

Resolution in Support of the 55 Degree Grand Marais Harbor Break Water Project

WHEREAS, Grand Marais Bay is the only Harbor of Refuge between Whitefish Point and Munising, Michigan along Lake Superior's notorious ninety mile "shipwreck coast" and is a vital link on Lake Superior for the safe passage of commercial and recreational boat traffic and research vessels on Lake Superior; and

WHEREAS, the break water at the Grand Marais Harbor of Refuge has completely deteriorated causing accretion of sand into the bay at a documented rate of 140,000 cubic yards per year, extensive shoaling, shoreline erosion, loss of property, loss of vital wildlife habitat, and loss of lives; and

WHEREAS, the Township of Burt, Alger County, has struggled for over 40 years attempting to urge the US Army Corps of Engineers to restore the break water; and

WHEREAS, the south shoreline of West Bay has now changed so dramatically, that the 15 degree design will provide little benefit over the 55 degree design and will push construction costs out of reach; and

WHEREAS, the 55 degree design will serve the purpose of protecting the harbor and will once again provide safe refuge; and

WHEREAS, design plans and studies for the 55 degree design are nearing completion making the project more eligible for grants, appropriations, and other sources of funding; and

WHEREAS, this Harbor is a vital economic link to the community, the county and the region and is critically important to the sustainability and growth of Grand Marais; and

WHEREAS, the Grand Marais Harbor Committee, having spent many hours researching, reviewing documentation, and giving careful consideration to the project options, now support the 55 degree design; and

WHEREAS, the community was afforded the opportunity to review and discuss the design alternatives, funding opportunities, and other pertinent information at a Public Hearing held on Thursday, March 19, 2009 at 6:00 p.m. and have given their input on and support of the project; and

WHEREAS, the Alger County Board of Commissioners, the U.P. Association of County Commissioners, the Michigan Waterways Commission, and Representatives of the State of Michigan have passed resolutions in support of a break water project, and

WHEREAS, this vital Harbor of Refuge will be rendered useless within the next two (2) years unless immediate action is taken;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of the Township of Burt, Alger County hereby supports the Grand Marais Harbor Committee recommendation and formally agrees to the US Army Corps of Engineers 55 degree break water design.

This resolution is hereby adopted on motion by Kay Wampler, seconded by Scott Wieting.

Roll Call Vote:

Lois R Leavenworth	<u> x </u>	aye	<u> </u>	nay
L. Scott Wieting	<u> x </u>	aye	<u> </u>	nay
Marc D Oglevie	<u> </u>	aye	<u> </u>	nay, Absent
Kay L Wampler	<u> x </u>	aye	<u> </u>	nay
Jack Hubbard	<u> x </u>	aye	<u> </u>	nay

The Supervisor declared the Resolution passed.

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
COUNTY OF ALGER)

I, Kay L. Wampler, Clerk of the Township of Burt, Alger County, Michigan, certify that the above is a true and correct copy of the resolution which was adopted by the Township Board at a meeting held on March 19, 2009.

Signed:

Dated:

Kay L. Wampler, Clerk

March 20, 2009