

Portage Lake Harbor Commission

Onekama Township

5435 Main Street

Onekama, MI n 49675

PROPOSAL

Over the past few years the Harbor Commission, with the efforts of specific members has been instrumental in getting state and federal agencies to visit and evaluate the economic sustainability of our community. The Commission facilitated the evaluation of our channel by state and federal agencies which most recently resulted in the award of over \$6 million to repair the piers and also dredge the channel.

Additionally, the Harbor Commission and Onekama have drawn the attention of the Michigan Port Collaborative for their participation in a state wide MPC Economic Study to calculate the economic impacts of commercial and tourism/recreation assets of Michigan's port system. The completion of this study by late fall 2018 will open potential funding opportunities for recreational ports that have "shelf ready" projects that will promote future economic growth opportunities. In addition, with the completion of the improvements to the Portage Lake Channel, Onekama will be in a position to leverage the federal/state funded asset to maximize our requests for future funding within our community.

In order to ensure that Onekama Village and Township are prepared to take advantage of future funding opportunities. The Harbor Commission believes that a separate committee of Onekama citizens should be established to work with the Port Collaborative and other state and federal organizations to identify and develop local projects and funding proposals to support our future growth to work within the community, using existing planning documents and surveys and the development of other tools as necessary, to identify key projects that are of high community value.

We are therefore asking both the Onekama Village Council and the Onekama Township Board to concur with the formation of the Onekama Economic Sustainability Committee and to appoint Al Taylor and Dan Behring as co-chairs of this committee, members of which will be chosen by them at their discretion.