

April 22, 2020

Dear IRBA Members,

I hope you are all staying safe during this pandemic. There are a number of changes to our upcoming IRBA meetings. The West End canceled their fundraiser at the Clearwater Grill and Event Center on May 14, 2020. The IRBA Annual Dinner Meeting on May 16, 2020, at the Ramada Inn is canceled. The annual dinner meeting will be rescheduled when the Ramada Inn restaurant reopens for business. The July 17 – 18 IRBA fish tournament and fish fry has yet to be canceled but may be in doubt as the NPS may not allow large groups to assemble on the island. Below is the latest news from the IR NPS.

Email response from Liz Valencia (IR NPS):

“We pushed back our opening date by 2 months to June 15. The press release about that went out last week. It is true we are evaluating all the risks associated with opening the park this summer, and we are considering a few different options. No decision has been made. The current Michigan executive order, in effect through April 30, restricts motor boat use and non-essential travel; however, this could be extended.

It would be accurate to let your members know that we are looking at all the guidance from the CDC, Dept. of Interior, NPS, and Western UP Health department, as well as MI and MN executive orders. It is important to make sure they understand that no decision beyond the 2-month delay in opening has been made at this time.”

I hope to get another IRBA update out to you sometime in early June on information related to IRBA activities.

Stay Safe,

Dave Hand