



January 30, 2020

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Anthony D. Chandler, Assistant to the City Administrator *AC*

SUBJECT: General Information Packet

Attached are general items of information you may find interesting. If you have any questions or comments regarding the information, please contact me.

ADC/co
Attachments

Administration/City Clerk (231) 798-4391	Assessing Division (231) 799-6806	Building Division (231) 799-6801	Finance/Treasurer (231) 799-6805	Fire Prevention (231) 799-6809	Fire Department (231) 798-2255
Parks/Recreation (231) 799-6802	Planning/Zoning (231) 799-6800	Police Department (231) 733-2691	Public Works (231) 799-6803	Streets Division (231) 798-2156	Water/Sewer (231) 799-6804



Internal Memo

January 27, 2020

TO: Mark C. Meyers, City Administrator

FROM: Michael D. Huston, Finance Director/Parks Director *MDH*

SUBJECT: Grant Application Ross Park Deck

Last April we filed a Grant Application to the State of Michigan for a DNR Grant to demolish our outdated pavilion at Ross Park, and replace it with a new concrete outlook deck on the site.

We filed all of the paperwork with our coordinator Tamara Jorkasky and waited for approval.

In October we were notified that Tamara had left her post and we were transferred to a new coordinator Erin Campbell. When the awards were made, we were informed by Erin that our score of 370 fell (5) points below their cutoff point for 2019 which was 375.

In January, I contacted Erin again and asked for an explanation of where we could improve and was given direction.

Staff would like to resubmit our grant proposal with improvements made and re apply for the 2020 grant.

Please let me know if you have any questions or comments.

From: Inside 208 <donotreply@wordpress.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 28, 2020 10:16 AM
To: Mark Meyers
Subject: [New post] League Members Testify in Lansing on High Waters Crisis

hrichards@mml.org posted: "Officials from several Michigan communities testified in a House subcommittee Thursday, January 23, about the devastating impact of shoreline erosion and high waters. A related report given by Michigan's Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy "

New post on Inside 208



[League Members Testify in Lansing on High Waters Crisis](#)

by hrichards@mml.org

Officials from several Michigan communities testified in a House subcommittee Thursday, January 23, about the devastating impact of shoreline erosion and high waters. A related report given by Michigan's Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) predicted little relief is in sight as water levels are expected to get even higher this year.

The Michigan Municipal League requested Thursday's hearing before the House Appropriation Subcommittee on Natural Resources and Environmental Quality to talk about the high water levels and the costly impact it's having on Michigan community infrastructure.

League Legislative Advocate Herasanna Richards led the charge testifying on the issue along with officials from five League-member communities – Grand Haven City Manager Pat McGinnis; Ludington City Manager Mitch Foster; Grosse Pointe City Manager Pete Dame; Rogers City Mayor Scott McLennan; and Kate Hosier, South Haven assistant city manager and harbormaster. Pentwater Village Manager Chris Brown also attended in support of the effort. Two members of the Michigan Association of Counties also testified at the hearing about the impact of high lake levels.

"We won't have much of a beach this summer. We're telling people to plan on getting your feet wet if you come here," said Pat McGinnis, city manager of Grand Haven, which sits on the shores of Lake Michigan. "We had to close a public building because of mold issues from the higher water. We're shutting them down and tearing them down and there is no insurance coverage."

Kate Hosier, assistant city manager for South Haven, said there are serious worries in the city about the wastewater treatment system backing up and the loss of tourism in the Lake Michigan beach town.

"The economic impact is severely understated. We're a tourist town, and if no one comes to our beaches, we're seeing a majority of people not being able to come into town," she said. "We've had streets

underwater where citizens can't get to their homes and the river overrunning its banks. If the lake levels go up another foot, we're going to be in dire straits."

Mitchell Foster, city manager in Ludington, said the waves continue to swamp the city's breakwall and flooding routinely closes a key intersection in the town.

"Our water treatment facility has lost more than 100 feet of dune in front of it and that could mean millions of dollars in addition to what we've already put into it," he said, noting that some creative solutions have to be developed. "What kind of infrastructure are we going to put in that's not going to be a waste of time and money in four years," when the water levels recede again.

In Grosse Pointe, city manager Peter Dame said it's not just a problem for the Great Lakes. Communities along the Detroit River and Lake St. Clair are also suffering. The Connor Creek sewage treatment plant, which is only supposed to deal with storm water overflow, was running all summer.

"The biggest potential problem is that Lake Shore Drive, which is actually Jefferson, is a county-owned road and it's become severely eroded. It will cost \$8 million to \$12 million to fix the seawall," he said. "Grosse Pointe Shores checked out a sinkhole in Lake Shore Drive for what they thought was a leaking sewer pipe, but the lake was actually running under the road."

Much farther north in Rogers City, on the shores of Lake Huron, the breakwall at the city's marina has had to be barricaded off, a city park has been destroyed and two of four deep-water wells that service the city are now within 10 feet of the water line, said Mayor Scott McLennan.

"Our beaches are so important to us, but our beaches are pretty much gone at this point," he said. "The Michigan Department of Transportation is doing emergency repairs on US-23 just north of the city. The bike trail that ran along US-23 was impacted and now, US-23 is at risk of being deluged by wave action.

"I don't know what the answer is, but we don't have the funds to make all of those repairs," he added. "It will be hundreds of thousands of dollars."

The League will continue these conversations at the Michigan High Water Coordinating Summit, hosted by EGLE and Gov. Gretchen Whitmer **on Feb. 10 in Lansing**. This convening will engage local units of government through their statewide associations to analyze the issue and discuss collaborative steps towards a solution. We will keep you engaged in any updates.

