

Minutes of the
Michigan State Waterways Commission
August 21, 2015

The regular meeting of the Michigan State Waterways Commission (MSWC) was called to order by Commissioner and Chair, Gary Marowske on Friday, August 21, 2015 at the Lakeview Arena Citizens Forum Building, 401 E. Fair Avenue, Marquette MI 49855.

Waterway Commissioners were present:

Commissioner/Vice-Chair, Alex Declercq
Commissioner/Chair, Gary Marowske
Commissioner Dennis Nickels
Commissioner James Hansen
Commissioner Ward Walstrom
Special Consultant R.J. Petersen

The following Waterway Commissioners were absent:

Commissioner Nicki Polan
Commissioner Dennis Grinold

The following staff from the Department of Natural Resources was present:

Jason Fleming
Bill Boik
Paul Petersen
Jackie Blodgett
Darlene Moore
Jordan Byelich
Vicki Anthes

Chair Gary Marowske opened the Michigan State Waterways Commission meeting at 9:05 a.m., August 21, 2015.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

II. PUBLIC APPEARANCE

A. Written Correspondence

There was no written correspondence.

B. Appearances (Non-agenda items)

There was public comment from Mr. Kevin Trevillian, Coleman Engineering, Iron Mountain Michigan. Public comment was also given by Mr. Gregg Beukema and his wife, Nancy Beukema from Marquette, Michigan. Mr. Beukema also provided the Waterways Commissioners with a written copy of his verbal presentation.

Chair Marowske took a moment before the action items on the agenda to congratulate Commissioners Dennis Nickels, Ward Walstrom and Dennis Grinold on their re-appointment by the Governor to another 3-year term on the Waterways Commission. Their new term will expire on 9/18/2008.

III. ACTION ITEMS

A. Approval of the June 19, 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 Al Declercq. It carried unanimously, 5-0.

B. An item that was discussed earlier in the morning Work Session was the issue of charging for a slip by the size of the slip and not the boat size. It seems that this form of fee charging for boat slips is not popular with the boating public. Discussion was to change the fee structure back to charging by the actual boat size. There was mention to create a resolution for this and have the Commissioners vote on the change at the next Waterways meeting. Commissioner Al Declercq said that he would like to motion for a vote on changing the process at the meeting without creating a resolution and waiting for the next Waterways meeting. Commissioner Declercq believes that the Commissioners understand and agree with that fee structure and that he would like to motion to take a vote to support it today. Commissioner Declercq's motion to vote to charge slips/vessels by their size and not by the size of the slip they are in placed into was moved to the floor. Commissioner Jim Hansen seconded. There was no further discussion or comment and the vote carried unanimously 5-0.

C. Resolution 08-2015-01 was presented for approval. Commission Ward Walstrom asked that if time permitted, an update on each of the projects listed for approval on the Capital Outlay funding list be given. Jordan Byelich provided an update on each project. This list was a recommendation plan for Capital Outlay funding at state-owned facilities for the Fiscal Year 2016 budget. The projects recommended by the DNR to the Waterways today were reviewed by the Waterways Facilities subcommittee on August 11, 2015, who supported the plan. These projects are priorities based upon an evaluation process that will enhance public recreational boating opportunities in the future. Commissioner Gary Marowske asked for a vote of support for Resolution 08-2015-01. Commissioner Ward Walstrom approved the motion and Commissioner Al Declercq seconded. The vote was carried unanimously 5-0.

Bill Doan, Western UP District Supervisor, and Eric Cadeau, Western UP District Planner presented a slide presentation highlighting projects in the Upper Peninsula over the past five years and also current and future projects that will be taking place. These projects included the marinas, harbors and boating access sites.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

- A. General Update— Bill Boik, Program and Grants Unit Manager** provided an update on the Harbor Sustainability, Integrated Assessment with the Michigan Sea Grant. We have substantially completed 2 out of the 4 sites, New Baltimore and Pentwater. We are starting the third site, Au Gres next week. We will go back in September to Au Gres to meet with the public. The last location, Ontonagon will begin in November. Once these assessments are done, we will be able to share with our waterfront community's information and a toolkit to help on how to become sustainable, working the community and waterfront together, with the waterfront as an asset and not a liability.

