

**Thursday, November 2, 2023 --- Meeting Minutes
Called to order at 10am**

- 1. Review/approval May 3, 2023 meeting minutes - Approved**
- 2. Review current USACE lake level report, updated USACE reporting (see attachments below) - provided by Dave Bluhm**
- 3. Post 2023 dredging review, discussion and outreach: Dave Bluhm shared the Post dredging map and details (59,081yards to 16' depth - 4' beyond required). Although \$650,000 was appropriated, only \$435,000 was needed to complete the dredging (after the USACE neglected the channel for 10 years) Therefore our ask from Congressional Appropriation for a major dredge should only be \$500,000, and annually, we could rely on \$100,000 maintenance dredge. Congressman John Moolenaar has 8 similiar harbors in need. Map is posted on the Village of Pentwater home page. NOTE: The newest Fact Sheet on the USACE Detroit Operation site dramatically lowered the Operations & Maintenance estimate. See attached explanation from USACE Liz Wilkinson and updated Pentwater Harbor Fact sheet, Dredge Report and Infrastructure Needs. We need to write a letter to Liz asking that in addition to addressing the sinkholes, we need to have the attenuators cleaned out as that was not part of the scope of work for the August 2023 dredge. In addition, get a copy of the documentation showing when the attenuators were installed. Chris Brown stated he has a copy as well as confirm that date that the North Revetment was redone and the attenuators added (1994, 6, 7 or 2000?? is the Fact Sheet correct?)**
- 4. Update on grants and other opportunities**
 - a. Section 111 Beach Nourishment study grant - Chris Brown report - North spoils deposit intended to rebuild the state park beach; new equipment purchased by the Village to enable south channel walkway sand removal/return to OBA dunes. Working with OBA regarding fencing.**
 - b. Michigan resilient coast**
 - c. Section 408 Coastal Resilience Grant Application - Lynne Cavazos and Manny Valdez have submitted the grant based on MCR designs, and will share sthe application and designs at the January meeting with those interested. The Michigan State Park upgrades for 2025 will be using ARPA funds but all projects are overbudget so fingers crossed that funding for repairs and upgrades remains. And Chris Brown mentioned**

that the Village will use Complete Streets match for the Lowell turnaround where it meets the state park.

d. Creative sand removal options from USACE and local contractors - None reported.

5. Small Harbors Coalition update

a. Follow up to May 17 Pentwater meeting with Rep. Moolenaar -

Moolenaar has met with Jim Blanchard to collaborate in support of West Michigan Shallow Harbors to secure dredging funding. Given (a) and (b), suggestion was made to host a Springtime MEET & GREET in Pentwater for Sen Peters, Rep Moolenaar and Rep Huizenga to meet all West Michigan Shallow Harbor Coalition members with Pentwater taking the lead. While we could take a "fight for ourselves" viewpoint, the goal/ask is to get more of the \$9Billion unspent Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund dollars redirected to Lake Michigan/Great Lakes and more specifically Pentwater Harbor. Change focus to a Bigger Picture: Help USACE Grand Haven District get a pot of money allocated on a regional basis with flexibility to spread the allocations to the harbors in need. Lake Michigan access impacts the entire West Michigan economy. The boating industry is a \$230B industry and Michigan is #2 in sales. Failure to dredge puts the community economies serving these recreational harbors at risk.

b. Former Gov. Blanchard "One Page" summary - Amy LaBarge worked with Chris Conroy & Dave Bluhm to revise/reduce key points for Blanchard & Moolenaar to share with Sen Peters. Pentwater is on Peters radar per Blanchard.

6. PLIB update

a. Summary of July 25 meeting and August 8 Public Hearing.

b. Discuss attorney opinion regarding inclusion of dredging in PLIB plans. -

Dave Bluhm emailed a copy of Legal Opinion from Drain Commissioners Attorney regarding channel dredging on Nov 3, 2023. Bottom Line: the Channel is not part of Pentwater Lake.

7. Wind blown sand control - Fall sand fencing and railing mounted fencing: Fencing was installed by DNR Manny Valdez staff. See attached email pertaining to this fencing and the timing for installation.

8. Other

- a. Lighted buoy off “mermaid” rocks and basic channel maintenance efforts: - See dialogue that Harbormaster /Police Chief Laude Hartrum has had with the US Coast Guard. Bottom line: we can fundraise and install our own lighted buoy. Light structure painting is under USACE per USCG (need to go back to Liz Wilkinson USACE again to move this stalemate forward).
- b. Local Dredging Equipment activities: Spring soundings using drones to monitor sand movement & will give us a good idea how much of the August 2023 dredge has returned to the channel entrance. We will reach out to Mark Shotwell to see if he is interested in helping us with his drone to film spring channel sand activity. Currents and high winds have not been favorable this fall. Major fundraising efforts will likely be needed in the spring to insure transient access to Pentwater Harbor. Need to work on letter campaign to marina clients, Federal/ state grants (if any), or President's Budget.
- c. Channel Website and Facebook page activities - Michael Haack has updated the website to include all Meeting Minutes. All events once identified will be posted on Facebook (Conroy) and website (Haack). Waterway Guide has been updated to advise of Aug 2023 major dredge and optimism for 2024 safe passage... we will need to provide Waterway Guide contacts with an update in the spring.
- d. Other media activities - Detroit News Series regarding Great Lakes & Climate Change impact (Per Ron Beeber, Dave or Chris should expect a call or email from Carol Thompson)
- e. Further discussion of Aug. 19 Fish Boil fundraiser - August is the wrong time of year... Springtime is the better timeframe with bigger fish hauls. January meeting needs to focus on major local fundraising efforts for a maintenance dredge. Identify coordinators, secure Gazebo permit, Marketing & Promotion. Bring back and sell t-shirts " Kill the Ledge / Dredge Baby Dredge"

9. Next Meeting - January 17, 2024 @ 10am - Park Place

Happy Holidays, and Merry Christmas,

Dave Bluhm & Chris Conroy