

Michigan State Waterways Commission
Minutes of December 14, 2007

Regular Meeting
Minutes of the Meeting of
Michigan State Waterways Commission
December 14, 2007

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Large Conference Room
East Lansing, Michigan

A regular meeting of the Michigan State Waterways Commission was called to order by Acting Chairperson Carol Oakley at 10:07 a.m. on Friday, December 14, 2007, at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Large Conference Room, East Lansing, Michigan. The following Commissioners were present:

Carol Oakley, Acting Chairperson
Denny Bailey
Bob Brown
Mike Bryanton
Curtis Hertel
Janet Mansfield
Carol Oakley

Chairman Bryan Amann was excused.

Parks and Recreation Chief Ron Olson and other Department of Natural Resources (Department) were present.

Public Appearances:

Written Correspondence

The Waterways Commission received a letter dated October 30, 2007, from Mr. James Sarna commending the Commission for freezing rates for the coming year. Mr. Sarna believes this will be published in *Lakeland Boating*.

Appearances (Non-agenda Items)

Mr. Stephen Hume spoke to the Commission regarding Grayhaven Marina. He was appreciative that Mr. Hertel asked for it to be referred to the Attorney General's office. The Commission and Department staff are unable to discuss this property because it is in litigation.

Mr. Michael Arens from the Huron Clinton Metropolitan Authority thanked the Commission for its support of the project at Metro Beach. He is hoping to have the design completed this summer and the project ready the first part of 2009.

Minutes

October 19, 2007

MOTION: Commissioner Mansfield moved to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2007 Michigan State Waterways Commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bailey and it carried unanimously.

New Business

Length of Stay

Mr. Jason Fleming stated that locations (Grant-in-Aid facilities [GIA]) vary on length of stay requirements. The Department does have a specific requirement for GIAs. He pulled the records for Traverse City and noted that only seven days were completely full. Spherix has been asked to add a note instructing boaters to contact the harbormaster for slips that may be available (for local sales). Some GIA facilities hold a number of slips back to allow flexibility. Mr. James Sarna is concerned about availability for smaller boaters.

Performance of Cheboygan and Alanson Lock and Dam

Mr. Harold Herta reported that Alanson Lock is a success story. The gate was repaired and operated effective, and the Department invested \$44,000 in its repair. The season went well with over 9,000 passages through Alanson Lock. Cheboygan had 4,700. Alanson's operational costs were \$28,828; however, it had \$40,620 in sales. Alanson Lock sold 432 annual passes, while Cheboygan Lock sold 72. Annual passes cost \$30 (a one-day pass costs \$6) and are valid at either lock. An extra motor was purchased in case it is needed in the future. There is a proposal to switch to a hydraulic system, which would be very expensive.

Chicago to Mackinac Race

Mr. Fleming spoke with Mr. Tom Paquin. DNR staff has met with the board members and they will be there until the last boat is gone. All signs look good in going forward to plan the race. The same conditions have been offered to Port Huron for its race.

Old Business:

Project Status Report

Mr. Bill Boik provided an update as follows:

Harbors:

- The project underway at Charlevoix Municipal Marina (Charlevoix County) includes new floating docks, bulkhead construction, a new harbormaster building, and utility improvements.

- Mackinac Island State Harbor's (Mackinac County) project consists of utility upgrades, new decking, a new pump-out facility, sidewalk replacement, hillside redevelopment, repair of the harbor wall, and upgrade of the comfort station. The project is going well and is on schedule.
- The project at Mackinaw City State Dock (Cheboygan County) is moving forward to Phase III and IV. Eight small scale windmills have been proposed to offset power costs. The windmills are 39 feet tall with and 6 foot long blades and would be separate from the dock. The Attorney General's Office is reviewing the contract. An aggressive schedule is being utilized for construction of the harbormaster building and upland parking lot (Phase III) and the floating docks (Phase IV). The project is expected to be completed at the end of 2008 or early in 2009.

Mr. Boik also provided an update on Boating Access Site projects as follows:

Boating Access Sites (BAS):

- Kollen Park BAS (Ottawa County) is a GIA facility undergoing reconstruction. This project includes ramp relocation, parking lot construction, road construction, and site restoration.
- Upland work was recently completed at Grindstone City BAS (Huron County). Dredging is required in order for boaters to use the facility.

Mr. Bill Boik provided additional information as follows:

- Permits are in place for the project at Port Austin (Huron County). This project will be a complete upgrade of the parking area, docks, and electrical. Due to a problem with erosion affecting the parking lot, this has been submitted for 2009 capital outlay.
- Staff attended the Harbormaster Conference in Acme. The top ten topics were:
 1. Water levels
 2. Waterways grant process
 3. Dredging
 4. Central Reservation System
 5. Fee schedules
 6. Clean marinas
 7. Boat launches
 8. Seasonal slip distributions
 9. Biodiesel
 10. Commercial slips

The Conference was well attended.

- With regard to Eight Point Lake, some residents are opposed to the proposed BAS. The Department has an option on property on the lake.
- Army Corps of Engineers provided an update on the Leland project. The Corps issued a permit then rescinded it. A third proposal will go to the Corps soon. The number of slips has been reduced.
- Mr. Boik has been appointed as the U.S. representative for the International Joint Commission's Technical Work Group on Recreational Boating and Tourism. They are currently working on an Upper Great Lakes study regarding water levels.

