



MICHIGAN STATE WATERWAYS COMMISSION

April 25, 2018
Lansing, Michigan

PRESENT FOR THE WATERWAYS COMMISSION

Commissioner, Chair, Dennis Nickels
Commissioner, Denny Grinold
Commissioner, Steve Arwood
Commissioner, Mary Rising
Commissioner, Nicki Polan

OTHERS PRESENT

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

GUEST SPEAKERS

Lori Eschenburg, Blueways of St. Clair Water Trail Manager
Kelly Hanson, Huron County Sheriff

NOT PRESENT

Commissioner, Vice-Chair, Ward Walstrom
Commissioner, James Hansen



MINUTES
MICHIGAN STATE WATERWAYS COMMISSION

OPENING COMMENTS

Chair Dennis Nickels called the meeting to order at 10:09 a.m., April 25, 2018. Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC APPEARANCE

Written Correspondence: A written correspondence was submitted by the following individuals, each regarding a boat launch on Belle Isle. A copy of each correspondence was included in the commissioner's packet for their review.

- Ger Moua
- Richard Magolan
- Scott McConnell
- John Conway
- Joe Wojichowski
- Carol Rhoades

A written correspondence was submitted by the following individuals, each regarding the proposal for the registration of paddle sport equipment. A copy of each correspondence was included in the commissioner's packet for their review:

- Jeff Schepers
- Lori Jackson
- Dan Reinoehl
- Jason Stiles
- Judy Fill
- Ted Palma
- Kevin Murphy
- Craig McLellan
- Mike M.
- Marc Willma
- Michael Miller
- John
- Lori Eschenburg
- Beth Virtanen
- Kathy DeVries
- Ken Dolinar
- Kevin Reilly
- Keith Dziedzic



- Linda Ricketts
- Heidi Pennala
- Dale Goolsby
- Lawrence Lindy
- Unknown
- Steve Erickson
- Lara Clisch
- Kenneth Cygan
- Joshua Pearce

Appearances: Huron County Sheriff, Kelly Hanson addressed the Commission on the concern for kayak safety. Sheriff Hanson mentioned the sport is gaining popularity, and with that comes increased search and rescue, distress calls, and the need for increased patrols. Sheriff Hanson let the Commissioners know that Huron County Sheriff's department is in support of having paddled craft registered.

Lori Eschenburg, Blueways of St. Clair Water Trail Manager, presented to the Commission, The Island Loop Route National Water Trail, the Blueways of St. Clair. Details of the Blueways of St. Clair include the following:

- There are 17 Blueways in 9 water bodies
- 54 public water access points
- Trails were developed by interviewing paddlers
- Started with a Michigan Coastal Zone Grant in 2010
- The Island Loop Route become a National Water Trail in November 2013
- The Island Loop is comprised of four different bodies of water, over 10 miles long between Michigan, and Ontario, Canada.
- There are 8 accessible kayak launches in St. Clair County
- There are 6 future launches planned

Lori also pointed out reasons the Blueways of St. Clair Committee supports the registration of paddle craft: A permitting fee could fund more first responders for Marine Patrol, making response times shorter for emergency calls on the water, more dollars to fund parking and amenities at water access points for motor boats and paddle craft vehicles. Funds could be used to promote paddle craft safety, possibly at boating safety class that is currently taught in Michigan schools.

Ron Cooper, of Kent City, informed the Commission that he is against the proposed registration of paddle craft.

Jennifer Robydek, of Cheboygan, Nautical North Family Adventures, inquired about the status of the variance request that was submitted by the Cheboygan County Marina. Jennifer was informed she would receive notification the week of April 30, 2018.



Huron County Sheriff, Duane Miller, spoke on a few safety points. Sheriff Miller stated he would like to see a tether and or personal flotation device rule for those who use stand up paddle boards.

Michael Dowdy of Grand Ledge spoke to the Commissioners, voicing his disagreement on the proposed registration of paddle craft.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Chair Dennis Nickels asked for a motion for approval of the minutes from the February 23, 2018 Michigan State Waterways Commission meeting. The motion was put into place by Commissioner Steve Arwood and was seconded by Commissioner Nicki Polan. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

ACTION ITEMS

MOTION: Chair Dennis Nickels asked for a motion for approval in support of resolution number 04-2018-02, Resolution to Approve the Grant Awards for Waterways Funding. The motion was put into place by Commissioner Denny Grinold and was seconded by Commissioner Steve Arwood. Motion carried unanimously, 6-0.

