

PORTAGE LAKE HARBOR COMMISSION

January 21, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jim Mrozinski at 7:01 p.m. Present were Dennis Blue, Roger Burger, Frank English, Chuck May and Jim Simons. There were no guests present.

The minutes of the November 19, 2015 meeting were approved with a motion by May and support by English, with all voting in favor.

Simons reported that the Invasive Species Committee will be meeting with Lake Manager Friday, Jan. 22, 2016, to review the Annual report for 2015. He also reported on an article that ran in the Grand Rapids Press, concerning power cables that were never removed once the pier head lights were converted to solar power. On the lists was the Portage Lake North Pierhead Light. Simons will contact Tom O'Bryan of the Corps of Engineers to find out more about this. One of these cables exploded on July 11, 2015 in Narragansett, Rhode Island injuring a 60 year old lady.

Burger reported that the work on the Jetty has been completed and that the village has submitted their final request to the DNR. It was noted that much of the sand from the beach area has blown to the pavement and will have to be removed in the spring.

English reported that there wasn't much in the latest Great Lakes Basin Report and that the Asian Carp continue to be controlled in areas of concern in Lake Michigan.

Blue reported that the Port Collaborative has been meeting every month. They are now part of Delta Corporation and will be providing monies for small town growth, with emphasis on ports on the Great Lakes. One of the criteria will be that the town assisted will provide a benefit to the economy of the state and surrounding areas in their growth.

May reported that an omnibus bill was passed giving the Corps \$2.5 million for operating and maintenance but small harbors may not see any of these dollars. He also reported that there is a discussion that a new WRRDA will be introduced

this year but he had no particulars at this time. May said Jeffery Dontz, Manistee Board of Commissioners, contacted him and said that the board had signed a resolution supporting the repair of the Portage Lake Piers infrastructure. Dontz also suggested that we contact the Tribe for their support.

Mrozinski said that Bill Boik has submitted paperwork to Washington for their approval for temporary repairs to our pier infrastructure. He also passed out information about a city in the Upper Peninsula that has established a circular “pen like net system” around its city launch ramp to help eliminate waste, weeds or other “invasives” as boats are launched from trailers. The Onekama Village may want to consider this at our park launch area.

New business: None.

There was no public comment.

Next meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2016.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Simons

