



HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

STATE OF MICHIGAN

Appropriations Requests for Legislatively Directed Spending Items

1. The sponsoring representative's first name:
Cam
2. The sponsoring representative's last name:
Cavitt
3. The cosponsoring representatives' names. All cosponsors must be listed. If none, please type 'n/a.' A signed letter from the sponsor approving the co-sponsorship and a signed letter from the member wishing to co-sponsor are required. Attach letters at question #9 below.
N/A
4. Name of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
Alcona Township Michigan
5. Physical address of the entity that the spending item is intended for:
5576 N US HIGHWAY 23, BLACK RIVER, MI, 48721
6. If there is not a specific recipient, the intended location of the project or activity:
N/A
7. Name of the representative and the district number where the legislatively directed spending item is located:
Cam Cavitt, 106 District
8. Purpose of the legislatively directed spending item. Please include how it provides a public benefit and why it is an appropriate use of taxpayer funding. Please also demonstrate that the item does not violate Article IV, S 30 of the Michigan Constitution. The purpose of this legislatively directed spending item is to support the planning, design, permitting, and construction of a dual rockwall jetty system at the mouth of the Black River in Alcona Township, Michigan. This project addresses a long-standing public infrastructure issue—chronic sedimentation and accretion at the river mouth—that renders the waterway frequently unnavigable and compromises both public safety and access to Lake Huron. The proposed improvements will provide significant public benefits, including enhanced life-saving water rescue capability, restored access for recreational boating, fishing, and diving in the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary, and protection of the natural fish habitat within the Black River watershed. By reducing

the need for repeated emergency dredging, the dual jetty solution offers a permanent, cost-effective alternative that safeguards environmental integrity and ensures continued public use of this vital resource.

This initiative is an appropriate and responsible use of taxpayer funds because it provides long-term value through improved public safety, enhanced recreational access, economic support for the tourism industry, and preservation of natural resources. Additionally, it helps eliminate recurring maintenance costs associated with short-term dredging efforts. Funding will be provided directly to Alcona Township, a public entity, and all improvements will be publicly owned and maintained for the benefit of the general public. As such, this spending item complies fully with Article IV, Section 30 of the Michigan Constitution. It does not appropriate funds for private purposes, nor does it benefit any private entity. Instead, it supports a clearly defined public purpose—restoring and maintaining public access to a key waterway—and ensures that all funds are used in service of the public good.

9. **Attach documents here if needed:**

Attachments added to the end of this file.

10. **The amount of state funding requested for the legislatively directed spending item.**

2500000

11. **Has the legislatively directed spending item previously received any of the following types of funding? Check all that apply.**

["None"]

12. **Please select one of the following groups that describes the entity requesting the legislatively directed spending item:**

Local unit government

13. **For a non-profit organization, has the organization been operating within Michigan for the preceding 36 months?**

Not applicable

14. **For a non-profit organization, has the entity had a physical office within Michigan for the preceding 12 months?**

Not applicable

15. **For a non-profit organization, does the organization have a board of directors?**

Not applicable

16. **For a non-profit organization, list all the active members on the organization's board of directors and any other officers. If this question is not applicable, please type 'n/a.'**

n/a

17. "I certify that neither the sponsoring representative nor the sponsoring representative's staff or immediate family has a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in the legislatively directed spending item."

Yes, this is correct

18. Anticipated start and end dates for the legislatively directed spending item:

APPROXIMATE START DATE: 7/15/25 - (COMPLETION OF STUDIES & DUAL ROCKWALL JETTY DESIGN) APPROXIMATE END DATE: 7/15/27 (COMPLETION OF CONSTRUCTION OF DUAL ROCKWALL JETTY)

19. "I hereby certify that all information provided in this request is true and accurate."

Yes



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



M. SCOTT BOWEN
DIRECTOR

April 17, 2024

The Honorable Michele Hoytenga
State Senator
P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7536

The Honorable Cam Cavitt
State Representative
P.O. Box 30014
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7514

Dear Senator Hoytenga and Representative Cavitt:

SUBJECT: Black River Jetty in Alcona County

Thank you for your letter of February 27, 2024, regarding the Black River Jetty in Alcona County.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Parks and Recreation Division commissioned the referenced study to look at alternatives ranging from converting the site to a carry in-carry out site to implementing a range of infrastructure improvements to alleviate the need for frequent dredging with the hope of making the location more sustainable and suitable for recreational boating and access.

