



**HTAC Voting Members Present**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Sector Representing</b>
Ed Anderson ( <i>Chair</i> )	MIC Policy Board	Regional
Cameron Bertsch	Douglas County	County
Brian Boder	St. Louis County	County
Steve Brossart	US Army Corps of Engineers	Federal
Natalie Chin	WI Sea Grant	State
Kyle Deming	City of Duluth	City
Marshall Elder	Midwest Energy Resources	Industry - Coal
Gary Glass	Izaak Walton League	Citizen Group
Cheri Hagen	WI Department of Natural Resources	State
Anna Hess	MN Department of Natural Resources	State
Barb Huberty	MN Pollution Control Agency	State
Joel Johnson		Industry – Recreation
Jason Laumann	Northwest Regional Planning Commission	Regional
LCDR Abbie Lyons ( <i>alternate</i> )	US Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit	Federal
Ed Montgomery		Industry – Harbor Services
Patrick Phenow	MN Department of Transportation	State
Dena Ryan	WI Department of Transportation	State
Jason Serck ( <i>Chair</i> )	City of Superior	City
CDR Francis Smith	US Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit	Federal
Ted Smith	Marine Tech	Industry – Harbor Engineering
Jeff Stollenwerk	Duluth Seaway Port Authority	Regional

**HTAC Voting Members Absent**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Sector Representing</b>
Dan Belden	Western Lake Superior Sanitary District	Regional
John Downing	MN Sea Grant	State
Chad Hewitt		Industry – Ore Transport
Lance Hunt ( <i>alternate</i> )		Industry – Ore Transport
Pete Kramer	Duluth Cargo Connect	Industry – General Cargo
Jonathon Lamb ( <i>alternate</i> )	Duluth Cargo Connect	Industry – General Cargo
Bob Libby		Industry – Vessel Operations
Mike McCoshen	Hallett Dock Company	Industry – General Bulk
Dan Rau	Save Lake Superior Association	Citizen Group
Steven Robertson ( <i>alternate</i> )	City of Duluth	City
Vacant	US Fish and Wildlife Service	Federal
Vacant	Natural Resources Conservation Service	Federal
Vacant	St. Louis River Alliance	Citizen Group
Vacant		Industry - Grain



**Others Present**

Name	Organization	Name	Organization
Hannah Alstead	US Senator Smith	Chau D Le	
David Bolgrien		Kris Liljebblad	City of Duluth
Dan Breneman	MPCA	Michael Mahon	J.F.Brennan
Ron Brochu		George Meister	
Lynette Carney		Keiton Moore	US Coast Guard
Ron Chicka	MIC	Guy Partch	Barr Engineering
Deb DeLuca	Duluth Seaway Port Authority	Marsha Patelke	NRRI
Eric Dott		Nick Patterson	J.F. Brennan
Phil Farina	Clear Creek Systems	Daniel Rust	UW-Superior
Jessica Felix	WisDOT	Ricky Sarran	MIC
Kate Ferguson	Duluth Seaway Port Authority	Jim Sharrow	Duluth Boat Club
Steve Fisher	American GL Ports Association	Lisa Stern	
Ken Gerasimos	Key Lakes / Great lakes Fleet	Richard Stewart	UW-Superior
Mike Halstad	WisDOT	Ian Vincent	Apex
Karina Heim	Lake Superior NERR	Matt Wartian	
Duane Hill	MnDOT	Maren Webb	MnDOT
Jayson Hron	Duluth Seaway Port Authority	Mike Wenholz	MIC
Seth Johnson		Natalie White	SEH
Allyz Kramer	SEH	Hans Wronka	Burns & McDonnell

In addition to the above, there a few people who called into the meeting. We do not have the names of those participants. One participant was listed as “MB”.

**Introductions / Agenda Review / Committee Business**

**HTAC Chair Jason Serck** called the meeting to order at approximately 9:05 AM. Ron Chicka and Mike Wenholz welcomed everyone to the virtual HTAC quarterly meeting. Jason’s time as chair has ended, and he turned the chair over to **Ed Anderson**, who chaired the remainder of the meeting. There was a role call for HTAC voting members. All in attendance introduced themselves virtually.

Chair Anderson asked if there were requested changes to the December 2, 2020 Meeting Summary. Hearing no requests, Chair Anderson asked for a motion to approve.

- Joel Johnson moved to approve the 12/2/2020 HTAC Meeting Summary. Ted Smith seconded the motion.
- There was no discussion.
- **The motion to approve carried unanimously.**

**HTAC Bylaws Voting Member List Updates, Mike Wenholz, MIC**

- Mike W provided a short update on the status of updating the HTAC voting member list.



Duluth-Superior Metropolitan Interstate Council  
**HARBOR TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Meeting Summary**

March 3, 2021

Virtual Meeting Via Microsoft Teams

- Steps have been taken to fill the HTAC voting member list that was established under the updated HTAC Bylaws in 2020. A meeting was held to discuss options. While the goal was to have the list completed by this meeting, that was not possible. Letters of invitation will be sent in the coming months. The new goal is to have a full list of voting members to announce by the June HTAC meeting.
- An HTAC Vice Chair will be confirmed in this process.

### **Summary of the MIC's Harbor Planning Work Program, Mike Wenzholz, MIC**

- Mike W provided a summary of the MIC's Harbor Planning 2021 Work Program.
- Allyz Kramer suggested including a connection with One Watershed One Plan, a diverse group led by BWSR (Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources).

