



## **MICHIGAN STATE WATERWAYS COMMISSION**

February 8, 2019  
Lansing, Michigan

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

Commissioner, Chair, Dennis Nickels  
Commissioner, Secretary, Mary Rising  
Commissioner, Steve Arwood  
Commissioner, Barb Brooks

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

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

### **NOT PRESENT**

Commissioner, Vice-Chair, James Hansen  
Commissioner, Nicki Polan  
Commissioner, Pete Beauregard  
Maia Turek, DNR

### **SPECIAL GUESTS**

Emily Finnell, Office of the Great Lakes



MINUTES  
MICHIGAN STATE WATERWAYS COMMISSION

**OPENING COMMENTS**

Chair Dennis Nickels, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., February 8, 2019. Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC APPEARANCE**

**Appearances:** Rich Killips, Chief of Police, New Buffalo, made an appearance to thank the Michigan State Waterways Commission (MSWC) for the thirty-two years in which the City of New Buffalo entered into a Grant agreement with the State of Michigan. The City requested to be released from the obligations of the grant agreement. MSWC supported the release.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION:** Chair Dennis Nickels asked for a motion for approval of the minutes from the December 7, 2018 Michigan State Waterways Commission meeting. The motion was put into place by Commissioner Steve Arwood and was seconded by Commissioner Mary Rising. Motion carried unanimously, 4-0.

**GENERAL UPDATES**

**Ron Olson** informed the Commission that the opt-out for the Recreation Passport did not get submitted to the House in December 2018 for a vote. Funds are being sought from a FY2019 Supplemental request to pay for signage at Boating Access Sites (BAS), boat registration inserts, etc. to help educate boaters of the negative impacts on the spreading of Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS). Ron also provided an update on Harborview. The County will continue to operate Harborview, until the transfer of the facilities goes to the City of Ludington and will remain open this year.

**FINANCIAL UPDATES**

**Michael Desnoyer** provided a summary of updates based on the information provided in the meeting packet, which was provided to all Commissioners for their information. The update included a presentation on State and Federal revenues and final numbers from FY18, and projections for FY19.



## **OPERATIONS UPDATES**

**Linnae Dawson** provided multiple updates. Lexington will have a Harbormaster in place, and Copper Harbor State Harbor will soon have a supervisor in place. Boating policies are currently being updated. With Straits State Harbor offering 15 seasonal boating slips beginning in 2019, there is an application deadline of March 15 for those wanting to be in a lottery drawing. To date, 40 applications have been received, and results are to be announced by April 1, 2019. Harbor reservations are up 8%. Boyne City, Northport, and Ottawa County are to be added to the CAMIS reservation system in time for the 2019 boating season. Variance requests came in from the City of Manistee, the Village of Mackinaw City, the Village of Northport, and from the City of Whitehall.

## **GUEST SPEAKER**

Special guest, **Emily Finnell**, Director of Special Projects and Strategy, Office of the Great Lakes, addressed the Commission with information regarding the sustainable small harbors initiative. Emily discussed the goals of St. Joseph & Benton Harbor, which included the goal of the Twin Cities Sustainable Harbors Initiative which is to facilitate the development of long-term, sustainable strategies that enable the communities to maximize the benefits of their harbor and waterfront.

## **PROJECT REPORT**

The Michigan State Waterways Development Program Project Report was included in each commissioner's meeting packet for their information.

## **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 11:49 a.m.

**The next Michigan State Waterways Commission Meeting: Lansing, April 30, 2019**