



**HTAC Voting Members Present**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Sector Representing</b>
Ed Anderson	MIC Policy Board	Regional
Steve Brossart	US Army Corps of Engineers	Federal
Kyle Deming	City of Duluth	City
Marshall Elder	Midwest Energy Resources	Industry - Coal
Gary Glass	Izaak Walton League	Citizen Group
Barb Huberty	MN Pollution Control Agency	State
Joel Johnson		Industry – Recreation
Bob Libby		Industry – Vessel Operations
Mike McCoshen	Hallett Dock Company	Industry – General Bulk
Patrick Phenow	MN Department of Transportation	State
Dena Ryan	WI Department of Transportation	State
Jason Serck ( <i>Chair</i> )	City of Superior	City
CDR Francis Smith	US Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit	Federal
Ted Smith	Marine Tech	Industry – Harbor Engineering

**HTAC Voting Members Absent**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Sector Representing</b>
Cameron Bertsch	Douglas County	County
Dan Belden	Western Lake Superior Sanitary District	Regional
Brian Boder	St. Louis County	County
Natalie Chin	WI Sea Grant	State
LCDR Pat Drayer ( <i>alternate</i> )	US Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit	Federal
Cheri Hagen	WI Department of Natural Resources	State
Anna Hess	MN Department of Natural Resources	State
Chad Hewitt		Industry – Ore Transport
John Downing	MN Sea Grant	State
Lance Hunt ( <i>alternate</i> )		Industry – Ore Transport
Pete Kramer	Duluth Cargo Connect	Industry – General Cargo
Jonathon Lamb ( <i>alternate</i> )	Duluth Cargo Connect	Industry – General Cargo
Jason Laumann	Northwest Regional Planning Commission	Regional
Ed Montgomery		Industry – Harbor Services
Dan Rau	Save Lake Superior Association	Citizen Group
Steven Robertson ( <i>alternate</i> )	City of Duluth	City
Jeff Stollenwerk	Duluth Seaway Port Authority	Regional
Dave Warburton	US Fish and Wildlife Service	Federal
Vacant	Natural Resources Conservation Service	Federal
Vacant	St. Louis River Alliance	Citizen Group
Vacant		Industry - Grain



**Others Present**

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Ron Chicka	MIC	Nick Patterson	J.F. Brennan
Travis Davidsavor	Barr Engineering	Mike Rosati	US Coast Guard
Michelle Duty	US Coast Guard	Dan Rust	UW-Superior
Kate Ferguson	Duluth Seaway Port Authority	Matt Steiger	WI DNR
Ken Gerasimos	Key Lakes/Great Lakes Fleet	Richard Stewart	UW-Superior
Mike Halstad	WisDOT	Maren Webb	MnDOT
Jayson Hron	Duluth Seaway Port Authority	Mike Wenholz	MIC
Seth Johnson	AMI Engineers	Corey Weston	USACE
Brandon Krumwiede	NOAA OCM	Natalie White	SEH
Steve LaValley	WI DNR	Larry Zanko	NRRI
Keiton Moore	US Coast Guard	Robert Zappia	US Coast Guard
Marsha Patelke	NRRI		

**Introductions / Agenda Review / Committee Business**

**HTAC Chair Jason Serck** called the meeting to order at approximately 9:10 am. All in attendance introduced themselves.

Since there was not a quorum present Chair Serck delayed the approval of the 12/4/2019 HTAC Meeting Summary until the June meeting.

Mike Wenholz provided a brief summary of the MIC's Harbor Planning 2020 Work Program.

**HTAC Subcommittee Updates, Mike Wenholz, MIC**

- Mike W gave status updates on work of the Bylaws and Membership Subcommittee, the Harbor Safety Workgroup, and Erie Pier Management Plan Committee.
- The Bylaws and Membership Subcommittee has drafted a proposed update/revision of the HTAC Bylaws to be voted on by the HTAC voting members. Most of the narrative revisions are grammatical or noncontroversial in nature. This includes proposed revisions to the eligible voting member list that are intended to provide 1) better overall representation while maintaining a good balance of harbor interests and 2) better opportunity and flexibility to ensure active HTAC partners can participate as voting members. Since a quorum is not present today it is anticipated this will be voted on at the June HTAC meeting.
- The Harbor Safety Workgroup is moving closer to having new clear communication materials available to the public. A grant was secured by Minnesota Sea Grant and is being used primarily to fund a graphics and communications professional to incorporate the information and ideas generated during Workgroup meetings over the past year or two into clear paddler safety messaging in general, as well as specifically into a webpage that can be added to other local websites (such as the popular Park Point website), brochures, and possibly other media. The group has considered radio messaging, manning booths at appropriate shows, and working with retailers of kayaks, SUPs, and canoes.



- The Erie Pier Management Plan (EPMP) Committee has met once and established a basic approach for working on the revisions to the EPMP, which has not been updated since 2007. The Committee has decided this should be a substantial re-write, and not simply a revision of a few portions of the plan. Jeff Stollenwerk (Duluth Seaway Port Authority) will be the primary author. Mike Wenzholz will author a chapter, lead organization and coordination of meetings and other logistics. A couple of other people have offered to help write chapters as needed. The goal is to complete the drafting of the new EPMP by the end of 2020, or early 2021.