SOBA- State Organization of Boating. Bill had a handout/survey/strategic plan for the commissioners to look at and explained why this particular survey was important to Michigan. SOBA is a National organization and Michigan was one of the charter members that established SOBA. One of the products to come from this organization is a design guide. Our vested interest is if the guide outlines and fits the southern states and not the northern states, we could lose out when it comes to litigations. When doing a comparison it would be recognized that if what is printed in the design guide fits/works better for the southern states and not the northern states, we won't meet the standard and we could be at a big disadvantage. What product they put out, must work for us too. In addition, SOBA can also take on national issues that can be costly for states to complete studies on. Those issues once decided, become a national standard and locally we can use them to say that "this is what's acceptable across the board/nationally."

- B. Operations Update – Jason Fleming, Resource Management Chief**
Jason gave an update on use. He said we were 8% down overall compared to this time last year but 10% ahead for the month of July versus last July. The problem with the numbers he stated is how the communities are inputting their data. Better training is being implemented to make this information/data more accurate.

The Harbor Coordinator position that was filled has now become vacant due to the person that took the job reconsidering and going back to his previous position as a park. Supervisor. The position is being reassessed as far as the

amount of effort that is involved in the position. The job description will be changed to reflect and fit the duties of the job. Originally there was more to the job than what was in the initial job description and Civil Service requires that information of the job description to be very definitive. The position will be reposted soon.

- C. Project Updates – Paul Petersen, Waterways Grants Program Manager and Jordan Byelich, Waterways Development Program Manager.** Paul started the discussion with recently completed projects referring to projects that the work has been done and the final payment being made. **Sault Ste. Marie**, George Kent Marina – fuel tank repair, **Port Sanilac**, light pole replacement project, **Grand Haven**, shoreline and utility improvements, **Manistique**, the Harbormaster building and broadside dockage in all complete. Jordan Byelich presented 4 Boating Access Site projects that will be starting; **East Tawas-Iosco County**, Phase I Project, **Bolles Harbor**-Monroe County, Phase II Project, **Eagle Lake**-Cass County, new development, **Dodge #4**-Oakland County, requires complete redevelopment of the boating access site.
- D. Mackinac Island Update – Gary Marowske, Waterways Commission Chair** Gary had comments regarding a mooring ball system in Mackinac Harbor, stating that the mooring balls that are there currently, are illegal. He said that he talked to Mackinac Island Mayor, Margaret Doud and she was very much in favor of that. She said she would like to create a subcommittee of members that are on the island and look into it. Gary would like to include DNR staff as well. He mentioned that Margaret Doud stated that nobody knows at this time what is happening with the Arnold Line dock (ferry service which takes passengers to the island) they are in a weak financial position and perhaps their dock, if they close, could be utilized for boating slips. Gary would like to set up a meeting with DNR staff, Margaret Doud and the subcommittee members and work together to see what ideas and options can be established. Gary said he will pursue this issue and follow through with the process.
- Metro/Belle Isle Update- We have had several discussions and believes that everyone is in favor of a large boat ramp on Belle Isle. Gary asked DNR staff if there were any updates on the Belle Isle Conservancy with regard to improvements/projects for the island. Jason Fleming spoke and told the Commissioners that the concern is to make sure that assessments of what projects take place on the island is made fairly and with public support since there are so many ideas from all over for the island. Not just from the boating end of it but for the island as a whole. The Conservancy wants to come up with a “master plan” for the island. The first phase of that is to gather public input and have meetings to see what the public would like to see happen on the island. So at this time there is nothing in place from the boating end of it, just discussion.

E. Financial Updates – Jackie Blodgett, Chief of Program Services.

Ms. Blodgett reviewed and discussed budget items from reports she had included in the agenda packet. She mentioned our fiscal year will be closing out on September 30, 2015. A preliminary report will be available at the October Waterways meeting but by the December 2015 Waterways meeting the report will be finalized and the commissioners will be able to see what the exact numbers are for 2015.

Meeting adjourned.

The next Waterway Commission Meeting: December 4, 2015 in Lansing, Michigan at Constitution Hall, 525 W. Allegan, Lansing MI, in meeting rooms ConCon A & ConCon B in the Atrium level.

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.