

## MINUTES

### **House Appropriations Subcommittee on Natural Resources & Environmental Quality**

January 23, 2020

Meeting called to order by Representative Allor at 10:30 a.m.

Present – Allor, Glenn, VanSingel, Green, Slagh, Cherry, Hood

Absent – none

Excused – none

1. Approval of minutes dated 12-10-2019 Rep. Hood
2. EGLE presentation: Office of the Great Lakes August 2019 performance audit
  - a. Amy Epkey, Deputy Director, EGLE
  - b. Michael Alexander, Assistant Director, Water Resources Division
  - Statement from Rep. Allor regarding performance audit
  - OGL history, background, and mission
    - Coastal Zone Management program
    - Areas of Concern program
  - EGLE responses to audit
    - Changes in grants administration
    - Improving relationships with public advisory councils
    - Cooperation with the EPA (new agreement)
    - Areas of Concern documentation improvements
  - Questions – Cherry, Glenn, Green, Hood,
3. EGLE presentation: Great Lakes high water & erosion
  - a. Amy Epkey, Deputy Director, EGLE
  - b. Jerrod Sanders, Assistant Director, Water Resource Division
  - Great Lakes water levels
    - Cyclical – 2013 record lows, 2019 record highs
    - Review of 2019 daily water levels
    - Forecast of water levels for 2020
    - Review of precipitation in Michigan 2014-2019
    - Water levels in Lake Michigan & Lake Huron August 2018-2019
    - Photos of Great Lakes shorelines from Fall 2019
  - Permitting
    - EGLE & US Army Corp of Engineers issue permits for shoreline protection
    - Review of permit applications 2014-2020
  - EGLE response to shoreline erosion
    - 2017-2019 staff reassignments
    - October 2019 phase 1 complete
      - Expedite high water permits
      - Customer assistance
      - Communication
    - January 2020 phase 2
      - Limit after the fact permit fees
      - Amend completed application requirements
      - Emergency conditional permitting
  - Ongoing considerations
    - Inland & lakeshore flooding
    - Agency coordination
    - Sustainability of other permitting responsibilities
  - Questions – none

4. Legislative cards – Great Lakes high water & erosion
  - a. Herasanna Richards, Michigan Municipal League
  - b. Pat McGinnis, Grand Haven
  - c. Mitchell Foster, Ludington
  - d. Scott McLennan, Rogers City
  - e. Peter Dame, Grosse Pointe
  - f. Kate Hosier, South Haven
  - g. Joe Bush, Ottawa County
  - h. Brian Wendling, Saginaw County
  
5. Adjourn
  - a. Meeting adjourned by Representative Allor at 11:59 am.