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News from Save Our Shoreline, Inc.

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Hundreds of Shoreline Owners Jam DEQ Meeting at Bay City's Doubletree Hotel

BAY CITY, Michigan – May 3, 2006

On Tuesday, May 2, 2006, the MDEQ held the first of two public meetings touting its newly proposed general permit allowing 6 foot paths in lieu of beach grooming as the beachgrooming law's vegetation removal provisions sunset. An estimated 300 people jammed into the meeting room, and another 100 or so were turned away or waited in the hall. One of those denied entry and waiting out in the hall was SOS Vice President David Powers. "I was waiting in the hallway talking with a group of five other shoreline owners who were denied access to the meeting. One man drove from Dearborn; a lady drove from Brighton; and another couple drove from Grand Blanc. The other was a doctor who apparently arrived late," he said. "Clearly, these people are very concerned about the DEQ's plans for their beach," he said.

The meeting room was filled with home and cottage owners expressing their anger about the proposed general permit and agency's opposition to the beach grooming law passed in 2003. From real estate values, to tourism, ecological issues and the law, shoreline owners, most of whom were in their 50's, 60's, and 70's, demonstrated that they were well educated about the issues affecting their property, and their questions and statements demonstrated that they were unconvinced the agency fully understood important issues affecting Lake Huron and Saginaw Bay. Near the end of the meeting, MDEQ director Steven Chester acknowledged that the crowd had made an impact.

Other important upcoming meetings include a meeting before joint legislative committees on May 9, 2006, at 3 pm in Lansing, and another informational presentation by the MDEQ, similar to the one held in Bay City, on May 17, 2006 at 7 pm in Traverse City. Locations will be available on the SOS website.

Founded in 2001, Save Our Shoreline is a nonprofit membership basis corporation of nearly 3000 households committed to the preservation of beaches and waterfront areas, and to the protection of rights to maintain beaches and waterfront areas. Those interested in Save Our Shoreline can find more information at <http://www.saveourshoreline.org/> or by calling (989) 667-2910. For more information about this press release, contact Ernie Krygier at (989) 793-3711.

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