

**PORT & RESOURCE RECOVERY DEPARTMENT**



2561 SOUTH BROADWAY  
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DEAN R. HAEN  
DIRECTOR

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**MINUTES OF THE BROWN COUNTY HARBOR COMMISSION**

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A meeting was held on **Monday, June 14, 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 10:33 am.

2) Roll Call:

Present:                   President Tom Klimek  
                                  Commissioner Barb LaMue  
                                  Commissioner Hank Wallace  
                                  Commissioner Wes Kornowske  
                                  Commissioner Mike Vizer  
                                  Commissioner Tim Feldhausen  
                                  Commissioner Pete Diemer

Excused:                   Vice President Bryan Hyska  
                                  Commissioner Ron Antonneau

Also Present:             Dean Haen, Brown County P&RR  
                                  Claire Westlund, Brown County P&RR  
                                  Lee Knetter, GLC Minerals  
                                  Libby Ogard, Prime Focus LLC

3) Approval/Modification – Meeting Agenda

**A motion to approve the agenda as revised was made by Tim Feldhausen and seconded by Mike Vizer.** Unanimously approved.

4) Approval/Modification – Minutes of May 10, 2021 Meeting

**A motion to approve the minutes of the May 10, 2021 meeting was made by Mike Vizer and seconded by Barb LaMue.** Unanimously approved.

5) Announcements/Communications

Director Dean Haen announced that Claire Westlund, Clerk/Typist II, will be leaving her position and thanked her for her service over the past few months.

Tom Klimek inquired as to how the hiring process has been going for the South Landfill staff. Mr. Haen explained that the current department number is thirteen (13) and it will be increasing to twenty-eight (28) when all the vacant positions are filled. Ben Hintz, former Resource Recovery Technician accepted the position as the Landfill Manager, his former position has been filled by Derek Tess who will start at the end of the month.

The Accountant position has been moved to Finance Department downtown and is no longer within our table of organization. Theresa Slavek, the new Account Clerk, started last month and will take over once Sheri McAllister leaves. The heavy equipment operator interviews will be conducted on June 15<sup>th</sup> at the West Landfill, Mr. Haen stated that he will be building a list of eligible candidates to onboard in November.

6) Mike Vizer, Terminal Manager, St. Marys Cement

Mike Vizer gave an update on St. Marys Cement, owned by the Votorantim group. This is a privately held company owned out of Brazil with several different subjects employing 35,000 employees worldwide. St. Marys Cement is owned by Votorantim Cimentos North America, which covers the Great Lakes and parts of Canada. Recently acquired companies include McInnis Cement and United Materials to cover East Coast cement markets and compete with other companies.

Barb LaMue asked if Manitowoc was also a part of St. Marys Cement, to which Mr. Vizer answered that St. Marys has terminals in Green Bay, Manitowoc, and two in Milwaukee.

Mr. Vizer stated he is currently the head of safety and security for the terminals throughout the Great Lakes. With the addition of 10 terminals, he will be increasing workforce by 33% in St. Marys Cement.

Sustainability is also a top priority of St. Marys Cement with the goal of delivering carbon neutral cement by 2050 in addition to reducing carbon dioxide emissions. Recognized for excellence in Environmental Stewardship and Safety.

North American operations annual installed cement is 5.5 million tons, not including the numbers from the recent acquisition of McInnis cement. Most of the cement comes from Charlevoix, MI with 70% transported via vessel and some rail.

Ms. LaMue asked for clarification on the volume that moves through the Port of Green Bay and if most of it is coming from Charlevoix to Green Bay? Mr. Vizer explained that logistics is challenging due to customer demands and timeline of projects but can't disclose exact volume.

Mr. Kornowske asked who the largest customer is out of Green Bay? Mr. Vizer answered that it is Murphy Concrete but has a variety of customers.

7) 2021 Federal Policy Agenda

Mr. Haen explained that these policy positions are put together by the AGLP that outline specific policies relating to Green Bay and the Great Lakes as a whole. These will also be approved by County Board to ensure consistency on issues.

