

**OHIO WATERWAYS SAFETY COUNCIL MEETING
SANDUSKY WATERCRAFT FIELD OFFICE
SANDUSKY, OHIO
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2007**

Waterways Safety Council

Tom Pascoe, Chairman
Jack Hern, Vice Chairman
Ann Swain
Norm Schultz
Jane Harf – Absent

Division of Watercraft

Mike Quinn
Bill McGarity
Frank Meravy
Janet Wolfinger

CALL TO ORDER: Council Chairman Tom Pascoe called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Council Chairman Pascoe advised council approved the minutes of the previous meeting held on June 18, 2007 at Maumee Bay Watercraft Field Office.

Frank Meravy

Frank passed out fiscal information and gave a brief overview on fiscal matters:

	FY06	FY07
Expenditure Totals	28,747,897	28,246,509
Income Totals	25,570,175	25,384,087
Yearly Cash Deficit/ Yearly Cash Balance	-3,177,722	-2,862,422

Items of discussion:

- Frank explained payroll increases due to step increases.
- Low interest loan – Frank explained \$1 million was transferred from the Waterway Safety Fund and is projected out for 2008-2009. The low interest loan balance is \$4.2 million and it has earned approximately \$200,000 in interest.
- Dredging expenditures were \$3.5 million instead of \$3.7 million as projected.
- Titling and Registration down approximately \$250,000, however, the number of registered boats is up. We have more hand-powered boats registered which do not generate as much revenue.
- Fuel tax is based on gallons not dollars spent on fuel.
- 2007 money from US Coast Guard will actually be received in 2008 showing a large increase.
- Total monies not obligated for FY07 was \$10,089,831.

Bill McGarity

Bill gave the following updates:

- Cooperative Boating Facility Grants – Seven (7) projects were funded in the amount of \$3.6 million. Twenty-four (24) projects were not funded. Bill handed

out a description of the projects. Julie and Dave are working with the agencies to obtain all the proper permits.

- Recreational Harbor Evaluation Program (RHEP) – Four (4) projects were sent for approval for a total of \$878,000. It has not gone to the Controlling Board yet. The projects include Conneaut Port Authority - Conneaut Lagoon Access; Vermilion Port Authority - Vermilion Lagoons; City of Huron - Huron Boat Basin; and the City of Rossford - Rossford Marina Basin.
- Water Trails – Phil Miller is currently working with seven (7) different sponsors for water trails. This includes the Vermillion River, City of Mentor, Little Miami, Olentangy River, Mohican River, Blanchard River and the Hocking River. All are in various stages of approval.
- Office Construction – We will present at the Controlling Board on 10/24 to get money released for the consultant. Phil and Dave will meet with Engineering for plan details. Office construction for Portsmouth, land given to us by ODOT; Ashtabula at Geneva State Park; Sandusky at East Harbor and Akron at Portage Lakes. We have not put any money into land purchases.
- Middle Bass – The preconstruction meeting was yesterday. Construction is scheduled to start the first of October. Bill advised we have been permitted 20 accidental fatalities of the Lake Erie Water Snake.
- The Cleveland boathouse is near completion. The roof is being replaced due to faulty shingles and the parking lot is now paved.
- Background investigations have begun for cadet hiring. Polygraphs and psychological exams are being scheduled and conducted. Two have been disqualified because they lied on their applications.

Vice-Chairman Jack Hern asked about a marina at Caesars Creek. Bill responded saying there are investors looking for private partnerships. There are four sites they are looking at for marina development.

Councilman Schultz asked about East Harbor dredging. Bill said he spoke to Brett Culver from the Division of Parks, who advised they are having problems obtaining permits. Bill said he will try to find out more information about this issue. Norm advised channels are down 2-2.5 feet.

Mike Quinn

Mike Quinn provided the following updates:

- Confluence is scheduled for November 7-9, at Maumee Bay Conference Center
- LE/SAR – Continues to work with the hiring process for Watercraft Cadets.
- New internal marketing team includes Rob Lucas and John Wisse. Mike explained our contract with the Orchard Group expired and we did not feel we were getting the best value from their services. Rob and John's responsibility will be to help increase boating education, life jacket wear, alcohol awareness, and develop a tag line for Watercraft to help reduce fatalities in Ohio.
- Legislative updates include Director Logan's support of HB2550.
- Mike advised Deputy Director Celebrezze sends his regrets for not being able to attend, and encourages anyone to call if they have any questions or concerns.

- Chief Pam Dillon starts on October 1.

OPEN DISCUSSION

Chairman Pascoe asked about the missing bodies from the barge accident. The barge left Cleveland heading to Kelly's Island. Station Lorain reported an overdue vessel. One body floated and wreckage was found. Station Lorain and Investigator Gorman are actively searching with side scan sonar. This barge had previously been involved in a fatality. There have been some modifications made to the barge but it is the same barge. The preliminary report determined everyone was below deck and no one was observing the radar. The bodies have not been recovered yet.

Mike also gave a brief overview of the airplane crash at Kelley's Island. The father had moved one child away from the plane wreckage and went back for the second child. The father and second child never surfaced. A Good Samaritan rescued the other child from the water.

Chairman Pascoe thanked Mike for his service to the council. Mike recognized Bill's assistance in the operation of the Division during the time Mike served as acting chief. Mike said he is very excited Pam is coming back to the Division.

Councilman Schultz thanked Frank for his business and finance savvy.

Vice-Chairman Hern passed out information about Automatic Identification System (AIS). Jack reminds everyone boating should be fun and feels this tracking device is unnecessary. Jack is asking for your support by contacting your representative or Southern Boating, 330 North Andrews Avenue, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301, attention Risa Merl, email: sbletters@southernboating.com, or Editor@NASBLA.org. Editorial@tradeonlytoday.com, MRAA@MRAA.com, bwelsh@NMMA.org.

Vice-Chairman Hern passed out information about the Lake Erie water snake and the over population is driving boaters/visitors away from Middle Bass Harbor. Vice-Chairman Hern asks everyone to get behind boating and write to your legislators encouraging issues on recreational boating.

OTHER ITEMS – COUNCIL: Council set the fourth quarter meeting of 2007 for December 3, 2007, at Alum Creek Watercraft Field Office. Janet will forward further information regarding the meeting as details are finalized.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion to adjourn was made by Vice-Chairman Jack Hern, seconded by Councilman Norm Schultz, and approved by a quorum of the Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m. The group met at the Cedar Point Boat Show and ate lunch from the food vendors available at the show then toured many of the boats in the marina.