The study concluded that a dual jetty option was the best option if infrastructure improvements were desired to be pursued. This study is a phase 100 or baseline report. There are still many details and questions to work through, including but not limited to:

1. Will a jetty system be permitted by the regulatory agencies?
2. What will the impacts be to adjacent property owners if jetties are constructed?
3. How successful will the project be if we can only construct the jetty on the north side, as the DNR does not currently own property on the south side of the river?
4. Finally, if infrastructure is added, what will the future dredging needs look like after such a significant financial investment?

The DNR has agreed to consider additional studies to answer these questions as part of our annual capital budget prioritization process to resolve a sustainable long-term solution.

The Honorable Michele Hoytenga

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April 17, 2024

In the short term, the DNR will continue to dredge the site to make this boating access site functional for the recreational boaters and anglers. The DNR is actively working with the township to improve the short-term solution of dredging while pursuing options to continue the study and feasibility of long-term solutions to add infrastructure to alleviate the need for frequent dredging and make this boating access site more sustainable.

If you have any further questions regarding this matter, please contact Mr. Ron Olson, Chief, Parks and Recreation Division, at 517-243-1477; olsonr@michigan.gov; or Department of Natural Resources, P.O. Box 30257, Lansing, Michigan 48909; or you may contact me.

Sincerely,



M. Scott Bowen
Director
517-284-6367

cc: Ms. Shannon Lott, Natural Resources Deputy, DNR
Mr. Taylor Ridderbusch, Legislative Liaison, DNR
Mr. Ron Olson, DNR
Ms. Jacklin Blodgett, DNR

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Absolutely.

On Tue, Sep 12, 2023, 4:56 PM Daniel Gauthier <danog1951@yahoo.com> wrote:

Thanks This is great. Should you include any verbiage about the recuse boat the township has purchased and just cant use etc?

On Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at 04:42:55 PM EDT, Alcona Fire <alconatwpfire@gmail.com> wrote:

Dan,
If you could forward this to the correct parties that would be great.

The Alcona Township Fire Department is writing this email in support of the Black River mouth improvement.

The fire department provides fire and emergency services to the entire Alcona twp area to include water emergencies on Lake Huron or Black River. Traversing through the mouth is always of great concern as it gets plugged up so frequently. Our beautiful beach and river provides a great resource for all to enjoy, to include kayaking, fishing, swimming, snorkeling and scuba diving just to name a few. Those things are great but occasionally lead to an emergency. We strongly support fixing the mouth to provide a safe and reliable mouth to access lake huron. Our next closest rescue resource would have to come either from the sheriff in Harrisville or the coast guard out of Tawas. The current situation is a real safety concern for us, the potential for an incident is great, but the current ability to assist is definitely hampered by the mouth constantly being plugged. If there is anything that can be done to fix it we will support it.

Thank you for your time!

Chad Kamischke
Alcona Twp Fire Department
Assistant to the Fire Chief.

↩️ ⏮️ ➡️ ⋮

Thank you.

Me too.

Cool.

Black River Mouth Boating Access Site

To view the study online visit: Michigan.gov/DRWaterways

Comments will be received through April 28, 2023

To provide comments via email - Send comments to DN-PRD-GaylordDistrict@michigan.gov

For written comments, leave this sheet with D R staff at the conclusion of the meeting or mail to Harrisville State Park at:

Harrisville State Park PO Box 326
248 State Park Road Harrisville, MI 48740

To Whom it may concern,

The DNR study and report of the above captioned project has been completed on the Mouth of the Black River.

The DNR report concludes that the installation of two Jetties, 75ft into Lake Huron is the recommended solution.

This project is not only important for Alcona Township but also for Alcona County.

As Chairman of the Alcona County-Economic Development Committee, I am in full support of this project and would encourage the DNR to approve the recommendations in the report and approve any required permits to expedite completion of the project.

