

Minutes of the
Michigan State Waterways Commission
June 19, 2015

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 Friday, June 19, 2015 at the Manistee Marina Building, 480 River Street, Manistee, MI 49660

All Waterway Commissioners were present:

Commissioner/Vice Chair Alex Declercq
Commissioner/Chair Gary Marowske
Commissioner Dennis Nickels
Commissioner Dennis Grinold
Commissioner James Hansen
Commissioner Nicki Polan
Commissioner Ward Walstrom
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
Darlene Moore
Jordan Byelich

Chair Gary Marowske opened the Michigan State Waterways Commission meeting at 9:55 a.m., June 19, 2015.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. PUBLIC APPEARANCE

A. Written Correspondence

There was no written correspondence.

B. Appearances (Non-agenda items)

There was one public comment from Mr. Jim Sarna from Brighton, MI regarding slip rates and an inquiry on how to apply for a grant for Woodland Lake, Michigan, where Mr. Sarna now resides.

III. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of the May 1, 2015 Minutes.

MOTION: Chair Gary Marowske asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 1, 2015 Michigan State Waterways Commission meeting. The motion was put into place by Commissioner Jim Hansen and was seconded by Commissioner Ward Walstrom. It carried unanimously, 7-0.

- B. Discussion was then started regarding the next item for voting, the resolution to approve support to surplus lands at the Au Gres State facility back to the city. Commissioner Walstrom felt that the language under the “Be it Resolved,” paragraph was confusing. He said it did not convey that the land was being returned to the City of Au Gres. Commissioner Gary Marowske asked for a vote of support to amend the language within the document. Commissioner Jim Hansen opened the floor for the motion and Commissioner Ward Walstrom seconded. The vote was carried unanimously 7-0. The commissioners then decided that the last paragraph should read as follows; BE IT RESOLVED, That the Michigan State Waterways Commission supports “**reverting,**” the surplus of lands at the Au Gres State Harbor facility to the City of Au Gres for public recreation purposes and to retain the Harbor of refuge. The floor was opened again for adoption of the language change, and Commissioner Jim Hansen motioned with a second coming from Commissioner Ward Walstrom. The recommendation to add the word “reverting” to the resolution language was unanimously carried by a vote of 7-0

IV. OLD BUSINESS

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

Jason talked about the numbers of reservations for this time of year compared to last year. The numbers were up 11.7%. He is working on a list of previous boating reservations so that prior customers can be reached through bulk mailings, updates or by using those lists to push information and messages. There was discussion of creating a flyer that could be given with boater registrations at the Secretary of State to inform boaters of the CAMIS reservation system for boating slip availability.

Jason talked about the need to form an “Operations Subcommittee”

for the Waterway Commission. There was previous discussion about forming this subcommittee and Chair Marowske said that he would send the information for that subcommittee to the Administrative Assistant, Darlene Moore so it can be implemented.

B. General Update-Operations Update – Bill Boik, Program and Grants

Unit Manager provided an update on the Harbor Sustainability, Integrated Assessment. Bill discussed the financial cost of the study as \$175,000 with a \$75,000 portion of the grant being the Waterways obligation. Of that \$75,000, the Waterways have paid \$11,000. The status on the program is that two charrettes**, one in New Baltimore and Pentwater have been completed. There are two other locations identified as test sites, Au Gres and Ontonagon. Their charrettes are scheduled for the fall of 2015. The entire project is to be completed by March 2016.

Some of the products produced from this study are: a tool kit of best practices, resources and funding opportunities and a fact sheet that will cover various items such as current conditions, trends, financial challenges, regulatory and non-regulatory issues, social equity, economic impacts and environment impacts.

** “**Charrette**” – facilitated community visioning process with the outcome of recommendations to inform environmental, social and economic sustainability.

Mr. Boik then told the Commission that the position for a “Harbor Coordinator,” was posted and ended, June 18, 2015 at noon. Interviews are expected to take place on June 30, with second interviews to be on July 2, 2015. The intention is to hire this individual as soon as possible to begin the training process.

C. Project Updates – Jordan Byelich,

Jordan created a power point presentation for the meeting that displayed the Grant-In-Aid locations and their improvements. They were as follows:

Grand Haven Marina - Shoreline Improvements
Utility Improvements

St. Jean Boating Access Site – Pier Replacement
Parking Lot Sealing
Building Improvements

Bridgeton Twp. Park Boating Access Site –
Concrete Launch
Carry Down Launch
Parking Lot Development
Vault Toilet
Site Restoration

Essexville Smith Boating Access Site –

Ramp Replacement
Dredging
Sheet Piling
Parking Lot Upgrade
Site Restoration

Jordan informed the committee that a Waterways Facility Meeting was held on April 2, 2015 in Gaylord. The meeting represented 10 Field Offices, 2 Construction Crews, 8 State Park Offices, 3 District Supervisors and 3 Regional Planners. The meeting was held to talk about current topics such as Waterways Program Legislation, Snow Plowing Policies, Aquatic Invasive Species, Toilet and Pier Design Review and Acquisition Development and to see where improvements and changes could be made in these areas.

D. Financial Update – Jackie Blodgett, Chief of Program Services

Ms. Blodgett reviewed several financial documents she included in the agenda packet.

Lastly, **Ronald A. Olson, Chief of the DNR** mentioned that invites would be emailed to the commissioners this week for the Grand Opening of the Outdoor Adventure Center that the DNR has been building in Detroit. The Grand Opening is expected on July 16, 2015, with the building opening to the public on July 20, 2015.

Meeting adjourned.

The next Waterway Commission Meeting: August 21, 2015 in Marquette, 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.