



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council
HARBOR TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Summary
 September 1, 2021

Hybrid Meeting held at Barker's Island Conference Center and Via Microsoft Teams

HTAC Voting Members Present

Name	Organization	Sector Representing
Ed Anderson (<i>Chair</i>)	MIC Policy Board	Regional Organization
Dan Belden	Western Lake Superior Sanitary District	Regional Organization
Cameron Bertsch	Douglas County	Local Government
Natalie Chin	WI Sea Grant	Agency
Ken Dammer	Hallett Dock No. 8	Harbor Industry
John Downing	MN Sea Grant	Agency
Matti Erpestad	Day Tripper of Duluth	Recreation
Jessica Felix (<i>alternate</i>)	WI Department of Transportation	Agency
Patricia Fowler	MN Department of Natural Resources	Agency
Ken Gerasimos	Key Lakes	Harbor Industry
Gary Glass	Izaak Walton League	Citizen Group
Barb Huberty	MN Pollution Control Agency	Agency
Joel Johnson	Lakehead Boat Basin	Recreation
Shawn Krizaj	City of Duluth Fire Department	Local Government
Mark Laliberte	Compass Minerals	Harbor Industry
Jason Laumann	Northwest Regional Planning Commission	Regional Organization
LTJG Joe McGinnis (<i>alternate</i>)	US Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit	Agency
Patrick Phenow	MN Department of Transportation	Agency
Kelsey Prihoda (<i>alternate</i>)	MN Sea Grant	Agency
Steven Robertson	City of Duluth	Local Government
Dena Ryan	WI Department of Transportation	Agency
Jason Serck	City of Superior	Local Government
CDR Frances Smith	US Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit	Agency
Ted Smith (<i>alternate</i>)	Marine Tech	Harbor Industry
Jeff Stollenwerk	Duluth Seaway Port Authority	Regional Organization
Lou Weichseldorfer	CN	Harbor Logistics



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HTAC Voting Members Absent

Name	Organization	Sector Representing
Adam Bechle (<i>alternate</i>)	MN Sea Grant	Agency
Cliff Bentley (<i>alternate</i>)	MN Department of Natural Resources	Agency
Brian Boder	St. Louis County	Local Government
Steve Brossart	US Army Corps of Engineers	Agency
Kris Eilers	St. Louis River Alliance	Citizen Group
Marshall Elder	Midwest Energy Resources	Harbor Industry
Cheri Hagen	WI Department of Natural Resources	Agency
Dan Hartman	DECC	Harbor Tourism
Duane Johnson (<i>alternate</i>)	St Louis County Emergency Management	Local Government
Brandon Kohlts (<i>alternate</i>)	WLSSD	Regional Organization
Robb McGhie	Perkins Specialized Transportation Contracting	Harbor Logistics
Capt. Ed Montgomery	Sea Service LLC	Harbor Industry
Nick Patterson	JF Brennan	Harbor Industry
Capt. Dan Rentschler (<i>alternate</i>)	Western Great Lakes Pilots Association	Harbor Industry
Matt Steiger (<i>alternate</i>)	WI Department of Natural Resources	Agency
Ashley Vande Voort (<i>alternate</i>)	Douglas County	Local Government
Vacant	Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	Government
Vacant	US Customs and Border Patrol	Agency
Vacant		Harbor Logistics

Others Present

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Hannah Alstead	US Senator Smith	Sebastian Paczuski	USEPA Contractor
Dan Brenneman	MN PCA	Guy Partch	Barr Engineering
Ron Brochu		Daniel Rust	UW-Superior
Ron Chicka	MIC	Ricky Sarran	MIC
Kate Ferguson	Duluth Seaway Port Authority	Chad Scott	AMI
Duane Hill	MnDOT	Dan Veriotti	GZA
Tom Hollenhorst		Mike Wenzholz	MIC
Jayson Hron	Duluth Seaway Port Authority	Natalie White	SEH
Seth Johnson	AMI	Katie Williams	USEPA
Keiton Moore	US Coast Guard	Hans Wronka	Burns & McDonnell
Alan Mozol	USACE	Robert Zappia	US Coast Guard

In addition to the above, there were two people who called into the meeting, and one person who was listed as "Mike" with no other identifier. We do not have the names of those participants.