Herasanna Richards is a legislative associate handling energy, environmental, elections, and external municipal services for the League. She can be reached at hrichards@mml.org or 517-908-0309.

hrichards@mml.org | January 28, 2020 at 11:15 am | Tags: [great lakes](#), [high waters](#), [lake levels](#) | URL: <https://wp.me/p3wSLH-1OH>

Comment

[See all comments](#)

From: Jon Gale <jon.gale@mcd911.net>
Sent: Monday, January 27, 2020 4:33 PM
To: Gary Nelund; Mark Meyers
Subject: FW: Special Legislative Announcement

FYI, potential legislation on Boat speeds and high water

From: Michigan Lakes and Streams Association <info@mlswa.org>
Reply-To: <info@mlswa.org>
Date: Monday, January 27, 2020 at 3:34 PM
To: <tom_hillstrom@comcast.net>
Subject: Special Legislative Announcement

Boat Speed/High Water Bills In Committee Tomorrow

MLSA has indicated to the Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation that we support House Bills [5401](#) and [5402](#). These bills seek to regulate boating speeds during high water events.

The new language introduced by Reps. Eisen, Lower, Wozniak, Marino, Hertel, Tate and Hornberger states, "...If requested by resolution of the

governing body of a county or municipality, to protect life and property during high water conditions, the department or the county sheriff for the county or municipality may establish by order a temporary maximum motorboat speed limit on waters of this state located in or adjacent to the county or municipality.... The order shall remain in effect for not more than 14 days and may be reissued. The department or county sheriff, as applicable, shall post the speed limit, the maximum fine, and a description of the affected waters on its website...."

Please take a moment to look over the full language for both [HB5401](#) and [HB5402](#), contact your legislator and/or Rep. Gary Eisen from the 81st District, St. Clair County: 517-373-1790 or garyeisen@house.mi.gov to let them know you support these bills.

If you wish to comment do not delay, the Committee on Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation will meet to discuss these bills TOMORROW - Tuesday, January 28th at Noon in Room 326 of the House Office Building in Lansing.

MLSA will keep you updated as more information is made available.

Boats could be forced to slow down near Michigan cities hit with high water levels

[Kathleen Gray](#), Detroit Free Press Published 4:30 p.m. ET Jan. 28, 2020

LANSING – Every weekend during the summer, Artie Bryson holds his breath as a parade of boats traverses the St. Clair River into Lake St. Clair. “The water levels last year were at record high and it affects 70% of the homes in Clay Township,” said Bryson, the township’s supervisor. “Lake St. Clair is 21 inches higher than it was at this time last year. I’m scared to death. I’m losing sleep already.” But he has at least a partial solution: Slow down the darned boats.

Roughly 10,000 boats are anchored in the township’s bays on weekend days in the summer and all of those boats are kicking up waves of water that are swamping riverside yards and homes. “We gave out 600,000 sandbags and sand to the township’s residents last year,” Bryson told members of the House Natural Resources and Outdoor Recreation committee Tuesday. “But their waves would wash over the sandbags and the water was lapping up against their homes. We had seven roads that were under water.”

So state Rep. Gary Eisen, R-St. Clair Township, introduced a pair of bills that would allow the state Department of Natural Resources or a county sheriff’s department to impose temporary no-wake zones in waterways during time of high water levels for short periods of time — up to 14 days.

Currently, the maximum speed for boats is 55 mph in areas where the DNR has not established specific speed limits. However, a waterside community in Michigan can request that the DNR reduce the boating speed limits on those waters to 40 mph or less. The DNR can designate a waterway as a permanent no-wake zone, but doesn’t have the authority for temporary status.

“They’re getting hit pretty hard with flooding,” Eisen said of his constituents in Clay Township. “Is there anything we can do to slow some of these big cruisers down for a mile or two?” The bill wouldn’t affect the big barges or tugboats that cruise in the Great Lakes or Lake St. Clair, Eisen said, noting, “They’re not going fast enough to kick up much of a wake.” And Bryson, who owns four boats himself, said he has an informal arrangement with the big ships to slow down as they pass through his township.

He doesn’t want to stop the speedy fun permanently. “My family has made their living on the water for three or four generations, so I’m the last person who wants to shut down boating,” he said. “But if we’re even 3 or 4 inches above levels from last year, we’re in dire straits.”

The problem is bad for inland lake residents as well, said Patrick Hohl, the supervisor of Hamburg Township, which has 3,300 lakeside homes in Livingston County. A series of lakes linked by the Huron River dot Hamburg Township and those water levels are high too, he said. “We have a chain of lakes in Livingston County and flooding events are becoming much more frequent,” Hohl said. “My cellphone is on the township website and I’m getting tons of calls from very upset people complaining about the boats causing wakes. Tempers are rising. “We can’t control them and a lot of it is coming from outside boaters who come here to water ski,” he added. “They kick up waves that wash up on people’s shores. We need some help.”

Record high water levels have been devastating Great Lakes coastlines cities across Michigan in the past year and it’s expected to get even worse in 2020, eating up shoreline beaches, swamping homes, roadways and public buildings and putting water treatment facilities at risk.

It’s a cyclical problem that usually ebbs and flows in 12-20 year cycles, according to the state Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy. But this latest high-water mark comes after record low lake levels in 2013. State and local leaders are grappling with how to deal with the costly effects.

The bills — HB 5401-5402 — would impose a civil fine of up to \$500 for boaters violating a no-wake zone. The House committee is expected to vote on the bills next month.