

# MUSKEGON CONSERVATION CLUB

## Membership and Board Meeting Minutes

**September 18, 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 (excused), 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

### Emergency MEETING

**DISCUSSION:** Meeting began at 7:00 pm. Meeting called due to extensive seawall damage. Presentation of findings will be offered with options. Wally David addressed the concerns for boats that sat on the hard this summer. They were there due to seawall repairs, derelict boats in the process of being destroyed and others that were being charged late fees for not going in. The seawall repair was delayed due to the initial company hired to do the repairs not doing the work. A new company was brought in and they did a fantastic job getting it completed this past month. He also brought up that the reason boats are being delayed for winter haul out is due to the need to make decisions about what our next steps are for the seawall repairs. Wally presented the War Map which is the club map where all the boats are being slipped and winter stored. Matt Deweerd shared that scheduling of haul out can be done by contacting him, Wally or Lance. Their numbers are on the board in the bath house and on the website. Numbered tags on cradles and pallets need to stay on them as they are how we identify which cradles go to which boats. Mark Benjamin is handling the communication around the seawall repairs. Report any concerns for the seawall to him or Matt.

Appreciation was expressed for all the volunteers and a request for more volunteers. Mark Benjamin reported we have an estimate to repair the west end of south side of area 3 (320 feet). To start with just the first 100 feet \$110,500 with an additional cost of \$35,000 for the anchors. This would cover the worst area. To do the entire 320 feet will cost \$327,000 (includes the 2026 Spring dredging). This is the recommendation as the panels next to the repaired area will come apart as they put the new wall in. The strong steel that is being recommended is needed to get it to go all the way in and offers a 60 year warrantee. To complicate things, the low water is causing the land to come out underneath. Mark recommends considering the full 320 foot section as it is the best price.

Travis presented financial considerations. A term or revolving loan requires a guarantor. This means it would not be an option. We currently have \$296,000 in the bank. For other options for increasing funds, see proposed fee changes in attached addendum. Terms for Elite

Seawall is 50% down, 25% more at half way and the final 25% at completion. Lance shared it is about \$800 per foot to do the wall in 300 foot sections and over \$1,000 per foot on 100 foot sections.

Wally shared a desire to renumber all the slips so all slips are whole numbers to be able to use spreadsheets better.

How do we reduce the dredging cost? By keeping it just enough to get boats through.

Concern for attrition due to the increase in slip fees. Matt addressed it noting the waiting list is long. Many requests come in through the website (over a 150 requests came in this year)

Last year slip intake was \$151,000. With the proposed increase would bring in an additional \$50,000. In the simplest form, it is \$12,500 per \$100 we increase the fees.

Proposal for the travel lift price to increase to \$200 and storage to \$8/foot for voting on tonight.

Question was asked about MUCC membership. Lance presented that the fees are going up and we could use that money differently (\$3,600/annually)

Another expense is all the club parties. Ideas were a \$5 donation or people bring all the food without club providing food.

Concern for people fishing on the docks was raised. Recommendation is to get the fisherman name and/or their vehicle description and share it with executive team to be addressed.

**OTHER:** Adjourned for break at 8:05 pm.

## **MCC BOARD MEETING**

**MINUTES:** Heather read the September meeting minutes. No vote to approve taken.

**New/Old Business:** Benefit of being members of MUCC is 5 votes toward lobbying. As long as we are doing something toward our mission/pledge, we maintain our tax status. George Steward motioned to cancel our membership with MUCC, Dave Stitz 2<sup>nd</sup>, all favored, motion carried. We have an agreement with N. Muskegon Fire and Police to donate \$5,000 annually to the departments alternating years based on the tax tribunal in the 1940's. We have not paid it for three years. Matt Deweerd motioned we make a \$5000 donation to the North Muskegon Police department, Steve Joneson 2<sup>nd</sup>, all favored, passed. Matt motioned winter storage to \$6/foot and haul out to \$200 and \$200 splash to go in, Wally 2<sup>nd</sup>. 9 favor, 9 opposed. Motion failed. Travis motioned to increase the storage fee to \$6 per linear foot, Wally 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1 opposed, all remaining favored. Motion carried. We are waiting for solid quotes on the seawall repair. They will be shared via text for a vote to determine how to move forward.

**MEETING ADJOURNED:** Steve Vandyke motioned to adjourn, Matt Deweerd 2<sup>nd</sup>, all in favor; passed. Meeting adjourned at 9:13 pm.

Text communication following meeting:

Update for financial contributions to the City of North Muskegon. The last three payments were for \$3,500 with the last on 6/6/2023.

George got a quote from Nucor Steel for the sheet piling with favorable pricing. We are still awaiting a quote from Mike Taft.