

MUSKEGON CONSERVATION CLUB

Membership and Board Meeting Minutes

September 2, 2025

PRESIDENT: Lance Sjoerdsma

MEMBERSHIP: Lance Sjoerdsma

VICE PRESIDENT: Wally David

SHORE COMMITTEE CHAIR: Matt DeWeerd

TREASURER: Travis Wilson

Board Members

FINANCIAL SEC: Kathy Wilkerson

2026: Dave Stitz, Matt DeWeerd, Steve Van Dyke, Steve Joneson, Mark Benjamin

RECORDING SEC: Heather David

2027: Lenny Pierce, Alicia Sjoerdsma, Mark Ellis, Pam Stitz, Debra Joneson

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: George Steward

BUILDING AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE CHAIR:
Rick Kasack

2028: Rick Kasack, Bonnie Pierce, Paul Kitchka, Christian Scott, Teresa Steward

GENERAL MEETING

OPENING COMMENTS/NEW MEMBER: Meeting began at 7:03 pm. Welcomed new member. Rich suggested Dale stay free at the camping park in consideration of all the work he does down here, including running the travel lift during the day. Bob from the Bird House needs to bring trees down into the area where the trailers are. He can have them taken down once the trailers are moved out of that area. Bob also donated a duck and martin house to be installed.

MERES: no report

BUILDING & PROPERTY: Rick Kasack reported. Ice machine is up and going. Plumbing issue in areas 3 and 4 repaired. Seawall repair is complete with new quotes for additional work around the club on the seawall. Electrical and plumbing in the repaired seawall area is beginning now by Rick and Dave Stitz. Maintenance for the year was completed for the travel lift. Sky Track needs a new seal on left front tire.

GOVERNMENT RELATIONS: Wally David reported. Wally talked to the City of N. Muskegon about doing the 4th of July and Home Coming parades. There is a fee.

MUCC: Steve Nayame reported. He is the new committee chair. The order form for Trax magazine arrived with a cost of \$7.50 per student for the monthly magazine. Order due by September 15th. Steve shared a number of upcoming events. These events are listed on the Muskegon Conservation Clubs website, MUCC.org and our facebook page.

CAMPGROUND: no report

MEMBERSHIP: no report

SPORTSMAN FOR YOUTH: Jake reported. Jake has taken on the role of the committee chair for Sportsman for Youth. The event is this Saturday. He was able to get fishing poles for

less than \$2 a pole. A banner and business cards were made for the event and can be used for future events. There is a box of lures left from the fishing derby that can also be used for prizes.

BOATER SAFETY/HUNTER SAFETY: no report

ADOPT A HIGHWAY: The fall clean up is September 20th. Chris Tann is overseeing this.

SHORE COMMITTEE: Matt Deweerd reported. Paul Kitchka shared the procedure on replacing lights on the buoys. Appreciation was noted to Mark Benjamin for all the communication around the seawall. Slip 69 had an anchor and life jackets stolen. Please report if you know anything. Dave with Elite Seawall reported that about 2000 feet or so of the seawall needs to be replaced. He submitted a quote to spread it out over a 7-10 year span. He also submitted some options for dredging. Using the ties to pull the seawall back is working. He also noted, backing boats up should never happen as it washes out the seabed at the seawall. There is a \$700 cost to replace a twisted cap for the new seawall.

OLD BUSINESS: Matt Deweerd shared that we ran out of meat at the Labor Day party and we need to increase the funds for meat going forward. There are more people attending and the cost of food is going up. It was also discussed serving the meat to manage portions. Appreciation was expressed for all the volunteers at the event. It was also discussed having a QR code for people to donate for food. Wally David brought up a Halloween party doing a corn roast and trunk or treat. Wally shared about a gentleman that would like to look at our property for a natural shoreline erosion protector that he could install.

NEW BUSINESS: Lance Sjoerdsma brought up desire to discuss haul out and storage fees increase. This could increase revenue and help reduce the number of boats that are being left in storage. Jake suggested doubling the storage fee for boats that do not launch. Paul Kitchka noted that the money brought in for the using the boat lift should be allocated for the boat lift expenses.

OTHER: Meeting adjourned for break at 8:06 pm.

