

PORT & RESOURCE RECOVERY DEPARTMENT



2561 SOUTH BROADWAY
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DEAN R. HAEN
DIRECTOR

MINUTES OF THE BROWN COUNTY HARBOR COMMISSION

A meeting was held on **Monday, November 13th, 2023**
at the Port Offices, 2561 S Broadway, Green Bay, WI 54304

1) Call to Order:

The meeting was officially called to order by President Tom Klimek at 10:30 am.

2) Roll Call:

Present: President Tom Klimek
 Vice President Bryan Hyska
 Commissioner Ron Antonneau
 Commissioner Barb LaMue
 Commissioner Tim Feldhausen
 Commissioner Hank Wallace
 Commissioner Pete Diemer
 Commissioner Wes Kornowske

Excused: Commissioner Mike Vizer

Also Present: Dean Haen, Brown County P&RR
 Mark Walter, Brown County P&RR
 Katie Platten, Brown County P&RR
 Amy Beaudou, KK Integrated Logistics
 Melissa Schwiner, GLC Minerals

3) Approval/Modification – Meeting Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Barb LaMue and seconded by Wes Kornowske Unanimously approved.

4) Approval/Modification – Minutes of September 11th, 2023 Meeting

A motion to approve the minutes of the September 11th meeting was made by Tim Feldhausen and seconded by Hank Wallace. Unanimously approved.

5) Announcements/Communications

Director Dean Haen made an announcement about the final stages of the shipping season for 2023. As of December 1, bridge tenders will not be staffing the bridges. A 12-hour advanced notice is required for bridge tending services.

6) 2023 3rd Quarter Budget Status Report

Mr. Haen discussed the 3rd Quarter Budget Status Report for the Port Department. The report showed some deviations from the planned budget numbers with the Port Development Site sale of property to GLC Minerals, which alters the cost per acre of the site.

A motion to approve 2023 3rd Quarter Budget Status Report was made by Bryan Hyska and seconded by Ron Antonneau. Unanimously approved.

7) Vegetative Management RFB

Mark Walter presented information on the Department is utilizing a herd of grazing animals to manage the vegetation on Renard Island. A scope of work is in the works, with input from local experts. The main concerns addressed in Mr. Walter's informational presentation are further restricting access to the island from the public with an access fence on the causeway and providing a mobile shelter for the animals. The proposed herd would consist of goats who graze woody vegetation, sheep who graze on grasses, and a few donkeys for natural predator protection and who will graze on any vegetation. The herd would be penned inside an adjustable electric fence that is moved periodically with the mobile shelter to the next paddock (or area intended to be mowed).

There was discussion from Wes Kornowske, Tim Feldhausen, Ron Antonneau, Barb LaMue, Mr. Haen, and Mr. Walter about logistics, security, and publicity for the project. There were suggestions, in addition to a fence along the causeway, for signage and camera installation to deter public interference.

Pete Diemer asked for further clarification on the need and cost for the project instead of traditional mowing, which Mr. Walter answered that managed grazing is comparable in cost to the regular mowing completed on the island. He also noted that companies are hesitant to mow on the island due to previous damage to equipment by the density of the brush and existing groundhog holes. The cost of vegetative management by animals needs to be cost competitive to mowing while additionally factoring in the additional benefits of using animals.

Mr. Antonneau suggested utilizing Brown County Highway Department for mowing, which Mr. Haen responded that scheduling and availability would be an issue. Managed grazing would be ecologically beneficial and an opportunity for publicity for Renard Island.

8) Bay Port DNR Low-Hazard Grant of Exemption Modification

DNR issued a new Low-Hazard Waste Grant of Exemption for the Bay Port facility operation. The Grant of Exemption is valid for 10 years. Stockpile Cell 7 is designated for remediation dredge material and Cell 8 designated for beneficial reuse dredge material. Cell 8 beneficial reuse is limited to NR 720 background threshold values. Staff will evaluate existing and future dredge material against NR 720 background threshold values to determine placement location. The final cover design has been modified for Cell 7 and Cell 8 to include 2 feet of compacted clean dredge material. Cell 7 additionally needs 6 inches of approved clean topsoil. Financial assurance to ensure funds are available to close the facility have been updated to meet the closure costs of Cell 7 and 8 resulting in the need for \$2M in funds. The previous Grant of Exemption financial assurance was met with \$1.1M in funds. The department will need to determine if funds are available to meet the \$2M in financial assurance or secure a letter of credit until the funds are secure. Groundwater monitoring was reduced from annual to semi-annual and several parameters were reduced or eliminated.

9) 2024 Budget

Mr. Haen gave an update on the 2024 Budget which was presented and approved by the County Executive and County Board without changes. The statement of funds is still being worked on by the Finance Department and will be presented to the Harbor Commission upon completion.

10) Port Development Site

Mr. Antonneau asked about backfilling of the bulkhead line at the Port Development Site. Communications with federal agencies were presented and discussed by Mr. Walter and Mr. Haen.

A abandoned groundwater well from the decommissioned site is believed to be releasing water to the surface. With DNR approval, the water has been channelized to the bay of Green Bay. The area where this occurred is in the area where the stormwater retention pond is planned. A buried foundation from a culverted channel that was built in the 1950s and covered in the 1980s was found during the channeling of the surfaced water.

Mr. Walter gave an update on reviews of material provided by several agencies that assessed historical resources, endangered species, hazardous conditions, stormwater, and tribal historical considerations as part of the PDIP Grant agreement process. There was a brief update on grant agreements and a discussion on obtaining the remaining necessary project funds.

11) Director's Report

Mr. Haen talked about the prospectus that is being developed for the NERR consideration of Renard Island as a site for the NERR Research and Visitors Facility. Discover Green Bay and the Port Department have been working together to create a prospectus and are beginning to obtain letters of support from various entities in the Green Bay community. Bryan Hyska encouraged Mr. Haen to utilize the Harbor Commission to reach out to community members and leaders to discuss any concerns they may have.

12) Tonnage Report

Mr. Haen commented that the shipping in October is ahead of the previous year and the season is projected to finish stronger in 2023 than in 2022.

13) Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law

Mr. Antonneau asked if there will be a meeting of the Harbor Commission in December, which Tom Klimek and Mr. Haen answered no, unless there are any items that need approval or action.

14) Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the Harbor Commission meeting at 11:36 am was made by Tim Feldhausen and seconded by Ron Antonneau. Unanimously approved.

Tom Klimek, President
Harbor Commission

Dean R. Haen, Director
Port & Resource Recovery Department