The first issue has already been resolved regarding dredging, ample dollars will be supplied to retain adequate dredging and begin backlog dredging. Soo Locks will also be built within the coming years due to Federal funding.

Tim Feldhausen asked if the Federal infrastructure bill will impact these policies? Mr. Haen stated that these will be impacted by this bill, the Army Corps of Engineers put together a budget that was ultimately approved by the President.

The new Port Infrastructure Development Grant will be beneficial to the Pulliam Plant Property and will be applying for a project designation.

**A motion to approve the 2021 Federal Policy Agenda was made by Tim Feldhausen and seconded by Wes Kornowske. Unanimously approved.**

8) Pulliam Plant Funding Opportunities

WPS finished all the final decommissioning of the plant and will be working towards closing out the decommission and stormwater permits. A purchase order has been given to GEI to assist in permitting, the top permit priority being stormwater.

Mr. Vizer asked if there were any caps placed during PCB dredging that will have to mitigate? Mr. Haen explained that there are no caps in the river, the slip is currently capped since it will be ultimately filled with land. The concern is when dredging begins, is if PCBs will be found present.

Within the past few months, there has been several financial opportunities and general interest in this project. Gov Evers put \$5 million towards project, but it was included in a package that was ultimately struck. Both the Assembly and Senate have expressed interest in reintroducing this item into the budget with different funding.

Mr. Haen expressed concern regarding that the Port will need money to negotiate to match against Federal grants. The County is part of the Federal stimulus bills, Brown County received \$52 million dollars. Some dollars may potentially be utilized for Renard Island and the Pulliam Plant.

Mr. Klimek questioned if there is any progress being made with C. Reiss Coal Company, specifically relocating the coal piles? Mr. Haen stated that they have been working with the City to evaluate if the property will work for C. Reiss Coal Company. Until the City and C. Reiss Coal come to an agreement, the County will

be focusing on Port growth opportunities and development of the Pulliam Plant Property.

9) Harbor Assistance Program Grant Resolution

The State has asked the Port to apply for the Harbor Assistance Grant, regardless of local match for funding. The new resolution had to be reworded to ensure that it would not implicate the County for a financial commitment. It is a request to approve the Port in applying for this grant. Should a grant be awarded a grant agreement which will include the local match will need County Board approval.

**A motion to approve the Harbor Assistance Program Grant Resolution was made by Wes Kornowske and seconded by Hank Wallace.** Unanimously approved.

10) Directors Report

Cruise ships have not been confirmed, suspecting the July visit will not be happening.

Stimulus funds for Renard island are being considered to pave the causeway and a parking lot to increase private interest for the rest of the masterplan.

Working on monitoring changes at Bayport and the PCB level issue.

Most of the local legislators are interested in the beneficial reuse bill and has started the process of drafting a bill.

Ms. LaMue asked if the Cat Island causeway is open to the public and if there are any plans to give public access? Mr. Haen explained that the facility is operated by the Army Corps of Engineers with no public access. Additionally, the Cat Island Chain Advisory Committee designated that area for the birds and habitat restoration as was intended when it was built. Renard Island is designed for public access, Cat Island is not.

11) Tonnage Report

Mr. Haen acknowledged that the shipping season started off slow in March and April, but May tonnage numbers are strong.

12) Acknowledgement of Bills

Mr. Haen stated that May bills have not been posted, these will be reflected in next meeting's agenda packet.

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

13) Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law

Mr. Kornowske explained that Jeff Shefchik with the Chamber of Commerce

Transportation Committee has been pushing for conferences in the Green Bay area and asked if there are any upcoming conferences or schedule of conferences?

Mr. Haen explained that the American Great Lakes Port Association had their conference in Green Bay in 2019, typically this is every 6-8-year rotation. There is a dredging conference that was rescheduled in 2020 to 2021 being held downtown Green Bay. The Port continually advocates for conferences to be held in Green Bay.

14) Adjourn

**A motion to adjourn the Harbor Commission meeting at 11:31 am was made by Mike Vizer and seconded by Hank Wallace. Unanimously approved.**

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Tom Klimek, President  
Harbor Commission

Dean R. Haen, Director  
Port & Resource Recovery Department