MCC BOARD MEETING

MINUTES: Meeting began at 8:16 pm. Heather David read meeting minutes. Matt Deweerd motioned to accept, Dave Stitz 2nd, all favored, minutes accepted.

New/Old Business: Pam Stitz motioned to pay the \$700 for the cap to the seawall. Travis Wilson 2nd, all favored, passed. Wally David brought up the Sargent of Arms should have a vote based on the Robert's Rules of Order and our bylaws. If we accept Robert's Rules, the Sargent of Arms has the right to vote. Discussion around whether members who have high contribution to work around the club (i.e. building and properties, campground) should get a discount or be paid under a 1099. Due to previous rulings with the IRS, 1099 is the best option. The concern is that this could become a slippery slope. Wally David motioned to pay the building and property chair \$6,000/yr. 2 nays, all remaining yays. Motioned carried. Rick Kasack proposed a \$500 gift card for Dale and all the work he did. 2 nays and all remaining yays. Mark Benjamin initiated a discussion around future seawall repairs including buying the steel seawall materials in bulk. Travis Wilson shared we cannot budget more than \$90,000 for seawall repairs and dredging expenses annually. To get an accurate bid, Dave needs to do

some digging. There is cost to this bid process. Travis Wilson motioned \$10,000 to do the exploration for the bid. Dave Stitz second, all favored. Motion passed. Travis Wilson raised the idea to send an invoice for the storage of the barges to Franklin AEL. George Steward motioned to send invoice for \$15,537. Wally David second, all favored, passed. Chili cook off will be October 18th with Heather David chairing it. Wally David will go to the city of North Muskegon to take next steps to get approval for our expanded campground. Mark Benjamin motioned to hold additional spend on the campground improvements pending approval for the campground by the city of North Muskegon, Paul 2nd, 3 nays, remaining yays, motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Travis reported. (See sheets)

BILLS: Travis Wilson reported. Revenue of \$4,881.52, expenses of \$8,920.64 with Net Income of -\$4,039.12. Money has not been moved to LMCU yet. Budgets were presented as follows:

- Marina \$21,000
- Administration \$27,275 (biggest cost is \$15,000 for insurance)
- Building and Properties (includes campground) \$65,730

Pam Stitz motioned to accept the budgets, Mark Benjamin 2nd, all favored. Budgets approved. Appreciation was expressed for all that Travis and Kathy do to keep the books.

MEETING ADJOURNED: Steve VanDyke motioned to adjourn, Matt DeWeerd 2nd, all in favor; passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:34 pm.

September 12, 2025 Special Executive Board Meeting

Start of meeting 7:00 pm. In attendance Wally, Travis (online), George (online), Mark, Matt, Lance, Heather

Quote of \$261,000 to replace seawall in all of area 3 on the south side (320 linier feet). All the new seawall would be heavier duty and 25 foot tall sheets. Completing 300 linier feet at a time provides the best price. Contractor can keep from doing damage to the water lines and electrical.

To replace all the seawall that needs replaced is in excess of two million dollars.

There is currently \$325,000 in the bank. Another \$180,000 will be in the bank before dredging next year and includes estimated memberships and slip fees.

For perspective, to pay back the full two million would be \$1300 extra per slip annually to pay it back in 15 years without interest. With a 25 year loan at 5% it would cost the club

\$201,000/yr which would mean a \$1650 increase annually per slip.

Travis will reach out to Comerica to find out if a loan is possible.

Alternative ideas to buy us time:

Add I-beams on the water side to hold the wall in place

Drop K-rails on the water side of the wall (George is going to look into the cost of these including the delivery cost) and discuss with Dave from Elite Seawalls.

Tile along the wall to reduce pressure

Possible sources of income:

Increase slip fees (Travis going to calculate what would be an average of \$400/slip increase).

Increase winter storage to \$8 per foot (currently \$4 per foot).

Increase season sites at campground, with the potential of up to 20 sites at \$1400 per site.

Charge storage for the barges that are currently in the water at the end of area 4.

Capital campaign to help raise funds

Begin charging extra to the condos to help cover the cost of dredging.

Grants

Once all info is collected an emergency board meeting will be called with anticipated date of Thursday, September 18th.