With Regard,
Doug M. Cheek
Chairman
Alcona County
Economic Development Committee



Alcona County Sheriff's Office

214 W. Main Street, Harrisville, MI 48740

Office: (989) 724-6271

Fax: (989) 724-6181

Scott A. Stephenson
Sheriff

Keith W. Myers
Undersheriff

April 22nd, 2025

Ronald Olson,

Re: Improvement to Black River access

I am writing to support efforts to improve boat access to Black River in Alcona County. As you may be aware the mouth of the Black River fills with sediment which renders it impossible for vessels wanting to enter or exit Lake Huron. The sediment fills in the River mouth very quickly making dredging efforts relatively ineffective

In the event of a storm, rough waters, or mechanical trouble, a vessel on Lake Huron would likely have to seek refuge in Harrisville Harbor or Alpena. The distance between these two locations could be the difference between a good ending and a fatal boating incident. With the mouth of the Black River open, vessels could seek refuge approximately half way between Alpena and Harrisville.

Similarly, if there were a boat experiencing an emergency on Lake Huron near the Black River, my vessel would have to respond from Harrisville Harbor. Again the amount of time it takes to respond via water could result in loss of life. If we were able to launch our vessel in Black River and access Lake Huron, response time could be significantly reduced which may help save lives.

This situation occurred last summer when a vessel ran aground and began taking on water. An elderly passenger began experiencing a medical emergency. My vessel had to respond from Harrisville Harbor because the mouth of the Black River was not passable with our Lake Huron Boat. Ultimately we were able to affect a rescue with the assistance of the US Coast Guard. Unfortunately, the Sheriff's Office boat sustained damage during the response.

In Summary, I support any efforts that improve access to the Black River. Maritime emergencies require immediate action where time is of the essence. Having the mouth of the Black River consistently open would improve response times on Lake Huron in this area.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Scott A. Stephenson", written over a horizontal line.

Sheriff Scott Stephenson



Alcona County Board of Commissioners

Alcona County Building
P.O. Box 308
Harrisville, MI 48740

Voice: (989) 724-9410
Facsimile: (989) 724-9419

April 3rd, 2024

Director Scott Bowen
Department of Natural Resources
Executive Division
P.O. Box 30028
Lansing, Michigan 48909



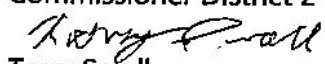
Dear Director Bowen,

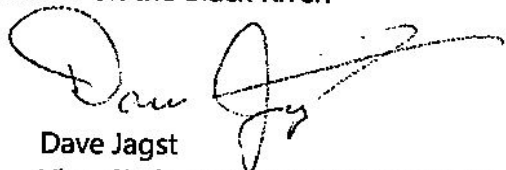
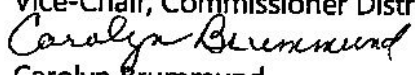
We are writing to express our strong endorsement of the proposed dual jetty solution at the mouth of the Black River in Alcona County. The recent studies, led by GEI Consultants of Michigan, concluded that constructing jetties is the most effective option, aligning with the defined objectives, to manage the impact of accretion and sedimentation build up at the mouth of the river and along the shoreline.

The Black River is rich in history and in the past years supported logging and commercial fishing industries. We urge the Michigan DNR to move swiftly to approve and implement the dual jetty solution. This initiative has significant potential to restore this site to its former environmental vibrancy and capability of providing long term, safe, reliable, unobstructed access to Lake Huron supporting life-saving water rescue capability, recreational boating and fishing, recreational diving in the Thunder Bay National Marine Sanctuary and preservation of the natural fish habitat for the Black River Watershed.

Your commitment to this project will contribute to a more proactive approach to managing this vital waterway. Thank You for your attention, and we look forward to witnessing the positive impact of the dual jetty solution on the Black River.

Sincerely,


Adam Brege
Chairman, Commissioner District 4

Craig Johnston
Commissioner District 2

Terry Small
Commissioner District 5


Dave Jagst
Vice-Chair, Commissioner District 1

Carolyn Brummund
Commissioner District 3