

Board Meeting Minutes

DATE: Wednesday, January 4, 2012

PLACE: 4001 I-75 Business Spur
Sault Ste. Marie, MI 49783

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ted Postula Jack Kibble Michael Herbst
Frank Sasso Dennis Robinson

MEMBERS ABSENT: All present

**ADMINISTRATIVE
STAFF PRESENT:** Chuck Moser Akemi Gordon
Lynda Schexnayder

**ADMINISTRATIVE
STAFF ABSENT:** James Dunn, Attorney

OTHERS PRESENT: See attached sign in sheet.

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I. - II. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order at 4:00p.m. by Chairman Sasso. All Directors were present. Attorney Dunn was absent.

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jesse Knoll spoke regarding landings at Sugar Island site.

Les Laitinen spoke regarding wood pile cluster at Neebish dock. Director Moser will address this in his report below.

IV. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES –December 5, 2011

With regard to Regular Board Meeting Minutes for December 5, 2011; **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Postula; **SUPPORTED** by Director Kibble to approve said minutes. **UNANIMOUS.** Motion carried.

V. RICK BURCH/USCG for CAPT. JOE MCGUINESS

Director Moser introduced Rick Burch joining us on behalf of Capt. Joe McGuiness from Sector Sault. Rick works closely with Mark Gill who is responsible for Vessel Traffic in the St. Mary's River and beyond. Rick has 25 plus years of experience with the Coast Guard and has served aboard many ice breaking vessels. Moser welcomed Rick and thanked him for making time in his schedule for us.

Rick gave a detailed presentation on the icebreaking process as it pertains to the St. Mary's River system and our vessels. Rick also noted that the Soo Locks will remain open this year until January 18th.

VI. FINANCIAL REPORT-P.E.-November 30, 2011

BUSSING

Finance Director Gordon reported the passenger counts on our buses are up 1,432 with 1,197 in Chippewa County and 235 in Luce County. Total revenue is up about 2% with our expenses in total holding about the same as a year ago. There are variances between items but in total there is an increase of .17%.

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FERRIES

Gordon reported the ferries are starting out the new fiscal year slow. October and November show decreased fare revenue of \$11,533 or 5% with our expenses up around \$4,500 or just over 1%. Vehicles are down 2,602 and passengers are down 5,558.

Gordon reported the transfer to Maritime Escort for the operation of the Neebish Ferry will be \$13,104.44.

VII. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Moser gave an update on the St. Mary's River Dock upgrade project. Moser reported receiving approval from the USACE and DEQ for variance requests and MCM has completed removal of the damaged piling at Sugar Island, both Island side and mainland side. MCM has also driven new piling on the downstream side of the mainland slip. Approvals on variance requests for permits at Neebish Island have been received as well. AECOM feels that we are on track to re-issue bid documents in late January per approval from FHWA/MDOT. According to MDOT another meeting with FHWA will take place in the near future, hopefully resulting in them giving the "go-ahead" to rebid.

Moser reported with regard to GLCA Industry Days; EUPTA will be sending four employees to the Annual Industry Days conference which is put on by the Great Lakes Captain's Association (Jack Cork). This event is held in Traverse City and is a good training event and always has heavy participation by the USCG and is well attended by ferry operators from throughout the Great Lakes.

Moser reported EUPTA is expecting delivery of two cut-a-way buses next month.

Moser reported with regard to the Rural Task Force; he is waiting to hear back from Stan Ronquist from Luce County Road Commission and Rob Laitinen from CCRC on meeting dates for this year's Task Force meeting schedules. Each county in the task force group, which in ours is Mackinac, Chippewa and Luce have to meet separately first to present their plans and "wish list" then follow that later with a meeting together as a group to reach a consensus on the plan.

Moser reported with all of the recent attention in regard to cell phone use while driving, he distributed a draft and recommended adopting an official cell phone policy for bus drivers. We have not been seeing any particular problems with our drivers, but in the event of any accident resulting in any type of legal action against our driver and EUPTA, the first thing that a plaintiff attorney is going to ask for is the driver's cell phone records, and likely the next step they will take is to ask EUPTA whether or not we have a policy in place, and further whether our drivers have been

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made aware that cell phone use is not permitted while driving. This was tabled until our next meeting.

Moser reported Revenue Estimating Conference was just held. There are no official results of estimate, but Moser is hearing that there should be slight growth in revenues for the next couple of years.

Moser reported Mackinac County has contracted with Corradino Group to do a feasibility study to see if Transit Services in Mackinac County would be viable. The study is almost complete, basically leaving the local officials with decisions as to whether they want to proceed.

Chairman Sasso presented and recommended approval of the Board Meeting dates for 2012. **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Kibble; **SUPPORTED** by Director Herbst to approve dates as noted. **UNANIMOUS**. Motion carried.

VIII. ATTORNEY'S REPORT

No report given; Attorney Dunn absent.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Being no further business to come before the Board, **IT WAS MOVED** by Director Postula; **SUPPORTED** by Director Kibble to adjourn. **UNANIMOUS**. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 5pm. The next regular board meeting is scheduled for Monday February 6, 2012 at 4PM.

Ted Postula, Sec. /Treas.

Prepared By: Lynda Schexnayder