

**PORT & RESOURCE RECOVERY DEPARTMENT**



2561 SOUTH BROADWAY  
GREEN BAY, WI 54304

PHONE: (920) 492-4950 | FAX: (920) 492-4957

DEAN R. HAEN  
DIRECTOR

---

---

**MINUTES OF THE BROWN COUNTY HARBOR COMMISSION**

---

---

A meeting was held on **Monday, February 8, 2021**  
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 Barb LaMue  
                                 Commissioner Pete Diemer  
                                 Commissioner Ron Antonneau  
                                 Commissioner Hank Wallace  
                                 Commissioner Wes Kornowske  
                                 Commissioner Mike Vizer  
                                 Commissioner Tim Feldhausen

Also Present:            Dean Haen, Brown County P&RR  
                                 Chad Doverspike, Brown County P&RR  
                                 Mark Walter, Brown County P&RR

3) Approval/Modification – Meeting Agenda

**A motion to approve the Agenda was made by Ron Antonneau and seconded by Mike Vizer.** Unanimously approved.

4) Approval/Modification – Minutes of January 11, 2021 Meeting

**A motion to approve the minutes of the January 11, 2021 meeting was made by Tim Feldhausen and seconded by Ron Antonneau.** Unanimously approved.

5) Announcements/Communications

New Clerk/Typist starting February 15, 2021. No Port Symposium will be held in April 2021 due to on-going COVID-19 restrictions. Director Dean Haen suggested rescheduling could be an option in Fall 2021. Ron Antonneau suggested that the Symposium be rescheduled for April 2022 to accommodate current COVID-19 restrictions and allow time for planning. Mr. Attonneau stated that a letter or postcard containing important Port updates would be a good option in lieu of the Symposium.

6) WDOT Harbor Assistance Program Resolution & Statement of Intentions

Mr. Haen explained that every year the County passes a resolution that is then forwarded to the state so that grant applications for Port facilities and/or projects become eligible for Harbor Assistance Program grant funding. Mr. Haen stated that letters are sent to the terminal operators who return project requests, which are then prioritized by Port staff. Upcoming priority projects are in the meeting agenda. Mr. Antonneau requested copies be sent to local state legislators and Governor's office.

**A motion to approve and adopt the WDOT Harbor Assistance Program Resolution & Statement of Intentions was made by Ron Antonneau and seconded by Mike Vizer.** Unanimously approved.

7) MARAD Project Designation Letter of Support

Mr. Haen stated that the Port has been approached by Fincantieri for a letter of support for a MARAD Project Designation for a project to connect Green Bay, Sturgeon Bay, and Marinette via the Marine Highway. Fincantieri/Ace Marine is in Green Bay and they want to designate this area as part of a project to move goods between the three locations.

Marine Highway M-90 connects the ports on the Great Lakes. To be eligible for MARAD grant money there must be a marine highway project designation. Mr. Haen explained there are some concerns that by supporting Fincantieri's project it would affect the Port of Green Bay's ability to get grant money under the same program. Mr. Haen questioned if we would be creating competition with ourselves for different projects.

Mark Walter explained that the Port was approached very late in the development process for this project with the initial request for support coming in November 2020 and it was due the end of January. At that time there was little background information given. Fincantieri approached Sturgeon Bay and Marinette as well. Currently Fincantieri is working with DOT as a public sponsor.

Mr. Walter stated that after consulting with MARAD they do not believe it would affect the Port of Green Bay's ability to get MARAD Project Designation or funding.

Barb LaMue stated that Mayors of Sturgeon Bay and Marinette have offered their endorsement of this project. Since jobs are so constrained in the Port currently, this could offer additional Port jobs, especially within Ace Marine. Ms. LaMue recommended endorsing this project noting increased Port activity potentially related to acquisition of the Pulliam Plant and its port growth opportunity. With the current Port expansion plans, allowing this project to bypass Green Bay could be more damaging.

Mr. Antonneau stated that he was inclined to vote no, but explained that Fincantieri could be approached later for more information and work with staff on the details. He did not believe that this needs to be decided as quickly as it was presented.

The Project Designation application had to be in by the end of January, but the letters of support can be submitted throughout the process.

Wes Kornowske questioned why the letter came so late, Mr. Haen explained that he was unsure why it came so late. He stated that revising the letter with more broad language would unlikely be harmful later.

Ms. LaMue asked for more clarification from Fincantieri about the proposals and how it would affect Ace Marine. She also suggested broadening support by including the Pulliam Plant plans to demonstrate that there are other projects other than this Fincantieri project.

President Tom Klimek questioned if there would be additional guidance given on the grant program regarding how much money would be involved. Mr. Haen explained that we know how much grant money is available, but there is no history to see how it is disbursed since it is a relatively new program.

Mr. Klimek agreed with Ms. LaMue's plan of broadening the letter of support to include details of other Port projects that are being planned. The letter would be returned to the Commission for consideration and endorsement.

Ron Antonneau requested that before it returns to the Commission that County Executive Troy Streckenbach, Director of Administration Chad Weininger, and Corporation Counsel David Hemery sign off on the letter.

**A motion to approve the MARAD Project Designation Letter of Support was made by Barb LaMue and seconded by Wes Kornowske. Unanimously approved.**

8) CLOSED SESSION (Real Property)

*Pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 19.85(1)(e), any meeting of a governmental body may be convened in closed session for purposes of deliberating or negotiating the purchasing of public properties, the investing of public funds, or the conducting of other specified public business, whenever competitive or bargaining reasons require closed session.*

**A motion to go into closed session was made by Hank Wallace and seconded by Bryan Hyska.** A roll call vote followed with the following Commissioners voting "aye": Tom Klimek, Bryan Hyska, Barb LaMue, Ron Antonneau, Pete Diemer, Mike Vizer, Hank Wallace, Wes Kornowske and Tim Feldhausen. There were no "nay"

votes; the motion was passed. The purpose of the closed session was for deliberation and possible negotiations/action relating to real property.

**A motion was made by Mike Vizer and seconded by Wes Kornowske to return to open session.** A roll call vote followed with the following Commissioners voting “aye”: Tom Klimek, Bryan Hyska, Barb LaMue, Ron Antonneau, Pete Diemer, Mike Vizer, Hank Wallace, Wes Kornowske and Tim Feldhausen There were no “nay” votes; the motion was passed. **No action was taken.** The Harbor Commission continued with agenda items in open session.

9) Director’s Report

No additional discussion.

10) 2020 Tonnage Report

Mr. Haen noted that last year’s tonnage was the highest since 2007, with 2020’s tonnage at 1.9 million tons. Typically any year with 2.0 million tons is considered a successful year. The Port was closed January 20<sup>th</sup> and will be reopening after March 15<sup>th</sup> based on need.

Mr. Klimek asked a question regarding imports, carbon anodes, Mr. Haen explained that this is a new commodity used by Waupaca Foundry.

11) Acknowledgement of Bills

**A motion to approve the bills was made by Hank Wallace and seconded by Wes Kornowske.** Unanimously approved.

12) Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law

Mike Vizer spoke about the upcoming 89<sup>th</sup> Assembly District election and stated that he was able to meet all the Republican candidates. Expressed the need to reach out to candidates as they have limited experience and it would be beneficial to talk about future plans and core values. Mr. Haen has begun to reach out to new Legislators to explain what the Port does and various goals.

13) Adjourn

**A motion to adjourn the Harbor Commission meeting at 11:45 am was made by Tim Feldhausen and seconded by Hank Wallace.** Unanimously approved.

---

Tom Klimek, President  
Harbor Commission

Dean R. Haen, Director  
Port & Resource Recovery Department