

PORTAGE LAKE HARBOR COMMISSION

August 16, 2018

The meeting was called to order by Jim Mrozinski at 7:00 pm. Present were Denny Blue, Steve Brooks, Chuck May, Jim Simons and guest Arne Johnson.

The minutes of the June 21, 2018 meeting were approved with a motion by May and second by Brooks, with all voting in favor.

Simons reported that the milfoil has been treated. The phragmites will be treated sometime in September, and next Tuesday, the committee will meet to determine the date for citizen comments concerning the treatment of phragmites.

Brooks reported that the work on the channel is progressing smoothly. This past Monday they began sheeting the North side of the channel and have about 110 feet installed. They have begun backfilling on the South side.

May reported that the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development released its draft FY2019 Energy and Water Appropriations Bill. This legislation funds programs of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for federal fiscal year 2019. Known as a "chairman's mark," the draft legislation includes \$1.6 billion for Corps of Engineers coastal operations and maintenance activities funded from the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund. The funding increase proposed in the legislation is a \$200 million (14 percent) increase over the 2018 funded level of \$1.4 billion.

Over the last four years, Congressional appropriators have generally stuck to the spending targets enacted in the 2014 WRRDA. Last year, Congress exceeded the \$1.34 billion spending target and provided \$1.4 billion for the Corps operation and maintenance programs. The target for 2019 should be \$1.442 billion. By providing 1.6 billion in the chairman's mark, the House Appropriations Committee is blowing past the targets, jumping forward and aggressively moving toward full use of the Harbor Maintenance Tax revenue.

Blue reported that Vince Magnini and Felicia Fairchild, of the Michigan Port Collaborative, met Harbor Commission members and leaders of the PLA, Watershed, Township and Village and local people on May 14th. 31 ports were visited and Alpena and Onkama were the standouts of the group. This November the final document will be released and in January we should expect an invite to meet in Lansing with Federal and State officials to discuss what improvements we would like for the Village and Township. It has been decided that Dan Behring and Al Taylor will be co-chairs representing Onkama. A proposal, see attached, was proposed and all voted in favor.

Mrozinski passed out the dredge report, that was issued by the Corps of Engineers, for the Portage Lake Channel. It was noted that while the dredging is now complete, there were areas where the dredger hit virgin clay at 14 feet 8 inches. To prevent the channel filling in in the near future the Corps authorized the dredging of material 100 feet wide in the channel and also outside of the entrance to our channel to 17 feet. These depths are based upon low water datum figures, but with water levels being unusually high the actual depth in the channel will be 16 to 18 feet deep.

Jim spoke to Adrienne Masterton, Corps on site representative, and she related the following: a.) stone backfill being installed, b.) SE corner required special corner sheeting and is being fabbed, c.) they have more ladder locations on both the south wall and north wall, d.) depending on how the sheeting work goes on the North side the project may need go into next year.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit Group, and the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality have invited us to attend a symposium in Charlevoix on September 12, 2018. The topic will be Permits and Processes: Working in Michigan Waters. Steve Brooks may attend this event to represent the Harbor Commission.

New business....from Harbor Commission.

Over the past few years the Harbor Commission, with the efforts of specific members have been instrumental in getting State and Federal agencies to visit and evaluate the economic sustainability of our community. The Commission facilitated the evaluation of our channel by State and Federal agencies which

most recently resulted in the award of over \$6 million to repair the piers and also dredge the channel.

In order to ensure that Onekama Village and Township are prepared to take advantage of future funding opportunities, the Harbor Commission believes that a separate committee of Onekama citizens should be established to work with the Port Collaborative and other State and Federal organizations to identify and develop local projects and funding proposals to support our future growth plans. We have asked Dan Behring and Al Taylor to form such a group to work within the community, using existing planning documents and surveys and the development of other tools necessary to identify key projects that are of high community value.

We are therefore asking both the Onekama Village Council and the Onekama Township Board to concur with the formation of the Onekama Economic Sustainability Committee and to appoint Al Taylor and Dan Behring as co-chairs of this committee, members of which will be chosen by them at their discretion.

Discussion.....none

Public comment....none

Next meeting is scheduled for October 18, 2018

Meeting adjourned at 8:23pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Simons