

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, February 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 10:36 am without a quorum.

Arrival of Commissioner Tim Feldhausen at 11:03am completes quorum requirement for approvals.

2) Roll Call:

Present: President Tom Klimek
 Vice President Bryan Hyska
 Commissioner Barb LaMue
 Commissioner Tim Feldhausen
 Commissioner Mike Vizer

Excused: Commissioner Ron Antonneau
 Commissioner Hank Wallace
 Commissioner Wes Kornowske
 Commissioner Pete Diemer

Also Present: Dean Haen, Brown County P&RR
 Mark Walter, Brown County P&RR
 Katie Platten, Brown County P&RR
 Holly Bellmund, GLC Minerals
 Eric Bretl, KK Integrated Logistics
 Chip McDonald, MAHA

3) Approval/Modification – Meeting Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda as revised was made by Mike Vizer and seconded by Bryan Hyska. Unanimously approved.

4) Approval/Modification – Minutes of December 19th, 2022 Meeting

A motion to approve the minutes of the December 19th meeting was made by Tim Feldhausen and seconded by Barb LaMue. Unanimously approved.

5) Announcements/Communications

Director Dean Haen discussed the closure of the 2022 shipping season and the preparations for the upcoming 2023 season. An event at ACE Marine was held in January to announce the authorization for a new Great Lakes Icebreaker vessel by U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin. Harbor Commission President Tom Klimek and Director Dean Haen along with several shipping and Great Lakes stakeholders were in attendance.

6) WDOT Harbor Assistance Program Resolution & Statement of Intentions

All potential Harbor Assistance Program grant projects are required to be identified in a statement of intentions (SOI) provided to the Wisconsin Department of Transportation for planning purposes. The Department coordinated with and compiled all potential projects identified by the Port and terminal operators.

The Port's potential projects include Phase II of the Port Development Project. Phase II includes interest in port growth on the southern acreage of the C. Reiss Company's Mason Street location if C. Reiss becomes the new tenant at the Port Development Site at the mouth of the Fox River. Should C. Reiss relocate, resources will be necessary to make site improvements at the Mason Street location.

A motion to approve the minutes of the WDOT Harbor Assistance Program Resolution & Statement of Intentions was made by Mike Vizer and seconded by Barb LaMue. Unanimously approved.

7) 2022 Port of Green Bay Public Relations Recap Report

A report prepared by the public relations firm Leonard & Finco showing the Ad Value Equivalency for the various Port of Green Bay media contacts. Mr. Haen commented that many events brought attention to the Port of Green Bay including the Port Development Site updates, scrapping of the S.T. Crapo, the appearance of cruise ships in the Port, and the arrival of the newest Great Lakes vessel, the Mark W. Barker. The investment in Leonard & Finco of \$40,000 for their services resulted in ad equivalency of over \$4 million.

There was a brief discussion regarding the type of coverage and areas that the Port was included on.

8) Port Development Site

A \$1 million grant for the Port Development Site was awarded from the Harbor Assistance Program, as well as grant monies awarded to Holcim (\$1.2M) and US Venture (\$200K) terminals.

Previous concerns over the ATC powerlines have been resolved. The engineering firm GEI Consultants has been given the locations of the transmission towers. GEI is also working on site access options and will share the options with GLC Minerals and WPS when finalized.

The process to meet the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) grant requirements for the Port's PIDP grant is underway. Mark Walter discussed the NEPA process and impacts on the grants and project overall.

A letter was received regarding a written comment period for the closure of the Fox River cleanup project. The Harbor Commission in 2009 and 2015 objected to the closure plan that included capping of the PCBs within the boundaries of the Port of Green Bay. Caps in the river within the Port area limit the future development in the area by making the future developers responsible for removing, altering, or working around installed caps. Written comments will be provided again objecting to all caps within the Port of Green Bay. A discussion followed about the lack of response to previous objections made and how further encapsulation could hinder future dredging of the Port to seaway-authorized depth. Regarding the caps located within the Port Development Site, filling over the caps creates a betterment. Creating land and further encapsulating PCBs from escaping.

9) Director's Report

Mr. Haen spoke about a presentation to the Fox River Watershed Alliance to garner interest in Renard Island. No further developments from the Ho-Chunk Nation have been received. Further discussion with the County Executive is happening to possibly use sales tax dollars for site development.

10) 2022 Tonnage Report

Interest and concerns about the extended shipping season into January 2023 was expressed from shareholders locally and from recreational users in Door County. The current season had relatively little ice, so ships were able to pass with little Coast Guard activity (ice-breaking). The Coast Guard maintains the shipping lane between Sturgeon Bay, Marinette, and Escanaba year-round and will perform ice-breaking activities in the Bay of Green Bay to the Port of Green Bay, balancing the economic need, and recreational user needs.

Commissioner Barb LaMue questioned why domestic import of cement was down by 17%, which Commissioner Mike Vizer answered. A perfect storm of breakdown of equipment, logistics issues, and demand created the decrease in shipping to St. Marys Cement terminal. It was across the industry that shortages were seen in 2022, causing southern states to be completely out of cement. A slight increase is expected as many construction projects are planned.

Reported 2022 tonnage was the lowest in the last 10 years.

11) Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law

No other such matters.

12) Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the Harbor Commission meeting at 11:18 am was made by Mike Vizer and seconded by Bryan Hyska. Unanimously approved.

Tom Klimek, President
Harbor Commission

Dean R. Haen, Director
Port & Resource Recovery Department