



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council
HARBOR TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING SUMMARY
June 7, 2023

HTAC Voting Members Present			
Representative	Organization	Representative	Organization
Ed Anderson	City of Superior/Citizen Rep	Jason Laumann	NWRPC
Beldon, Dan	WLSSD	Sam Lobby	St Louis River Alliance
Cameron Bertsch	Douglas County	Patrick Phenow	Mn DOT
Steven Brossart	US Army Corps of Engineers	Kelsey Prihoda	MN Sea Grant (<i>alt for J Downing</i>)
Natalie Chin	Wi Sea Grant	Amanda Rosebrock	FDL Band of LS Chippewa
Marshall Elder	Midwest Energy Resources	Dena Ryan	WisDOT
Ken Gerasimos	Great Lakes Fleet/Key Lakes	Jason Serck	City of Superior
Gary Glass	Izaak Walton League	Bri Speldrich	Mn DNR
Barb Huberty	MPCA	Matt Steiger	WI DNR (<i>alt for C Hagen</i>)
Joel Johnson	Lakehead Boat Basin, Inc.	Jeff Stollenwerk	Duluth Seaway Port Authority
Shawn Krizaj	Emergency Management	Lou Weichselderfer	CN
HTAC Voting Members Absent * Excused			
Representative	Organization	Representative	Organization
Cliff Bentley	MnDNR (Alt for Bri Speldrich)	Dan Hartman	DECC
Brian Boder	St Louis Cnty Public Works	Brandon Kohlts	WLSSD (alt for Dan Belden)
Natalie Chin	WI Sea Grant	Robb McGhie	Perkins Specialized Transp Contract
CMDR Jarrod Dewitz	USCG/Marine Safety Unit Duluth	LTJG Joe McGinnis*	USCG/Marine Safety Unit (<i>alternate</i>)
John Downing	MN Sea Grant	Al Mosol	USACE (Alt for Steve Brossart)
Matti Erpestad	Recreation-Non-Motorized	Nick Patterson	JF Brennan Co Inc
James Gittemeier	City of Duluth	Jason Reeves	Compass Minerals
Cherie Hagen*	WI DNR		
Others Present			
Representative	Organization	Representative	Organization
Tari Aanonsen	MIC	Barb Peterson	MIC Admin Asst
Dan Breneman	MPCA	John Ramos	Duluth Monitor
Brian Bellmore	Barr Engineering	Jeff Rhoda	HDR
LTC Brett Boyle	USACE	Danial Rust	UWS
Ron Chicka	MIC Director	Ricky Sarran	MIC
Mike Halsted	WisDOT	Kelly Schroter	USACE
Jacob Hensel	USACE	Lisa Stern	WisDOT
Duane Hill	MnDOT Dist. 1	John Stockert	Key Lakes/Great Lakes Fleet
Jayson Hron	Duluth Seaway Port Authority	Mike Sullivan	MARAD
Cindy Jarema	USACE	Ian Vincent	APEX
Dewey Johnson	Emergency Maintenance	Bruce Walrad	USACE
Seth Johnson	AMI Consulting Engineers	Maren Webb	MnDOT Dist 1
Jonathan Lamb	Duluth Cargo Connect	Tom Werner	DIA/Sky Harbor
Pat Lammersen	US Coast Guard	Corey Weston	USACE
Stacey Oltmanns	Northland Constructors	Natalie White	SEH



Introduction/Agenda Review/Committee Business

The meeting was opened and attendance was taken by way of individual introductions in person as well as via the TEAMS virtual chat. Attendance is reflected on the first page of this summary.

Approval of Jeff Stollenwork as HTAC Vice Chair

Motion Discussion and Vote	Jason Serck/Marshall Elder moved to approve Jeff Stollenwork as the HTAC Vice-Chair. There was no further discussion; the motion was approved unanimously.
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Introduction of New Member Amanda Rosebrock representing Fond du Lac Band of Chippewa

Ron Chicka welcomed new member Amanda Rosebrock to the Harbor Technical Advisory Committee as representative of the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.

Intro & Overview USACE Detroit District, LTC Brett Boyle

LTC Brett Boyle gave an overview of the USACE-Detroit District service area, explaining its primary missions, especially in the Duluth-Superior harbor area. A 2022 year in review was given, highlighting the Army Corps accomplishments and activities for the year. The largest being the new lock installation project at Souix St. Marie. In the current year, the Great Lakes Navigation Operation & Maintenance budget includes \$342.1M in dredging, lock maintenance and repairs, as well as beach nourishment projects. LTC Boyle went on to say that the Chief of Engineers has set a goal of a reuse target rate for dredging material at 70% by year 2030. USACE reports that almost 100% of our local dredging materials have already been successfully reused over the past ten years due to our cooperative efforts between our community partners, local and state partners, as well as with our tribal nation representatives. A lot of these efforts have been driven by environmental clean up projects, sponsored and funded by the EPA through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative. It will be necessary for these important partnerships to continue in the years to come, as plans are being made for future use of our local dredging materials.

