



## MINUTES

### MICHIGAN STATE WATERWAYS COMMISSION

April 29, 2016

St. Clair, Michigan

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

Commissioner, Chair, Gary Marowske  
Commissioner, Vice Chair, Alex Declercq  
Commissioner, Dennis Nickels  
Commissioner James Hansen  
Commissioner Ward Walstrom  
Commissioner Nicki Polan  
Commissioner Dennis Grinold  
Special Consultant, R.J. Peterson

#### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Ron Olson, DNR  
Vicki Anthes, DNR  
Paul Petersen, DNR  
Jason Fleming, DNR  
Maia Turek, DNR  
Jacklin Blodgett, DNR  
Renee Parker, DNR  
Michelle Wieber, DNR  
Linnae Dawson, DNR

#### **NOT PRESENT**

Jordan Byelich, DNR



## MICHIGAN STATE WATERWAYS COMMISSION

### OPENING COMMENTS

Chair Gary Marowske called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m., April 29, 2016. Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

### PUBLIC APPEARANCE

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

**Appearances:** Ed Smith owns local storage facility that also does repair work. Mr. Smith spoke about competing with state harbors and marinas on storage and how he feels that competition will put him out of business. Mr. Smith wanted to stress that he is against the State of Michigan competing with local vendors like him for storage. He is also concerned about municipal harbors competing for state monies for items like lifting equipment etc.

Stanley Bydlos, Field Representative for the Lake St. Clair Walleye Association, as well as a member of MUCC, indicated he had attended a meeting on April 21, 2016 regarding a boat launch on Belle Isle. The Walleye Association feels this location is a very important asset with the surrounding water. The Walleye Association would like consideration for a boat launch on Belle Isle. Mr. Bydlos said there are no boat launches in the area, and there is only 1 there. Commission is in favor of a launch for Belle Isle per Gary Marowske, but shared that numerous other infrastructure items need to be addressed prior to this. Mr. Bydlos requested the anglers have input into the process when the Waterways Commission and MDNR do get ready to proceed with the installation of a boat launch.

Jeff Bohm, St. Clair County Board Chairman, thanked everyone for coming to St. Clair. Mr. Bohm shared the planning priorities for the community; such as working on revitalization in the downtown area. St. Clair has applied for grant funding to redo the boardwalk area. Mr. Bohm expressed how important the water connectivity is to the community, and that they would look forward to working with the commission on this area.

Chester Kolasz, Port Sanilac Marina owner, feels that the waterways system had two purposes. The primary purpose is Harbors of Refuge for emergencies. Mr. Kolasz feels that municipal marinas are utilizing seasonal slips that take away from the harbor of refuge concept. Mr. Kolasz primary concern is how does a private facility compete against the state? Transient slips turning to seasonal takes away from private commerce. Mr. Kolasz suggested the Waterways Commission works with Pure Michigan for marketing and promoting.



Waterways Commission Chair Gary Marowske expressed that we had received the Port Sanilac letters and their concern has not gone unnoticed. Chair Marowske assured Mr. Kolasz that he will be responding to his recent letter and the Waterways Commission will address this issue more in depth at the June 2016 meeting.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Chair Gary Marowske asked for a motion for approval of the minutes from the December 16, 2015, Michigan State Waterways Commission meeting. The motion was put into place by Commissioner Dennis Nickels and was seconded by Commissioner Dennis Grinold. Motion carried unanimously, 7-0.

### **ACTION ITEMS**

#### **RESOLUTION 04-2016-01**

**Resolution 04-2016-01** was presented for approval. This resolution is for support for the utilization of the remaining FY2013 Emergency Dredging Funds on 2016 Grant-In-Aid application needs.

**MOTION:** Chair Gary Marowske asked for a vote of support for Resolution 04-2016-01. Commissioner Jim Hanson approved the motion and Commissioner Dennis Nickels seconded. The vote was carried unanimously 7 - 0.