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Introductions / Agenda Review / Committee Business

HTAC Chair Ed Anderson called the meeting to order at approximately 9:01 AM. Ron Chicka and Mike Wenholz welcomed everyone to the hybrid HTAC quarterly meeting and addressed a few issues to help assure the hybrid meeting goes smoothly.

Chair Anderson asked if there were requested changes to the June 2, 2021, Meeting Summary. Gary Glass asked for some clarifying comments to be added to his Roundtable comments regarding loading calculations for beach nourishment. Mike W said he will look at this. Chair Anderson asked for a motion to approve that considers Gary's request.

- Joel Johnson moved to approve the 6/2/2021 HTAC Meeting Summary. Ken Gerasimos seconded the motion.
- There was no further discussion.
- **The motion to approve carried unanimously.**

HTAC Subcommittee Updates, Mike Wenholz, MIC

- Mike W shared that the filling of the eligible HTAC voting members slots established under the updated HTAC Bylaws in 2020 with people has finally been completed. He shared the list of new voting members on the screen, noted some of the changes from the previous list, and briefly explained why the changes were made. He asked those at the meeting location to raise their hand if they were either a new voting member or a continuing voting member.
- Mike W gave a summary of the Dredging Subcommittee meeting held on August 10, 2021, including walking through the agenda topics. The summary for this meeting will be sent to Subcommittee members and is available to anyone who wants to read it. A primary topic discussed that Mike shared about is the renewed interest in establishing local environmental windows and the potential for this to be the focus of a new subcommittee in 2022.
- As was announced at the June HTAC meeting Abbie Lyons (the US Coast Guard's former alternate voting member) has a new assignment in Washington DC. Joe McGinnis is her replacement and started his new position in Duluth within the past month or so. Joe introduced himself to the HTAC, provided some background about himself, and a brief description of what he will be working on. He looks forward to working with many on the HTAC and participating actively in HTAC. He will be preparing for the next Navigation Subcommittee meeting this fall.

Introduction of New Maritime Transport Educator, John Downing & Kelsey Prihoda, MN Sea Grant

- John D gave a summary overview of the new Maritime Transport Educator position that has recently been filled. John then introduced Kelsey P as the person who was hired to fill the position.
- Kelsey P shared about her background and then shared some of her ideas for carrying out her position. She also shared ideas on how to interact with HTAC, and asked for feedback and ideas from HTAC partners.



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Dredged Material Decision Support Tool Update, Katie Williams, USEPA

- See the presentation
- Katie W gave a summary of the US EPA's Dredged Materials Decision Tool (DMDT) used to help make informed decisions about dredging projects and using dredged materials.
- USEPA developed this tool to help solve real problems. It is based on a sustainable framework and is designed to compare multiple projects.
- Katie W walked through the various components of the DMDT, including discussion of the DMDT's criteria and worksheets (the tool's inputs), various score cards, and model output intended to help make decisions (or at least refine the options for further analysis).
- Mike W, Jeff S, and Katie W shared some of the ideas brought up at the Dredging Subcommittee meeting, including that a workshop will be forthcoming to test the model with some local real-world examples.
- Katie W answered several questions.