Duluth/Superior Harbor, Upcoming Project Work, Steve Brossart, USACE

Steve Brossart, USACE, presented current and upcoming projects for the Army Corps. FY23 dredging projects are underway and are slated to be completed by mid-October. Erie Pier Fine Material Management received funding to move materials offsite. This project will last until 2026. The Duluth Vessel Yard is in phase II; a 13M funded contract is to be awarded this fall. The Duluth Ship Canal Shoreline Protection project is to begin in 2024-25 which includes T-wall construction to improve shoreline protection and maintain continuity with the City of Duluth’s shoreline protection structure. Section 111, Minnesota Point, is an ongoing study to identify corrosive impacts associated with Federal



navigation structures. This study is slated to be completed by the spring of 2025. The Floating Plan Work-Superior Entry, is a project to restore and replenish materials to support sidewalks and protect Tie-Rods on the south side of the south pier, due to weather related damages. The 88th Army Reserve Center (ARC) Shoreline Protection project includes an improved shoreline revetment at the facility on Minnesota Point, as well as other improvements. The Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) is an EPA-led program to protect and restore the Great Lakes. As one of 16 Federal agencies tasked with implementing the GLRI, USACE has received \$549M in GLRI funds and leveraged over \$40M in non-Federal contributions to do significant work in all the 5 Great Lakes. Ken Gerasimos inquired about the possibility of using carbon cover to trap contaminants. Steve commented that if this was utilized, it would be the first of its kind on Lake Superior. Gary Glass inquired about 3-D renderings as well as PFAS contaminants.

Sky Harbor Updates, Tom Werner, Executive Director

Tom Werner, Executive Director for the Duluth International and Sky Harbor Airports, gave a brief description of the rich history in aviation at our Sky Harbor Airport, along with the changes that its landscape has seen over those years. As it sits on 82 acres today, the airport sees over 1.6M in its annual economic impact on the area. It contributes positively to the direct and indirect job market, as it houses 32 based aircraft and 8 hangers. Its activities include 14,000 ops per year and U.S. Customs processing of over 500 people annually. The airport provides 24/7 fueling and pilot services, along with tie-down service. Completed in 2020, the airport relocated its runway to protect the old grove forest that exists on this expanse of sand bar, along with other projects focusing on improving and protecting the nearby aquatic habitat. Guest, Natalie White of SEH, spoke about the on-going monitoring of mitigation for invasive plant management and the installation of aquatic vegetation. Future projects at Duluth Sky Harbor include a new snow removal equipment storage facility, improvement to the Arrivals/Departures Building and the potential expansion of the seaplane dock and other new hangar projects.

Great Lakes Fleet/Key Lakes Update, Ken Gerasimos

Ken Gerasimos gave an update on the Great Lakes Fleet/Key Lakes. Ken presented on the ongoing maintenance and inspections of the Fleet. They report good communication is occurring for shipmates due to improved internet connections and Skype capabilities. The Fleet continues to experience staffing issues, like other industries. He feels what is needed is people with a passion for the work that is happening in the Duluth-Superior harbor. There is currently no drop in demand for steel and so inventory is low. Ken imparted how important the work of the HTAC is and that other communities follow our model to format their own committees. Corey Weston inquired as to the current cost of a new ship. Ken gave a response of what cost \$50M in 1975 would likely be closer to \$200-\$250M today.



C. Reiss Dock Wall Project, Jason Serck, City of Superior

Jason Serck presented on the C. Reiss Dock Wall Project, which is a 5-year project to relocate the current dock in Duluth to the Superior harbor. It is slated to reach completion by March of 2025. The project will include revitalizing a dock that has been dormant for 30 years.

Environmental dredging (Component 1) is scheduled to begin on November 1, 2023. The City of Superior recently passed the resolution to accept the Grant agreements with MARAD and WisDOT, along with the development agreement with C. Reiss. The bid has been awarded to Northland Constructors of Duluth, Inc. for \$21,849,000.00.

Cargo Connect, Jonathan Lamb

Jonathan Lamb presented a new vessel liner service that Cargo Connect is bringing to the Duluth-Superior shipping industry. It is hoped that eventually the Cleveland Europe Express will run on a more predictable schedule, eventually running every two weeks. The mixed cargo abilities allow for more flexible shipments that will expand the sourcing of goods and sales markets, both domestic and international. Other hubs may expand the reach to other world markets, one example being Antwerp. Ken Gerasimo asked what the biggest deterrent to growing this service is at this time? Jonathan responded that international carriers have expressed concerns with pilotage. Also, market demand and the economic feasibility compared to land transport were other concerns. Glass asked if passenger service would be a consideration. Jonathan responded that the service is for cargo only. Corey Weston inquired as to when the service would be evaluated for cost effectiveness. Jonathan said that while that evaluation really is an ongoing occurrence currently, it will likely be evaluated after one year of active cargo service. A question came up on the feasibility of increasing the shipping season, how this may favorably impact a service like this. Brett Boyle commented that the shutdown of the shipping season does directly relate to the length of time needed to provide necessary maintenance and repairs to the Soo Lock system.

Roundtable

- Pat Lammersen, USCG/MSU Duluth Introduction

Pat Lammersen, who is currently working with the USCG as a consultant, invited HTAC members and guests to participate in a cyber security event at the Duluth International Airport on July 21st, 2023.



- Barb Huberty, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Barb gave project updates on the Scanlon Reservoir, completing the site restoration. The remediation was completed last year at the ponds behind the Erie Pier Project site. Site restoration is set to be done by the end of this month so that the Cross City Trail can reopen. Work is underway to begin the second year of dredging at the Munger Landing site. Both the Minnesota side, as well as the Wisconsin side of the river will be dredged. The environmental assessment worksheet is out for public notice for the Thompson Reservoir project. It will close on July 6th. That project is slated to begin next year, with the application of pelletized activated carbon amendment. Also, at Perch Lake, a new culvert will be installed in August as part of the Highway 23 rebuild, which will increase the flow between the river and the lake.

Adjourn – 11:49 a.m.