Operations Status Report

Update on the Harbor Guide

New photos are being taken for the next edition of the Harbor Guide. The Commission requested the inclusion of photos that showed the entrance (from the water) to the harbors.

Update on Web Presence

Mr. Jason Fleming updated the Commission regarding the Department's web page setup on boating. He will contact the Department's site administrator to request a boating link on the front page.

Summary of 2007 Capital Outlay Projects

The Summary was written as a report.

Standing Committee Reports

There were no Standing Committee Reports

Strategic Planning Process Update

Ms. Vicki Anthes provided the Commission with an update on the Strategic Plan. Sixteen hundred boaters were solicited with overwhelming responses. Phone interviews will be conducted soon with a wide range of individuals. The results will be provided to the Commission at its February meeting.

New Business (continued)

City of Petoskey Variance Request

The City of Petoskey is asking to charge premium transient rate, while the seasonal rate would remain the same. The City has provided information on its limited season and high winds in the area late in the season. There is a waiting list for seasonal slips.

MOTION: Commissioner Bailey moved to approve the resolution as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Hertel and unanimously approved.

City of Detroit Variance Request

The City of Detroit variance is similar to those previously submitted. It was denied last year. The City cited an increase in employment costs and a decrease in number of seasonal boaters. The City is joining CRS and requests a 20% reduction to generate more boaters for this season.

MOTION: Commissioner Hertel moved to approve the resolution allowing the City of Detroit to charge 20% less for seasonal slips for one year. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bryanton and approved unanimously. A full report will be required next year.

Elmwood Township Variance Request

Ms. Dereth Smith addressed the Commission at the October meeting. Elmwood Township is redoing its parking lot. The facility currently has 120 slips and is asking for 15 to 20 seasonal slips.

MOTION: Commissioner Mansfield moved to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bailey and carried unanimously.

Harrisville Harbormaster Building

Harrisville has requested that its Harbormaster Building be approved for use in emergencies. The Red Cross has reviewed the facility.

MOTION: Commissioner Hertel moved to approve the resolution. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mansfield and approved unanimously.

Proposed 2008 Meeting Schedule

MOTION: Commissioner Bailey moved to approve the proposed meeting schedule for 2008. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Brown and it was approved by acclamation.

Election of Officers

NOMINATION: Commissioner Hertel nominated Commissioner Carol Oakley for the position of Chairperson. The nomination was seconded by Commissioner Bob Brown and it was unanimously approved.

NOMINATION: Commissioner Janet Mansfield nominated Commissioner Bob Brown for the position of Vice Chairperson. The nomination was seconded by Commissioner Bailey and it was unanimously approved.

NOMINATION: Commissioner Denny Bailey nominated Commissioner Mansfield for the position of Secretary. The nomination was seconded by Commissioner Curtis Hertel and it was unanimously approved.

New Chairperson Oakley will contact Commissioners regarding their preferences for Committee assignments.

Appointment of Commission Representative to the Citizens' Committee on State Parks

MOTION: Commissioner Hertel nominated Commissioner Bryanton to serve as the Waterways Commission Representative to the Citizens' Committee on State Parks. The nomination was seconded by Commissioner Brown and approved by acclamation.

Long-Term Funding Proposal for State Parks and Recreation

The Citizens' Committee for State Parks is suggesting an option for long-term funding for parks and recreation. Citizens of Michigan would pay a \$9 fee for recreation. This fee would be added to license plates sales. The Committee is calling this a state park, boating access site, and forest recreation passport. The plan would eliminate the sticker for car windows, but the non-resident fee would remain in place. A refund system would be in place for those choosing not to participate. The next step would be transmission to Legislature and Governor's office and it would be effective for Fiscal 2009.

During discussion Commissioner Oakley wanted to ensure that the resolution was clarified to ensure the Waterways Fund would benefit if increases occur in the future. Mr. Olson suggested a resolution to the proposal stating that the revenue associated with the previous boating access permits would go to the Waterways Fund in appropriate dollars relative to today.

MOTION: Commissioner Bailey moved to support the resolution with the revision. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mansfield and it carried unanimously.

Other Business

Chairperson Oakley expressed appreciation of Commissioner Bryan Amann for serving as Chairperson this past year. Chairperson Oakley also welcomed Commissioner Mike Bryanton to the Waterways Commission.

MOTION: Commissioner Brown moved to approve a resolution thanking Commissioner Bryan Amann for serving as Chairperson of the Michigan State Waterways Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bailey and was approved by acclamation.

MOTION: Commissioner Mansfield moved to approve a resolution thanking former Commissioner Todd Wyatt for serving on the Waterways Commission, including his term as Chairperson. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bailey and approved by acclamation.

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MOTION: Commissioner Bailey moved to adjourn this meeting of the Michigan State Waterways Commission. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Mansfield. This meeting of the Michigan State Waterways Commission was adjourned at 12:07p.m.

The next meeting will be held in the Lansing area on Friday, February 15, 2008, beginning at 9:00 a.m.