### **Federal Great Lakes Port Legislative Updates, Steve Fisher, American Great Lakes Ports Association**

- See the presentation
- Steve F introduced himself as Executive Director of the American Great Lakes Ports Association.
- Steve provided an overview of the Association and how it provides advocacy for Great Lakes ports generally, and for 15 ports specifically, including the port of Duluth-Superior.
- Steve noted shipping supports \$35 billion in economic activity.
- Steve gave an update on a number of significant current issues to Great Lakes shipping, including: harbor maintenance funding, Soo lock construction, icebreaking, coastal resiliency planning, ballast water management, St. Lawrence River flows and water levels, port infrastructure grant funding, marine pilotage rates, and Custom and Border Patrol issues. A few specific highlights are:
  - The total dollar amount and percentage of harbor maintenance funding going to the Great Lakes in FY 2021 is the highest it's been over the past 8 years.
  - A new federal Statute that will start in September 2022 that states the Great Lakes get no less than 13% of the total harbor maintenance appropriation each year. This is an increase.
  - New Soo Lock construction continues to get funding, but more needed in the coming years to complete the project.
  - Port Infrastructure Development Grants started 3 years ago and are very popular. \$76 million has gone to Great Lakes grants.
  - Coastal resiliency is a real issue, as there has been substantial damage to Great Lakes ports due to high water. All Great Lakes states support funding of a \$11 million Great Lakes Coastal Resiliency study, which has been authorized by Congress.
  - Four Great Lakes ports (including Duluth) have been granted Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) clearance for cruise ships.
  - Container shipping is increasing in the Great Lakes. One of the problems is CBP is understaffed to handle the extra time and effort required for inspecting and clearing container shipping. Extra costs are being demanded.
  - The icebreaking fleet has dropped from 14 to 9 vessels since 1979. The new Great Lakes Winter Commerce Act gives more clarity and consistency to icebreaking in the Great Lakes.
  - An approximately \$350 million dollar heavy icebreaker was appropriated by Congress in 2015, but not yet funded.



## **Planned AOC Work in 2021, Barb Huberty, MPCA**

- See the presentation
- Barb H provided an update of St Louis River Area of Concern (AOC) work for 2021 and a summary of work from 2020, including:
  - A remedial cap was completed at Azcon Slip/DSPA Garfield Slip C in November 2020.
  - Dredging is to be completed in Howard's Bay in 2021, with some of the dredged material to be beneficially used, as appropriate.
  - Much work was done at Kingsbury Bay and Grassy Point, and remedial work at both is to be completed in 2021.
  - The Interstate island Avian Habitat work is to be completed in 2021.
  - USS/Spirit Lake Remediation to Restoration work is planned in both 2021 and 2022.
  - Story maps are being updated.
  - A "No Further Action" decision was made for Mud Lake West (MN).
  - "No AOC Action" decisions were made for both Bunge Dock and Superior Ore Docks (WI).
  - Assessment of site investigation data will be made this spring at 5 sites in WI.
- Barb shared the maps depicting anticipated 2021 AOC field work in both MN and WI.
- Barb summarized the implementation progress to date in the St Louis River AOC. Of 80 total identified management actions 35 actions are complete, 6 actions were determined to not be necessary, and 39 actions are in progress. Thus, a total of 51% of the identified management actions are complete.
- \$186.8 million has spent as of July 20, 2020. An estimated \$95.7 million remains needed to complete the work. It has been calculated that each Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) dollar will produce \$3.35 in additional economic activity in the Great lakes through 2036.

## **Erie Pier Management Plan – Final, Jeff Stollenwerk (DSPA) & Mike Wenzholz (MIC)**

- See the presentation
- Jeff S and Mike W presented the draft final Erie Pier Management Plan (EPMP) rewrite.
- Mike shared he knows that there was not as much time as desired for the HTAC voting members to review prior to the meeting. He apologized for this.
- Mike shared that the purpose today was for the HTAC voting members to vote on whether or not to approve the EPMP rewrite, and summarized the basic process used working with the EPMP Committee to complete the draft final, and for moving forward.
- Jeff presented the purpose, general layout, and some of the key points of the EPMP. He also shared the plan's recommendations.
- Mike and Jeff opened it up for questions and answered those received. Several questions related to dredge placement but not specifically related to the EPMP were addressed. These will not be included in the EPMP as they are outside the purpose of the plan.
- Action Items:
  - Several HTAC voting members asked if they could have additional time to review the document. Mike granted this extra time for review – until 5 PM Monday, March 8. This was acceptable to the group.
  - Mike requested the HTAC voting members vote on approving the final EPMP. And amendment was made to the request to ensure the comments received by March 8 are considered in the final document. Mike then modified the request that the HTAC voting members approve the



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final EPMP with the condition that Mike and Jeff will consider all comments received by March 8 and include those that are appropriate. The vote was made and the EPMP was approved unanimously.

- The goal remains to present the final EPMP to the MIC Policy Board at their March meeting (March 17).
- Mike will prepare a response to comments received.
- All voting members will receive an electronic copy of the final EPMP, and it will be available on the MIC's website.

## Roundtable

- Keiton Moore (US Coast Guard) invited people to participate in the upcoming Western Lake Superior Area Maritime Security Committee (AMSC) meeting on March 16. You get details from Keiton.
- Barb Huberty (MPCA) clarified some details of the Mud Lake remedial work and clarified the remedial work in the ponds behind Erie Pier are completely separate of and not a part of Erie Pier.
- Patrick Phenow (MnDOT) mentioned awards of the Port Development Assistance Program have been announced. This year is the highest amount ever available in the program.

**With no other items brought forward, Chair Anderson adjourned the meeting at approximately 11:15 AM.**