



MICHIGAN STATE WATERWAYS COMMISSION

June 19, 2019

Ludington, Michigan

PRESENT FOR THE WATERWAYS COMMISSION

Commissioner, Chair, Dennis Nickels
Commissioner, Vice-Chair, James Hansen
Commissioner, Secretary, Mary Rising
Commissioner, Steve Arwood
Commissioner, Barb Brooks
Commissioner, Nicki Polan
Commissioner, Pete Beauregard

OTHERS PRESENT

Ron Olson, DNR
Vicki McGhee, DNR
Linnae Dawson, DNR
Michael Desnoyer, DNR
Jordan Byelich, DNR
Paul Petersen, DNR
Michelle Wieber, DNR, Recorder
Maia Turek, DNR

NOT PRESENT

Jackie Blodgett, DNR

SPECIAL GUESTS

Kasey Mahony, Cadillac District Manager, DNR
Ron Monroe, Baldwin Field Office, DNR
Ami Van Antwerp, Communication Coordinator, DNR
Keith Kompoltowicz, United States Army Corp of Engineers



MINUTES
MICHIGAN STATE WATERWAYS COMMISSION

OPENING COMMENTS

Chair Dennis Nickels, called the meeting to order at 9:51 a.m., June 19, 2019. Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC APPEARANCE

Appearances: Joan Bailey, Friends of the Lower Grand River Organization, resident of Grand Haven, stood before the Commission to express her opposition to the proposed Grand River dredging project. Ms. Bailey distributed a frequently asked questions handout to the Commissioners and DNR staff, highlighting topics such as environmental impacts, cost, public and private launches/docks impacts, and the rights of public and private property owners.

Brian Reagan, resident of Whitehall, Hartshorne Marina annual slip holder, let the Commissioners know he welcomes the new management to Hartshorne, but is opposed to the development of condominiums, a club house, and a pool. Mr. Reagan stated there have not been any improvements in the past six years, and a list of maintenance issues that range from bathroom faucets to unstable docks to overflowing trash, and a list of excuses as to why the Wi-Fi hasn't worked for the past six years.

Daniel Deitz, resident of Muskegon, Hartshorne Marina slip hold for 20 years, informed the Commissioners that he opposes the Hartshorne Village condo development. Mr. Dietz also stated the maintenance issues give a bad first impression to those new to the area, or vacationing.

Gary Sams, resident of Grand Rapids, Hartshorne Boat Owner's Association. Mr. Sams stated to the Commissioners that this association is a newly formed group due to Hartshorne's lack of communication and poorly managed facilities, and difficulties speaking to the city of Muskegon. It is rumored that condo owners will have first right of refusal for seasonal boat slips.

ACTION ITEMS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Chair Dennis Nickels asked for a motion for approval of the minutes from the April 30, 2019 Michigan State Waterways Commission meeting. The motion was put into place by Commissioner Steve Arwood and was seconded by Commissioner Pete Beauregard. Motion carried unanimously, 7-0.



GENERAL UPDATES

Ron Olson informed the Commission that there is a plan moving along for the agreement for Harbor View Marina of Ludington, to enter a lease with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). It is anticipated this agreement will be set before the end of this year.

FINANCIAL UPDATES

Michael Desnoyer provided a financial summary of updates based on the information provided in the meeting packet, which was provided to all Commissioners for their information. The update included discussion on expenditures and revenue.

OPERATIONS UPDATES

Linnae Dawson provided multiple updates. The Operations Subcommittee discussed and was in favor of multiple variance requests from Northport, Port Sanilac, and Muskegon. Update from last season, the Committee approved a commercial use variance for Munising Bayshore Marina to allow operations of a pirate cruise during the summer months. Since this allowance, the cruise has been extremely successful. Harbor slip reservations are down, based on this time last year, citing unusually cool and rainy weather. Detroit's Grayhaven Marina has signed a 3-year lease with a new concessionaire. Since this agreement, things are improving, and seasonal boat slips are at capacity. Parks and Recreation Policy 9.1, Harbor Slip Management, has been updated. **Lori Ruff** updated the Commission on The Portage, located at Presque Isle State Harbor. The facility is undergoing development, maintenance, repair, and remodeling. The anticipated re-opening is 2020. The new party store across the street from the harbor sells pizza and ice cream for boater's convenience. Details are being worked out to shuttle customers to and from the Sand Bay Trading Company, and Woody's, on nearby Grand Lake this season.

GUEST SPEAKER

Kasey Mahony, Cadillac District Manager, and **Ron Monroe**, Baldwin Field Office, presented to the Commission, a Major Maintenance and Construction Crew update. With the excavator, skid steer, stumper, chipper, high lift, tractor, mowers, graders and laser guidance system, the crew keeps quite busy with projects such as: Boating Access Site (BAS) installs, land clearing, stump removal, demolition, dock construction, skid pier replacement, and vault toilet construction. This crew also assisted with efforts after the Upper Peninsula's Houghton County suffered catastrophic damage last year.



Maia Turek and **Ami Van Antwerp** spoke to the Commission on the Marketing & Outreach Division's updates, Promoting Michigan Boating. Some topics covered in this presentation were: harbor guide updates, boating safety, Great Lakes beach safety, mobilecause (text 80888), new boating laws, 2020 marketing plans, and email marketing.

United States Army Corp of Engineer Watershed Chief, Hydrology Branch, **Keith Kompoltowicz**, spoke to the Commission on the record-breaking water levels across the state. Due to multiple weather factors, Michigan's Great Lakes are predicted to set new record-high levels in 2019.

PROJECT REPORT

The Michigan State Waterways Development Program Project Report was included in each commissioner's meeting packet for their information. **Jordan Byelich** informed the Commissioners that Phase 3 at East Tawas State Harbor was approved by the Senate on June 12. Work is anticipated to begin soon, some of which will include, but is not limited to: new broadside floating docks, building addition with office and lounge spaces, new steel roof, and timber pile removal.

GREAT LAKES WATER LEVEL REPORT

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District Great Lakes water level outlook was included in each commissioner's meeting packet for their information.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

The next Michigan State Waterways Commission Meeting: August 22, 2019