

**Building Grounds and Jail, Legislative and Natural Resources and
Information Technology Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 2nd, 2016**

A regular meeting of the Chippewa County Board of Commissioners' Building, Grounds and Jail, Legislative and Natural Resources and Information Technology Committee was held on Tuesday, February 2nd, 2015 at the Chippewa County Courthouse in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan. Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. with a quorum present.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Rudy Johnson, Don McLean and Conor Egan (By Phone)

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Jim German, Sarah Wilde, Tom Farnquist and Darryl Ertel

Additions / Deletions to the Agenda

It was moved by Commissioner McLean, supported by Commissioner Egan, to approve the agenda as presented. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

Public Comments

None

Agenda Items

Letter of Support for a National Marine Sanctuary

A presentation took place on letter of support for a National Marine Sanctuary. A letter of support was requested by the Shipwreck Historical Society for their application to NOAA. A discussion ensued.

It was moved by Commissioner Egan, supported by Commissioner McLean, to provide a letter of support for a National Marine Sanctuary off of Whitefish Point and to the West. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

County Social Media

The County Administrator presented a new Facebook Page. He noted that people could comment on the articles posted.

It was moved by Commissioner McLean, supported by Commissioner Egan, to establish the new Facebook Page. On a voice vote, the motion CARRIED.

General Discussion

A letter of complaint was discussed about a situation with an ambulance pick up.

Committee and Chairman's Comments

It was noted that the township meeting in Raber went well and Pickford would continue to provide ambulance service until May 2nd when a vote on an ambulance millage would take place. Then more negotiations would take place.

Adjourn

It was moved by Commissioner McLean, seconded by Commissioner Egan, to adjourn the meeting. On a voice vote, the motion was CARRIED.

Chairman Johnson declared the meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.



Jim German, Administrator



Rudy Johnson, Committee Chairman

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James M. German
Administrator
Kelly J. Church
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John Armor, Acting Director
NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
1305 East-West Highway, 11th Floor
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Mr. Armor,

I write today to convey The Chippewa County Board of Commissioners support of the designation by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for a National Marine Sanctuary in Michigan's Lake Superior waters. As envisioned, the "Shipwreck Coast" sanctuary would protect and preserve archeological treasures and maritime heritage resources. This proposed area includes 37 known shipwrecks and 52 reported to be lost shipwreck sites, in approximately a 1,113-square-mile. A National Marine Sanctuary would build on the accomplishments by the State of Michigan in protecting Great Lakes shipwrecks and educating the public about Michigan's nationally significant shipwreck sites along the Shipwreck Coast.

The proposed area would extend from the Gros Cap Reefs Light up to Whitefish Bay, around Whitefish Point, west along the coast past Grand Marais, to Au Sable Point, then north to the international boundary. A sanctuary would provide important benefits to this area, including increased tourism and a wide variety of educational programs to share the history of Michigan's shipwrecks and maritime heritage with the public.

A national marine sanctuary would expand upon the existing 376-square-mile Whitefish Point Underwater Preserve. The proposed site includes National Heritage sites, National Forests, Parks, Whitefish Point Light Station which is the oldest active Lighthouse on Lake Superior, Au Sable Light Station, Point Iroquois Light Station, and the Crisp Point Light Station. There are five historic locations of late 1870's Lifesaving Stations of Crisp Point, Deer Park, Two-Heart River, Vermilion, and Grand Marais in this area. The Vermilion structure is the only original 1876 building of the USLSS architecture remaining in the country.

It would be of great benefit to the Upper Peninsula of the State of Michigan to be part of the NOAA National Marine Sanctuary System. I am pleased to support the submission of this nomination package to NOAA, and fully support the addition of this valuable Great Lakes resource to the inventory of the National Marine Sanctuaries. We urge your support to this designation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. German", written over a horizontal line.

Jim German
Chippewa County Administrator