



MICHIGAN STATE WATERWAYS COMMISSION

December 5, 2019

Lansing, Michigan

PRESENT FOR THE WATERWAYS COMMISSION

Commissioner, Chair, Dennis Nickels
Commissioner, Vice Chair, Steve Arwood
Commissioner, Secretary, Mary Rising
Commissioner, Barb Brooks
Commissioner, Pete Beauregard
Commissioner, Elaine Isely
Commissioner, Pat Egan

OTHERS PRESENT

Vicki McGhee, DNR
Jordan Byelich, DNR
Paul Petersen, DNR
Michelle Wieber, DNR, Recorder

NOT PRESENT

Ron Olson, DNR
Maia Turek, DNR
Linnae Dawson, DNR
Michael Desnoyer, DNR



MINUTES
MICHIGAN STATE WATERWAYS COMMISSION

OPENING COMMENTS

Chair Dennis Nickels, called the meeting to order at 2:29 p.m., December 5, 2019. Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC APPEARANCE

Appearances: There were no public comments.

ACTION ITEMS

Chairman Dennis Nickels welcomed new Commissioner, Pat Egan to the Commission. Pat comes to the Commission with a journalism background, as he ran the daily newspaper in Sault Ste. Marie and Cheboygan prior to 1990. Pat resides in the Upper Peninsula on Whitefish Bay with his wife and is an avid boater who enjoys sailing and kayaking. Mr. Egan stated he is looking forward to this experience and working with all Commissioners/DNR staff during his term.

MOTION: Chair Dennis Nickels asked for a motion for recognition for Nicki Polan serving on the Michigan State Waterways Commission, resolution number 12-2019-04. The motion was put into place by Commissioner Mary Rising and was seconded by Commissioner Steve Arwood. Motion carried unanimously, 7-0. Chair Dennis Nickels presented outgoing Commissioner, Nicki Polan with a recognition plaque on behalf of the Michigan State Waterways Commission and DNR staff. Ms. Polan ends a 6-year term served on the Commission.

MOTION: Each December, officer elections take place. Current Chair, Dennis Nickels was nominated to remain Chair of the Michigan State Waterways Commission. This motion was put into place by Commissioner Steve Arwood and was seconded by Commissioner Pete Beauregard. Motion carried unanimously, 7-0.

MOTION: Commissioner Steve Arwood, was nominated to assume the Vice-Chair of the Michigan State Waterways Commission. The motion was put into place by Commissioner Pete Beauregard and was seconded by Commissioner Barb Brooks. Motion carried unanimously, 7-0.



MOTION: Commissioner Mary Rising, was nominated to remain as Secretary of the Michigan State Waterways Commission. The motion was put into place by Commissioner Barb Brooks, and was seconded by Chair, Dennis Nickels. Motion carried unanimously, 7-0.

MOTION: The Michigan State Waterways Commission Subcommittee assignments were reviewed. Chair, Dennis Nickels, assigned the positions to the members, and each member agreed to keep the Subcommittee assignments as suggested.

MOTION: Chair Dennis Nickels asked for a motion for approval of the minutes from the October 4, 2019 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, 7-0.

GENERAL UPDATES

Vicki McGhee reported to the Commission that the DNR staff is keeping track of reported high-water level issues being communicated by State and Grant-in-Aid facilities. Due to the record-high water levels experienced in 2019, facilities are anticipating and preparing for any ice damage that may occur during the upcoming winter months.

The 2020 Michigan State Waterways Commission meeting locations and dates were presented to the Commission. After discussion, the proposed locations were supported. The Commission has agreed on meeting in Lansing on February 7th, April 30th, and December 4th. Meeting in Muskegon on June 16th, Menominee on August 26th, and Cadillac on October 2nd. These locations are always subject to change, and any updates will be posted on the website.

Additional items provided in the meeting packet included: a memo from Ron Olson, detailing 2020 Emergency High Water Funding, and Waterways State Projects – Green Infrastructure Improvements.

FINANCIAL UPDATES

Commissioner Steve Arwood covered the Financial Update for Michael Desnoyer. Steve noted the final reported numbers for 2019 have yet to be set. Each Commissioner also received the standard financial updates in the provided meeting packet. For the next scheduled meeting of February 7, it is expected that Michael Desnoyer will be able to report final numbers for 2019.



OPERATIONS UPDATES

Commissioner Mary Rising covered the Operations Update for Linnae Dawson. There was just one variance request to discuss. Mackinaw City Municipal Marina has requested to increase their number of seasonal slips by 5. The Commissioners support the requested additional seasonal slips.

PROJECT UPDATES

Jordan Byelich offered a PowerPoint presentation covering the waterways projects that took place at State facilities in 2019. Some of those projects took place, or are still active, include: East Tawas State Harbor, Union Lake Boating Access Site (BAS), Harley Ensign BAS, Ironton BAS, Whitefish Point State Harbor, Eagle Harbor State Harbor, Oman's Creek BAS, and the Detroit River Boating Access Site Study, Presque Isle State Harbor, Copper Harbor State Harbor, and Lexington State Harbor and BAS.

Paul Petersen offered an update on the Grant-in-Aid facilities that undertook projects in 2019. Some of those projects took place/are taking place at Harrisville Harbor, Escanaba Municipal Marina, South Haven Black River Park BAS, Ontonagon Village Marina, Osceola County BAS, Port Sanilac Harbor, and New Buffalo Municipal Marina, to name a few.

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 5:14 p.m.

The next Michigan State Waterways Commission Meeting: Lansing, February 7, 2020