

Twin Cities Harbor Study
Environmental Focus Group (9/25)

Facilitator: Don Carpenter

Attendees: Matt Meersman, Marcy Hamilton, Ryan McCartney, Kevin Haight, Peter Ter Louw (sign in sheet attached)

- This is the busiest boat harbor (# of boats) on Lake Michigan in Michigan. Perhaps busiest on entire lake.
- Need to get the CZM Trail Towns Study (has water trail infrastructure information)
- Michigan water trails includes access from Lake Michigan into the Inner Harbor. There are three water trails that meet in harbor (Paw Paw, St. Joseph, and Lake Michigan)
- Sediment transport concerns are watershed wide but Berrien Spring Dam catches a lot of sediment from St. Joseph River.
- Paw Paw River is a protected wetland corridor. Most natural system in SW Michigan. Important to keep.
- Bryant Marina has significant issues with sedimentation. Needs to perform supplemental dredging during low water levels.
- 100,000s of Salmon are released annually by St Joe Steelheaders (stock from MDNR) from Bryant Marina. None released in 2018.
- There is a St Joe River Basin Commission that should be engaged.
- Talk to Jay Wesley of MDNR about river mouth habitat.
- Talk to nature center about birding.