



## **MICHIGAN STATE WATERWAYS COMMISSION**

February 7, 2020  
Lansing, Michigan

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

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

### **OTHERS PRESENT**

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

### **SPECIAL GUESTS**

Brad Garmon, Office of Outdoor Recreation Industry



MINUTES  
MICHIGAN STATE WATERWAYS COMMISSION

**OPENING COMMENTS**

Vice-Chair, Steve Arwood conducted the meeting on behalf of Chairman Dennis Nickels. Vice Chair Steve Arwood, called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m., February 7. Those present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

**PUBLIC APPEARANCE**

**Appearances:** Craig Herrick, seasonal slip holder, Hartshorn Boat Owners Association member. Mr. Herrick attended the meeting to see what the plan was for handling high-water issues. Mr. Herrick stated concerns of Muskegon not acting proactive as, for example, South Haven. Flooded docks and power pedestals were a top concern.

**ACTION ITEMS**

**MOTION:** Vice-Chair, Steve Arwood asked for a motion for approval of the minutes from the December 5, 2019 Michigan State Waterways Commission meeting. The motion was put into place by Commissioner Barb Brooks and was seconded by Commissioner Elaine Isely. Motion carried unanimously, 5-0.

**FINANCIAL UPDATES**

Financial information updates were provided to the Commissioners in the meeting packet. Michael Desnoyer touched on a few things as well: FY20 projections are less than the FY19 actual. Gas tax revenue is running even with FY19, FY20 boating registrations are projected to be higher than FY19, all in all, no large changes on the revenue side.

**OPERATIONS UPDATES**

Linnae Dawson provided updates to the Commission. The City of Petoskey submitted a request for variance to allow for a water taxi ferry service that will serve pedestrians wanting to depart/arrive at the Harbor Springs Marina and the City of Petoskey Municipal Marina. The City of Marquette Municipal Marina Presque Isle Marina requested variance from transient slip requirements. The Operations Subcommittee has approved both variances. Linnae also discussed bar graphs depicting transient boat nights and YTD net nights, these were displayed in the provided meeting packet. The new harbor host program was covered as well. Straits State Harbor and Presque Isle State Harbor are looking to fill a Harbor Host for the season. The volunteers will have slip fees waived in exchange for 30 hours/week of volunteer work of various duties.



### **Guest Speaker**

Brad Garmon, Director, Michigan Office of Outdoor Recreation Industry, addressed the Commission. The Michigan Office of Outdoor Recreation Industry was recently established, and Mr. Garmon spoke to the Commissioners on what role he plays. Their mission is to develop, promote, and enhance Michigan's outdoor recreation lifestyle industry.

### **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 2:26 p.m.

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