

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, March 14th, 2022**
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 Hank Wallace
 Commissioner Ron Antonneau
 Commissioner Tim Feldhausen
 Commissioner Pete Diemer

Excused: Commissioner Mike Vizer
 Commissioner Wes Kornowske

Also Present: Dean Haen, Brown County P&RR
 Mark Walter, Brown County P&RR
 Chad Doverspike, Brown County P&RR
 Ken Mika, Tetra Tech
 Jim Loretto, Cedar Corp.
 Melissa Schwiner, GLC Minerals
 Bill Van Beek, WM Belanger
 Maureen Perkins, JOSHUA

3) Approval/Modification – Meeting Agenda

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Ron Antonneau and seconded by Bryan Hyska. Unanimously approved.

4) Approval/Modification – Minutes of February 14, 2022 Meeting

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 14, 2022 meeting was made by Hank Wallace and seconded by Barb LaMue. Unanimously approved.

5) Announcements/Communications

Director Dean Haen discussed the ice breaking operations that the Coast Guard will be operating starting on Monday, March 14th. Commissioner Ron Antonneau asked if there is heavy shipping traffic expected during the start of the season which Mr. Haen explained yes, due to the economic need for petroleum there is an immediate need.

Mr. Haen also reminded the Harbor Commissioners of the Port Symposium on April 14th and discussed the event's agenda.

6) 2021 Port Annual Report

Mr. Haen presented the Harbor Commission with the 2021 Port Annual Report that included a message from the Director, overview and mission, the Port of Green Bay's economic impact and tonnage, a review of financials, and department goals. Once approved by the Harbor Commission the report will be brought to the County Board for approval.

When speaking on the goals that were set for 2021, Mr. Haen explained which goals were accomplished, in progress, and incomplete. Completed projects were the advancement of beneficial reuse of dredged materials, the work toward making the Port of Green Bay welcome cruise ships, and the purchase of the WPS Pulliam Power Plant site. The department is continuing to work towards an updated Bay Port Plan of Operation. Incomplete goals include the negotiation of the 217 Agreement between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Brown County as well as advancing the Renard Island Strategic Master Plan.

Mr. Haen spoke about the 2022 goals including the advancement of the Renard Island Strategic Master Plan and advocating for the NERR research facility to be located on Renard Island. Mr. Antonneau asked how much money would be needed to be raised through private fundraising for this project, how the land would be given, and about a public-private partnership. Mr. Haen explained that there will be much to figure out in terms of funding. The land is owned by Brown County and the cost of developing the site to allow the building of a facility would have to be determined. Commissioner Brian Hyska encouraged leasing the land over selling it to control end-users. Mr. Haen explained that selling is not an option as the lakebed grant requires the land to be held for the public good. Mark Walter explained the process of the NERR designation and the semantics regarding the process.

The renegotiating of the 217 Agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is another goal in 2022 that the Port of Green Bay is working towards. Commissioner Hank Wallace asked if this was a renegotiation or because of the changing of Corps District offices. Mr. Haen explained that the agreement that has

expired was for 20 years and it was preferable to create an extension. A recalculating of costs for Bay Port and a projection of costs into the future needs to be done, resulting in a new tipping fee over the next five years. Mr. Antonneau asked if there was a difference in working with Chicago USACE over the previous Detroit USACE. Mr. Haen explained that to-date there has been a short window of time working with them and building a relationship with no issue, but more legwork is needed. Mr. Antonneau also asked if there was any way to protect from inflation in fuel cost or supply chain issues. Mr. Haen explained that there is a built-in evaluation done every 5-years.

A ship commissioning is in the works for 2023. Commissioner Barb LaMue commented that there are two ships (USS Marinette and USS Beloit) that will be commissioned closely together in time. There is a lot of fundraising and planning that goes into such an event. Conversations with the City of Beloit and others who have financially supported these events are ongoing. Ms. LaMue emphasized the huge economic boom to the community with a number of dignitaries attending. Mr. Haen agreed that it is going to be a heavy lift in regard to fundraising, planning, and working with Discover Green Bay as well as the City of Beloit.

The regional intermodal freight study will be completed in the first quarter of 2022. Ms. LaMue confirmed that the public hearing in Appleton will be held in May for the consultants to go through the report.

Commissioner Bryan Hyska asked when a new economic impact study will be conducted, as the latest numbers that we have are from 2017. Mr. Haen explained that there have already been conversations on this, and that coordination will need to happen with the all US and Canadian ports.

A motion to approve the 2021 Port Annual Report was made by Brian Hyska and seconded by Tim Feldhausen. Unanimously approved.

7) 2022 Federal Policy Positions

Mr. Haen presented the federal policy positions that he will be advocating for to legislators in Washington D.C. at the end of March. Policies include efforts to receive port infrastructure grants over the next 2-5 years, advocating the need for a Great Lakes Icebreaker, advocating for the Winterr Commerce Act, and advocating for the Homeland Security's 2023 Appropriations Bill.

Mr. Haen also discussed maintenance dredging by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, special conditions for the Great Lakes by US Customs and Border Patrol to clear cargo containers and cruise passengers, extending the navigation season, Great Lakes Pilot reform, and Chicago sanitary shipping canal. Mr. Antonneau asked why the cost of pilots hasn't resolved. Mr. Haen answered that the Great Lakes Ports won and lost on several issues in the first lawsuit. There was no

resolution on the most recent lawsuit. Further discussion on dredging of recreational versus commercial ports ensued.

A motion to approve the 2022 Federal Policy Positions was made by Barb LaMue and seconded by Bryan Hyska. Unanimously approved.

8) 2021 Public Relations Report and Overview

Mr. Haen presented an overview of the yearly public relations report created by the Port of Green Bay's public relations firm, Leonard & Finco. Ms. LaMue asked if Leonard & Finco posts on social media for the department and Mr. Haen answered yes.

9) Port Development Site

Interviews are to be held on Thursday, March 17th for engineering consulting firms. Five proposals were submitted with three firms selected to be interviewed. A final selection will be made by the end of the month. .

Governor Evers presented Brown County and the Port with a \$15 million Neighborhood Investment Fund Grant on March 3rd. In addition, Brown County received a \$1.1 million Department of Transportation grant on February 25th. In 2021, the Brown County Executive and Board budgeted \$1.3 million for stormwater related work. Currently, the County Executive is proposing another \$3 million of the County's 2022 ARPA funds to be used for Port development though there are no conditions or specifics at the moment on what it's to be spent on.

A federal Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) grant is being pursued This grant will be for the development of the Port site and may include improvements at the Mason Street site. The grant submission date is May 16. . The engineering firm will be able to provide a better estimate on project cost, until then the \$25 million estimate for the Port Development Site is the number we are trying to secure.

An easement is being evaluated for permanent access to the site by the County. The property transaction and lease agreement with GLC Minerals is being worked on further.

10) Beneficial Reuse Project

Another purchase order was made to GEI for services to address sampling changes as they strive to separate new and historical dredge material from the EPA's definition of " PCB remediation waste".

11) Director's Report

A draft has been requested from the Corporation Council for the easement on the old Sauk Road to get access to Renard Island. A renewed effort is in the works to get a permanent causeway easement from the Green Bay City Council.

12) Acknowledgement of Bills

A listing of the bills paid in February was reviewed by the Commission.

13) Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law

No other such matters.

14) Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the Harbor Commission meeting at 11:34 am was made by Hank Wallace and seconded by Ron Antonneau. Unanimously approved.

Tom Klimek, President
Harbor Commission

Dean R. Haen, Director
Port & Resource Recovery Department