

**Ron Olson**, Chief of Parks and Recreation, gave a few updates. The Chestonia Bridge, which spans the Jordan River, is being rebuilt by the local road commission. A new access point is being created, which will be improved and will include a parking lot, as this is a popular spot for those who raft and kayak.

O'Neil Lake, located at the southern edge of Wilderness State Park, is facing a failed dam; a restoration project is in the works.

Recently there have been some complaints on a boat launch that's in very bad shape in Au Train. Folks think it's a DNR site, and it is not. The launch is owned and operated by the United States Forest Service (USFS). The DNR has offered its assistance in helping with the needed restoration, but the USFS has not accepted the offer.

## **PROJECT UPDATES**

**Paul Petersen** started his project update by announcing the Sustainable Small Harbors Project webinar, which was to be held on May 8, 2017 for those interested.

The Grand River waterway preliminary engineering study is to be in its final version on May 2, 2017.



Elk Rapids municipal marina is moving ahead with improvements to their electrical system, power pedestals.

Long Lake Township (Crescent Shores) proceeding with bids and site clearing.

**Jordan Byelich** provided 2 project updates, starting with redevelopment at White Lake Boating Access Site in Oakland County. Parking expansion and realignment of the launch ramp is to be completed this summer.

East Tawas State Harbor is nearing the end of Phase 1 completion. 50+ transient slips, dock placement, installation of power pedestals, and dock attendant building are all slated to be finished at the end of May.

### **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**

No updates to provide at this time.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:38 p.m.

**The next Michigan State Waterways Commission Meeting: Escanaba, June 8/9, 2017**