**RESOLUTION 04-2016-02** was presented for approval. This resolution is for support for awarding grants as listed in the accompanying list. Ward motioned to accept with additional verbiage on the subject of Rogers City

**MOTION:** Chair Gary Marowske asked for a vote of support for Resolution 04-2016-02 with the added verbiage. The motion was carried 7 – 0.



**RESOLUTION 04-2016-03** was presented for approval. This resolution is for support of the attached Capital outlay funding plan for fiscal year 2016.

**MOTION:** Chair Gary Marowske asked for a vote of support for Resolution 04-2016-03. Commissioner Alex Declercq approved the motion and Commissioner Jim Hansen seconded. The vote was carried unanimously 7 – 0.

### **INFORMATIONAL BUSINESS**

#### **INTRODUCTIONS**

**Chair Gary Marowske** introduced Michelle Wieber as the new Waterways Commission Administrative Assistant. Michelle spoke briefly about herself and her new position within the DNR Parks and Recreation division.

**Linnae Dawson**, Harbor Coordinator, shared a little about her work, background, and what she has been working on recently. Linnae indicated she spent much of January meeting the team and seeing where her position fits in to the department. Linnae also shared her work plan for the year; which was included in the commissioner's packet. Linnae's office is located in Boyne City, and she has been working closely with CRS (Central Reservation System) team. She has spent time becoming familiar with various aspects of the different groups and making introductions. She has also been working with MBIA (Michigan Boating Industries Association) on partnership opportunities with them as well as working with USACE (United States Army Corp of Engineers). She is currently working with Maia Turek on marketing of our harbors via CAMIS and attended CRS training to learn about creating various reports to assist with gathering user data.

#### **REVIEW OF MICHIGAN BOATING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION/DNR JOINT MEETING ISSUES**

Item not discussed



## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **FINANCIAL UPDATE**

A brief financial update was given by **Jacklin Blodgett**; documents to support this update were included in each commissioner's packet for their review. Boating registrations are down this year. Registrations increased 7% over this time last year. Revenue is on track from previous years. There was much discussion surrounding the cost of registrations through the Secretary of State's office versus at retail outlets.

### **MARKETING UPDATE**

**Ward Walstrom** gave a short marketing update; a marketing report was included in each commissioner's packet for review.

### **WAYS AND MEANS UPDATE**

**Dennis Nickels** presented that going forward we would like to start talking net dollars when discussing revenue and expenses. The aim is to start reporting the net dollars we are working with.

### **WATER TRAIL UPDATE**

**Vicki Anthes** discussed that the Stakeholder review is out for draft of how to designate the trail. Moving forward, have a draft version out for comment on what we would do with a water trail. Compiling comments until revision is done before sending out again. Grand River water trail is making 3 watershed groups out of the designated length. LIA (Land Information Access) association collaborated with them on the information, good designation criteria in the near future.

### **PROJECTS**

**Paul Petersen** gave an update on current projects that are going on or will be starting in the near future. This included that East Tawas is getting new slips, dredging, and mobilization of docks starting in May, with expectations of it to be finished in September. Informed us that Fayette State Harbor will be replacing their floating docks with the building in process, with installation to finish, completed for summer 2016.



**Ward Walstrom** asked various questions regarding the Naubinway project. Naubinway is the only Harbor of Refuge in that area and requires much money to maintain it. This is out of the way from normal boat traffic but it is important to the Harbor of Refuge system.

#### **OTHER – DETROIT AREA BOATING**

**Ron Olson** spoke about Riverside Park associated with the new bridge in Detroit. There are a number of plans to rehabilitate that area. There has been a boat launch there for years but is not secured properly. It has been closed for a number of years due to operational constraints; this launch is owned by the City of Detroit. The City of Detroit did spend extra money on security prior to closing.

Commissioner Ward Walstrom asked that on the financial report sheet, that lump sum line items be labeled as either small or large projects; also to indicate whether mandated project was mandated or at DNR discretion.

#### **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.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

**The next Michigan State Waterways Commission Meeting: Sault Ste. Marie, June 24, 2016**