MOTION: Chair Dennis Nickels asked for a motion for approval in support of resolution number 04-2018-03, Resolution to Support the Recreation Passport Expansion to all Boating Access Sites. The motion was put into place by Commissioner Nicki Polan and was seconded by Commissioner Steve Arwood. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

MOTION: Chair Dennis Nickels asked for a motion for approval in support of resolution number 04-2018-04, Resolution to Amend the Planning for Paddle Sports Resolution number 02-2018-01. The motion was put into place by Commissioner Denny Grinold and was seconded by Commissioner Steve Arwood. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

MOTION: Chair Dennis Nickels asked for a motion for approval in support of resolution number 04-2018-05, Senate Joint Resolution and Senate Bills 763, 931, and 932, and Supporting the Michigan State Park Advisory Committee's Recommendation to Make Recreation Passport an "Opt-Out" Program. The motion was put into place by Commissioner Steve Arwood and was seconded by Commissioner Denny Grinold. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.



MOTION: Chair Dennis Nickels asked for a motion for approval in support of resolution number 04-2018-06, Resolution to Support Development of a Plan to Address Current and Future Public Waterway Infrastructure and Program Needs. The motion was put into place by Commissioner Steve Arwood and was seconded by Commissioner Denny Grinold. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FACILITIES UPDATE

Steve Arwood provided an update on what the Facilities Subcommittee discussed at their recent meeting: Life cycles of facilities, dock variances, and canoe/kayak launch systems.

FINANCE UPDATE

Jackie Blodgett provided a memo that was included in each commissioner's meeting packet for their information.

MARKETING UPDATE

Denny Grinold read through the Marketing Update that was included in each commissioner's meeting packet for their information. Topics included: Boating Week, Water Trails, and Boating Promotion.

OPERATIONS UPDATE

Nicki Polan stated there have been 5 variance requests for the upcoming boating season. They came from: Cheboygan Marina, Mackinaw City Municipal Marina, City of Munising's Bayshore Marina, Sault Ste. Marie's George Kemp Marina, and South Haven. All variances were supported by the committee.

WAYS AND MEANS UPDATE

No updates to provide at this time.



INFORMATIONAL BUSINESS

FINANCIAL UPDATE

A written report and supporting documents can be found in the Michigan State Waterways Commission meeting packet.

GENERAL UPDATES

At a recent Lake & Stream event, **Ron Olson** mentioned that the organization is very supportive of current DNR activity.

Nicki Polan provided an update from the Michigan Boating Industries Association (MBIA). Some updates include: MBIA is celebrating its 60th anniversary this year, MBIA has experienced its 7th year of consecutive growth, and Michigan ranks number 3 in the country in the marine market.

Ronda Wuycheck, Manager of Michigan's Coastal Management Program in the Office of the Great Lakes (OGL) provided the following update: The work of the Coastal Management Program is to protect, enhance, and restore the natural and cultural resources of the Great Lakes coast. Ronda also shared some information about the program's team, milestone anniversary, program focus areas, coastal strategy, and networks.

PROJECT UPDATES

Paul Petersen provided project updates on the following Grant-in-Aid Community Projects: Boyne City Phase 1 (break wall wave attenuator/dock) work scheduled to be finished at the end of September. Portage Lake at Onekama- work has started on the channel wall repair project, expected finish date is mid-November. North and South dock replacement has started in Harrisville. Docks are to be delivered in mid-May, and Phase 2 is in the process, shop drawings have been approved and will be installed in early August.

Jordan Byelich provided project updates on the following State Projects: East Tawas – Undergoing second phase of major renovation, and is currently under contract for the demolition of existing fixed and floating docks and is to be completed June 1, 2018. An additional contract will add approximately 70 slips (seasonal). Based on availability of funding, the goal is to have the bidding process for Phase 3 begin early 2019. Belle Isle – A study is underway to evaluate boating access site (BAS) opportunities on the Detroit River. Bergland Dock on Lake Gogebic will undergo new boating access site paving. Union Lake boating access site – Public input process to begin late May for development of a new site which will relocate elements from an existing site on Union Lake. Lexington State Harbor – 3 total projects are underway: new design and paving of the BAS parking lot, a market demand and analysis of infrastructure needs study



of the harbor, and a study with United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) for break wall and navigation lane analysis. Lastly, ramp replacements will take place at Houghton Lake East BAS, in Roscommon County, and Grand Lake BAS in Presque Isle County. The ramp replacement projects will be completed by DNR Major Maintenance and Construction Crews.

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 1:09 p.m.

The next Michigan State Waterways Commission Meeting: Bay City, June 7/8, 2018