Donald H. Gilmet is currently the Building/Zoning/Harbor Official for the City of Alpena, a position he’s held for the last 19 years. He is actively engaged with the Michigan Port Collaborative and serves as Vice President. Don has been an integral part since it’s inception. He also serves on various state and regional boards.

Don retired from the Army National Guard in 2002 with 38 years of service as a First Sergeant in the Infantry. Prior to employment with the City of Alpena, Don owned and operated Gilmet Construction Company, and taught Building trades at Alpena High School.

Don is married to Glenda Gilmet and has six children, 11 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. He and his wife still operate Gilmet Construction Services.

Ms. Fairchild is a seasoned executive with extensive experience in both the international and U.S. domestic travel industries. She began her career with Pan American World Airways where she served in various International Marketing, Public Affairs, and Public Relations positions in New York City. She also held executive-level marketing positions with Pacific Southwest Airlines and Air West International before joining UNICEF as Director of Communications for the United States.

She founded the Saugatuck-Douglas Area Convention & Visitors Bureau and served as its first Executive Director for over two decades. Fairchild is credited with having raised Saugatuck’s tourism revenues 1,297% by generating over $103 million in earned media.

As an appointed Travel Commissioner for the State of Michigan from 1993 to 2001, she founded Cruise Michigan and served as its Executive Director from 1998 through 2002. There Felicia was instrumental in bringing back luxury cruise ships to Michigan waters after an absence of 35 years. In 2003 Fairchild became the first president of Michigan’s Beachtowns Association and served in that capacity until her resignation from the Saugatuck-Douglas Visitors Bureau in December 2016.

Her past & present maritime industry board service includes appointments to the board of directors of Cruising the Great Lakes, Inc. (1999-2002); Great Lakes Cruise Coalition (1999-2001); Michigan Small Harbors Coalition (2008-present); and Michigan Port Collaborative (2008-present).

FELICIA FAIRCHILD – President of the Michigan Port Collaborative

DON GILMET – Vice President of the Michigan Port Collaborative
MARCI CISNEROS – Treasurer of the Michigan Port Collaborative

Marci Cisneros is the Executive Director of the Grand Haven Area Convention & Visitors Bureau; a destination marketing organization whose mission is to promote, market, and publicize the Grand Haven Area for overnight stays for visitors, business travelers, and tourism-related activities.

Marci has been an active member of the tourism industry for 20 years. She is one of the founding members of Michigan Port Collaborative and currently serves as Treasurer. Additionally, she is involved as Vice President of Grand Haven Lighthouse Conservancy, a board member of Michigan's Beachtowns, West Michigan Tourism Association, Schrems West Michigan Trout Unlimited, and a member of Grand Haven Rotary.

After spending ten years in Tennessee, and studying Business Management & Marketing at Tennessee Tech University, she moved back home to West Michigan to head the Grand Haven Area CVB.

Cisneros understands the important role that ports play in all sectors of commerce and industry, locally and across the state.

DENNIS BLUE – Secretary of the Michigan Port Collaborative

Dennis Blue graduated from Michigan State University in 1957 with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics. There ensued a thirty-year career with Ford Motor Company, fourteen of which were served in Venezuela, Australia, New Zealand and Brazil with his wife and two children.

Immediately following his retirement from Ford in 1988, Mr. Blue began charter fishing businesses in Michigan and Florida, guiding fishing expeditions throughout the U.S., and Central and South America.

Mr. Blue has published two memoirs about his career at Ford and his twenty-eight-year career as a professional charter captain. He is currently a member of the board for the Portage Lake Harbor Commission and Manistee County Sport Fishing Association. Blue is also an active board member of Michigan Port Collaborative, serving as Secretary.

Dennis and his wife, Dottie, are the grandparents of six and share their time between Onekama and Mason, Michigan.
VINCENT MAGNINI – Executive Director of the Institute for Service Research

Dr. Vincent Magnini is the Executive Director of the Institute for Service Research. He was recently ranked as one of the top 12 most prolific hospitality researchers worldwide and holds editorial board appointments on all of the top-ranked research journals in the field. Further, he is a U.S. Fulbright Scholar.

Magnini has published six books and more than 250 articles and reports. He has also been featured on National Public Radio’s With Good Reason, All Things Considered, Pulse on the Planet and cited in the New York Times and Washington Post.

- Ph.D. in International Business / Marketing from Old Dominion University
- M.B.A from Wichita State University
- B.S. in Hospitality and Tourism Management from Virginia Tech

BILL BOIK – Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Retired

Bill Boik retired from the State of Michigan Department of Natural Resources after 30 years in the Waterways Program. He managed the acquisition, development, maintenance, and operations of the state’s boating facilities. These facilities included two locks, 19 harbors and over 1300 boating access sites across the state. Additionally, Bill managed the Waterways grants program including state-administered federal grants.

Bill now works as an independent consultant for boating facilities.