



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
LANSING



KEITH CREAGH  
DIRECTOR

March 13, 2013

Mr. David Meister, Township Supervisor  
Onkama Township  
[assessors@onekamatwp.org](mailto:assessors@onekamatwp.org)

Dear Mr. Meister:

Thank you for contacting us regarding the 2013 Emergency Dredging Plan. Recently, the Parks and Recreation Division of the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) conducted a survey of Michigan's 83 public Great Lakes harbors and marinas. Relying on the survey results, a 2013 Emergency Dredging Plan was developed by the DNR, the Michigan State Waterways Commission, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Office of the Great Lakes (OGL). Governor Rick Snyder incorporated this plan into his recent Budget presentation to address the problem of historic low water levels in Michigan.

The Emergency Dredging Plan was designed to provide some flexibility to address additional emergency dredging needs at publicly owned recreational facilities. Following this initial process, many public Great Lakes harbors and marinas responded and identified critical dredging needs for 2013. Since that time, your community dredging project has been reviewed and it does meet the criteria. Therefore, your project will be added to the revised Emergency Dredging Plan list for implementation.

Enclosed you will find an overview of dredging locations and the Emergency Dredging Plan. Although the Waterways Commission concurred to waiving the local match requirement for dredging, we hope and expect that communities with the capability will contribute to their own dredging needs to maximize state resources during these emergency operations. Please note that Emergency Dredging Plan funding is contained in a proposed 2013 supplemental budget bill that requires approval by the Michigan Legislature. Your project is contingent upon the approval of funding. We are working closely with legislators as they review the emergency dredging funding proposal.

In addition, the DEQ and OGL are preparing plans for an expedited review of permits and actions to assist in this emergency dredging program.

In the meantime, in order to be prepared to move forward with your project as soon as possible, your community will be asked to select one of the following implementation scenarios:

1. Your community agrees to administer and manage the dredging project based upon a Grant Agreement with the state.

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2. Your community asks the state to administer and manage the dredging project through a separate Memorandum of Understanding with the DNR.

Once the funding is approved by the Legislature, you will need to confirm the details of your dredging needs with our DNR Waterways Program staff by writing to DNR Parks and Recreation, Waterways Program, P.O. Box 30257, Lansing, Michigan 48909-7757 to expedite your project. Also, once your community selects the preferred implementation method, the DNR will prepare the appropriate Grant Agreement or Memorandum of Understanding for execution. You will need to commence preliminary planning steps to ensure you can complete your project.

The state recognizes the urgency of your community's dredging needs. Staff from our agencies will work closely with you to assist in implementing dredging as quickly as is feasible. DNR Waterways Program staff will contact you within approximately five (5) business days to discuss the grant project details and to initiate an agreement.

If you need additional information or assistance, or have not been contacted within five (5) business days from the date of this letter, please contact Mr. Paul Petersen, the DNR Waterways Grant Program Manager, at 517-335-3033 or [petersenp@michigan.gov](mailto:petersenp@michigan.gov).

Sincerely,

  
Ronald A. Olson, Chief  
DNR Parks and Recreation

Enclosures

cc: Mr. Jim Rosenski, Chairman, Portage Lake Harbor Commission  
Mr. Eric Brown, Governor's Washington D.C. Office  
Michigan State Waterways Commission  
Director Keith Creagh, DNR  
Director Dan Wyant, DEQ  
Mr. Jon Allan, Office of the Great Lakes, DEQ  
Dr. William E. Moritz, Natural Resources Deputy, DNR  
Mr. Jim Goodheart, Senior Policy Advisor, DEQ  
Ms. Kim Fish, Water Resources Division, DEQ  
Ms. Emily Finnell, Office of the Great Lakes, DEQ  
Mr. Paul Petersen, DNR