### **Marine Transportation System Recovery Working Group, Keiton Moore, USCG**

- Keiton M shared an overview of the US Coast Guard's Marine Transportation System Recovery (MTSR) Plan, which is intended to provide an approach for local ports to get things back to "Ops Normal" after a marine transportation system disruption. As a part of implementing the MTSR plan Keiton is establishing a MTSR Working Group. He invited anyone interested to contact him to get on the list of participants.
- Keiton shared a table-top exercise is scheduled this year, with a related field exercise in 2021.
- Mike W mentioned that Keiton and he had discussed the idea of making the MTSR Working Group a subcommittee of HTAC. After further discussions with Ron C it was decided that it is not appropriate for the MTSR Working Group to be a subcommittee of the HTAC as it is implementing a USCG plan. However, the MIC very much supports this effort and will both participate as a member of the MTSR Working Group and provide time on HTAC agendas for MTSR updates to be made and discussed.

### **Studies to Find Beneficial Uses of Erie Pier Material, Marsha Patelke, NRRI**

- See the presentation
- Marsha P shared about three sites where NRRI has studied the beneficial use of dredge material over the past 10 years – Hib Tac, Kee Tac, and Virginia Landfill. They studied various depths of application, the method of application, and costs of transport to the site. Plots have been visited over time to observe progress.
- In short, they found adding dredge material dramatically improved tree and shrub establishment and growth on land where it was applied. This is not only a benefit to the environment, it is also a benefit to the mines as faster establishment of vegetative cover aids in their reclamation requirements.
- Marsha also discussed a desire to study options for creating a sustainable source of manufactured soils and soil amendments using dredge material and numerous other regional "wastes" and by-products, such as peat scrapings, street sweepings, taconite tailings, and wood waste. She noted MnDOT has a related ongoing project.
- Marsha said many beneficial use projects have been completed with Erie Pier sediment and new ones are underway. She recommends a formal review of past projects to guide future investigations and use alternatives. Others agreed and it was suggested the HTAC/MIC might be a good storehouse of such a list.

### **2020 SLRAOC Field Work Plans, Barb Huberty, MN PCA**

- See the presentation/ handout map
- Using a map of all sites, Barb H walked through all the planned remediation and restoration actions for 2020 in the St Louis River AOC.



## **Excessive Loading of Sediment and Nutrients BUI Removal Recommendation, Matt Steiger, WI DNR**

- See the presentation
- Matt S provided a good summary of the history, work that has been done, and the reasoning behind proposing to remove the excessive loading of sediment and nutrients beneficial use impairment (BUI) as part of the St Louis River AOC.
- Matt noted the AOC addresses “legacy” or past contamination, not the more current or ongoing pollution and issues.
- In short, nutrients and suspended sediments have declined over time and have not been shown to impair water quality and habitat, and do not restrict recreation.
- Related local point and nonpoint source permits are in compliance, water quality goals of the SLRAOC Remedial Action Plan are being met, and the objectives of the Nemadji Basin Plan are being implemented, all justifying the removal of this BUI.
- Matt shared numerous data summaries and graphs.
- Matt invited everyone to participate in the public comment period which is currently open.

## **Lake Level Viewer GIS, Brandon Krumwiede, NOAA Affiliate**

- See the presentation
- Brandon K provided a summary of the status of Great Lakes mapping in general, as well as an introduction to NOAA's Great Lakes Lake Level Viewer.
- Mapping and other data is important in helping coastal decision makers make the best choices for their communities.
- Brandon provided example of the numerous types of information that is available and being pieced together to improve Great Lakes mapping. He pointed out much of it is older data used with older technology, and that there are data gaps. The Atlantic and Gulf coasts have much newer and better data with far fewer data gaps.
- The Lake Level Viewer was born out of professionals who indicated current data and tools to utilize and visualize the data were inadequate.
- Brandon showed numerous slides detailing the data and use of the viewer. He used the recent high water levels of Lake Superior as an example of how the Lake Level Viewer can be applied, including how storms during periods of higher water levels can cause an increasing level of damage.
- Some data and viewer resources are listed in the presentation.

## **Great Lakes Shipping Updates, Ken Gerasimos, Key Lakes**

- Ken G provided a few updates on the upcoming shipping season, including:
- There should be few issues with ice. There is currently and has been very little ice cover across the Great Lakes.
- The Soo Locks open March 25.
- There already are significant impacts from the worldwide coronavirus outbreak, and this is only expected to get worse. There is a decrease in commerce. It is estimated there will be 6 million less TEU (containers) coming from overseas, which will have a significant impact on Great Lakes funding due to lost taxes. There are issues related to crew members as they come from all over the world. The shipping industry is taking appropriate steps.



- It is anticipated a lot of stone will be shipped across the Great Lakes this year. This is driven largely by two very large projects – the bridge reconstruction in Detroit and the continued work at the Soo Locks.
- The high water is allowing much greater loads. The record through the Soo Locks was broken more than once last year.

## Roundtable

- Marsha P mentioned there will be a conference of the American Society of Mining and Reclamation June 7-11 at the DECC.
- Jason S mentioned there was a Howard's Pocket Project Update meeting on March 3 that went well. He said the project is a good win/win.

**With no other items brought forward, Chair Serck adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:50 AM.**