



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.