Great Lakes Shipping Update, Ken Gerasimos, Key Lakes

- Ken G provided a brief summary of the 2020 and 2021 shipping seasons.
 - 2020 was a tough year for shipping. Key Lakes laid up 3 ships due to low volumes of commodity to ship.
 - 2021 has seen a large increase in tonnage for ore. It is likely there is more commodity to haul than there are ships available.
 - A positive of 2020 was that no vessel had a COVID outbreak. Key Lakes and other companies worked hard to establish protocol for dealing with COVID and to assist in allowing employees to get COVID vaccinations. The industry worked hard to take care of employees.
 - Work continues in the building of the new lock at Sault Ste. Marie. Upgrades are being considered, such as magnetic docking systems that have now become favored by many captains.
 - Ballast water rules in Canada are concerning for the shipping industry and require full ballast water treatment systems to be installed. The Lake Carriers Association is working on addressing this.
 - Dredging is always an issue – to make sure shipping channels are open.
- Ken G opened it up for questions:
 - Kate F asked how water level has impacted shipping? Ken G said the high water in recent years led to record high loads in ships. Water levels have dropped a little. Current water level and datum and channel depth (especially in certain areas across the Great Lakes shipping system) must be considered when calculating how large a load can be hauled.
 - Ken D asked if companies can get back on ships to inspect cargo (this was practice was stopped due to COVID)? Ken G said if it is for a business operation then yes.
 - Ed A asked how grain was going? Ken G said there is a high commodity cost for grain (decreased crop due to drought) and a higher cost for transport. But there is still a lot of rail/domestic traffic of grain.
 - Kate F asked if there is an expected slow down on the horizon for iron due to the slow down in the auto industry due to chip and other supply chain shortages? Ken G does not believe there will be a slowdown. Lou W added that CN does not see a slow down in demand. They have had staff shortages that has slowed movement. They are having difficulty finding people to fill technical positions.



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Canal Park Lakewalk Resiliency Project, Dan Veriotti, GZA

- See the presentation
- Dan V provided a summary of the project overall, with details of different portions of the project.
- Dan V said resiliency projects are newer to the Great Lakes region but have been completed for many years on the East Coast of the US. Thus, there are many good examples to learn from and use here.
- Very high water levels and four significant storms between October 2017 and October 2019 led to significant damage along shorelines in Duluth, including along the lakewalk in Canal Park and nearby eastern shore. Existing stone sizes were too small and the crest elevation too low and narrow to handle the large waves and wave energy they created.
- The City of Duluth hired a consultant to assess the shoreline and formulate alternatives with cost estimates to address the issues. Following an adaptive planning process the only viable alternative was to take a protection approach – protect people, property, and infrastructure.
- The work was mostly in 2020 and completed in 2021. The highly engineered approach includes revetment to limit overtopping of waves to an acceptable level, raise the former existing grade, improve stormwater management, and be designed to handle 100+ year water levels and 50-year offshore waves – it exceeds the USACE water level and wave standards.
- The revetment alone includes 77,000 tons of stone (2 - 12 tons per rock depending on specific use) and an 11.6 – 15.1-foot concrete wall with 18-inch thickness. The wall appears to be mostly below ground level. The existing rock was also used within the design.
- The new boardwalk of the Lakewalk incorporates a stormwater management design allowing any water to drain out/off.
- Dan V shared some lessons learned through the project.
- Shawn K thanked Dan for his work and ability to garner a grant for the project.
- Shawn K also shared an unintended consequence. Some homeless people are using the designed voids and gaps in the large armor stone as places to sleep and/or live. Obviously, this is dangerous and the City is trying to figure out how to best deal with this issue.

Roundtable

- Keiton M mentioned the Marine Safety Subcommittee (not an HTAC subcommittee) and invited people to participate.
- Kate F thanked Keiton for the Harbor security tabletop exercise that was held last month. Kate and others said it was useful.
- Joel J asked that in the future presenters state what the acronyms mean. Mike W agreed this would be valuable to participants.
- Barb H provided a very brief update on Duluth-Superior Harbor Area of Concern (AOC) projects:
 - Interstate Island is completed.
 - Grassy Point is in progress.
 - Work on the ponds behind Erie Pier has started and is expected to take two years to complete.
 - Contracting language is being finalized for Scanlon Reservoir work.
 - The Munger project is in pre-contracting.
- Shawn K had several things to share:
 - Boom training is ongoing today – for safety and response.
 - The City will be hosting additional training in the near future.
 - The City handled a response to possible issues at the lift bridge associated with a Line 3 protest. It went very well with no issues due to good upfront work.



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- A tour on Marine 19 will be part of an upcoming MN Cities conference.
- The City is working with USACE to mitigate high water on Park Point.

With no other items brought forward, Chair Anderson adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:28 AM.