

**US 23  
Huron Shores Heritage Route  
Management Council Meeting Minutes  
October 20, 2009**

Chair Greg Sundin called the meeting to order at 10:00 am, October 20, 2009, at the Great Lakes Maritime Heritage Center, Alpena, Michigan.

**Attendees:** \*Greg Sundin, City of Alpena; \*Karen Sanderson, Alcona County Heritage Route Committee/City of Harrisville; Dan Mullen, DNR; \*Ken Gauthier, Alpena County/Sanborn Twp. Supervisor; \*Anne Belanger, Presque Isle; Greg Winfield, MDOT; Beverly Bodem, Sen. Stamas' office; \*Pat Shiflet, Oscoda/Coastal Coalition; \*Trish Schmidt, Iosco/Oscoda Twp.; Pete Hanses, MDOT; Sue Fortune, EMCOG; \*Marlena MacNeill, Alcona Co Road Comm/Heritage Route; Belle Flora, Coastal Coalition; Heidi Dewald, Michigan Sunrise Tours; \*Brian Wagner, Rogers City; \*Jim Baier, Oscoda Twp Supervisor; and \*Gary Kellan Oscoda County Economic Development.  
(\* )Denotes voting members

***Motion by MacNeill, support by Gauthier to approve the August 25, 2009 minutes with changes. Motion carried.***

**MDOT:** Pete Hanses who oversees the Heritage Route for the state of Michigan, gave a brief summary of what's going on at the state level with MDOT and the Heritage Route program. MDOT is embarking on a marketing program to promote heritage routes with a new website at [www.michigan.gov/mdot](http://www.michigan.gov/mdot) and publications at all the Michigan rest areas. They are providing resources from the top down and then the responsibility rests with the local heritage routes to promote activities along their individual routes. He emphasized that all efforts should be directed to the visitor—saying it's "all about the visitor". He also encouraged collaborating with the Byways initiative. Not that we needed to be told, but Pete also reminded us the importance of NEMCOG's Denise Cline involvement in our efforts.

***Motion by Wagner, support by Belanger to request funding from MDOT for LIAA based website as per Pete Hanses. NEMCOG will play an integral role in creating this website. Motion carried.***

**DNR:** Dan Mullen reported that the merger between DEQ and DNR is proceeding smoothly. There will be a meeting October 27, 2009 at Alcona Twp Hall regarding Negwagon/Thompson Harbor. The Sea Grant initiative is going forward working with students from Alcona, Alpena and Presque Isle counties.

**Coastal Coalition:** A "mini manifesto" with the Pure Michigan campaign will happen November 5, 2009. We will be given a name, logo, etc and will go on the preferred destination for the summer campaign. All are working to raise additional monies for a

fall campaign. Belle Flora will be the representative to the Management Council with Pat Shiflet as alternate.

**Trails:** Dan Mullen and Alcona County proposed that we work together with the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and call the non-motorized trails along the Heritage Route “The Maritime Heritage Trail”. It was decided to form a committee to look into name(s) for this trail. Pete Hanses encouraged the group to apply for Scenic By-Ways funding.

***Motion by Belanger, support by Dewald to work with NEMCOG as an ad hoc committee to pursue a trail way study through the Byways program. Motion carried.***

Kellan proposed that we remove the wording—low, moderate and high as far as prioritizing goals and objectives. ***Motion by MacNeill, support by Gauthier to eliminate all ratings. Approved with the exception of Arenac County who did not have representation at the meeting.***

**Elections:** Sundin opened the meeting for election of officers. Sanderson nominated Marlena MacNeill for chair, support by Schmidt. ***Motion by Kellan, support by Gauthier that nominations be closed. Marlena MacNeill unanimously elected chair. Schmidt nominated Gary Kellan for Vice Chair, Wagner that nominations be closed, Gary Kellan unanimously elected Vice Chair. Sanderson volunteered for secretary.***

Meetings will be the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month at sites to be determined. Dewald suggest that perhaps in the spring we might travel to different counties and then that county offer sites to visit within the county.

Next meeting will be December 1, 2009, 10:00 am at the Maritime Museum or Alpena City Hall. Location will be determined based upon availability of space.

Meeting adjourned at 11:48 am.

Karen L. Sanderson, Secretary