



October 2015

Port n' News

HARBOR ASSISTANCE PROGRAM FUNDING

Wisconsin ports are very important to the economy of Wisconsin. The Port of Green Bay alone supports over 700 jobs resulting in \$27 million in personal income and has an annual economic impact on the Green Bay area of between \$75 million and \$100 million each year.

One program that has a large impact on the ability of our ports to continue to serve as economic drivers is the Wisconsin Harbor Assistance Program. The initial state budget proposal cut funding for this program from \$12.9 million to \$1.3 million. The ports of Wisconsin would have lost a program that gives Wisconsin an advantage over other states in supporting ports and waterborne commerce. The Harbor Assistance Program funding helps pay for harbor projects like dock repairs, dredging and shipbuilding and keeps our ports thriving.



Wisconsin Ports

Months of dedication and persistence from the WCPA community paid off. Dean Haen, WCPA President and Director of the Port of Green Bay, worked with Jason Sereck, WCPA past President and Director of the Port of Superior/Duluth, Tony Langenohl, Lobbyist at Capitol Consultants Inc., and Kimberly Montgomery, Senior Legislative Fiscal Manager for the City of Milwaukee, over 60 companies and several Representatives and Senators to petition for the Harbor Assistance Program Funding to be reinstated.

In July the Joint Committee on Finance reinstated \$14.2 million in bond funding for the Harbor Assistance Program. Of that, \$4,220,000 of the total funds is set aside for the city of Kewaunee harbor infrastructure improvement, repair and restoration project. The remaining funds will be available for other port projects in Wisconsin.

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RESTORATION OF CAT ISLAND MAKING PROGRESS

BY: MORIA HARRINGTON, AQUATIC SCIENCES CENTER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN MADISON

A partnership between the University of Wisconsin-Madison, the shipping industry and other organizations to restore a chain of islands in Green Bay is, literally, for the birds.

As the days shorten in northeastern Wisconsin, many migratory birds take their cue to fly over Green Bay en route to wintering grounds, often stopping along the way on the Cat Island chain. Among them are piping plovers,



Cat Island Chain, 2013

delicate, two-ounce birds that are increasingly scarce in the Great Lakes region thanks to habitat loss caused by human development. A 2007 survey found only six nesting pairs of plovers in Wisconsin.

Below the Green Bay flight path, ships plow along toward the Port of Green Bay, moving tons of asphalt, coal and other products before icy conditions make transport difficult. The port welcomes more than 170 ships each year and generates an estimated \$83 million in annual economic activity.

Though these two seasonal activities may seem at odds, experts from the University of Wisconsin Sea Grant Institute, housed at UW-Madison, are informing a restoration project centered on Cat Island that they hope will benefit both the birds and the shippers. One of the leading experts is Gene Clark, a Sea Grant coastal engineer who advises shipping industry partners on how to dispose of dredged material in ways that benefit both industry and the environment.

To keep shipping lanes open and viable, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers regularly dredges channels and harbors, pulling up materials that can include mud, weeds, sand, garbage and more. Shipping operations dispose of these materials in facilities that cost around \$30 million to build, says Clark. But if the materials are clean, they could be used instead in construction or habitat restoration projects. And reusing dredged materials rather than storing them yields big savings for shippers.

Fine sands dredged from the Green Bay shipping lanes are being used to fill the length of Cat Island and two smaller islands to create a total of 272 additional land acres. So far, the project has established a "spine" and several "fingers" of new land in Green Bay.

Eventually, more than 1,400 acres of habitat, both above and below the surface of the bay, will be created. As for the piping plover? In 2014, the bird was sighted 10 times on the emerging islands. Twenty-nine other species of shorebirds are also finding a new haven, including the federally threatened red knot and the endangered gull-like Forster's tern, which has successfully bred in lower Green Bay for the first time in 20 years.

"The restoration of the Cat Islands is a win-win that demonstrates the economics and environmental benefits of reusing dredged material," says Dean Haen, director of the Brown County Port & Resource Recovery Department.

2015 WCPA ANNUAL MEETING

On August 27th and 28th the Port of Milwaukee hosted the Wisconsin Commercial Ports Association. The purpose of WCPA is to provide a medium of exchange of ideas, methods, information and experiences as they relate to port management, to encourage legislation and regulations on levels of government that are good for Wisconsin ports and shipping, to promote and encourage the public's understanding of the value of shipping and the port to its communities and to cooperate with all governmental agencies and industries organizations that strive for the betterment of marine shipping.



This year's meeting was focused on continuing efforts to improve Wisconsin ports and waterway infrastructure, increasing freight movement, and ways ports and the businesses that utilize them can capitalize on the Great Lakes-Seaway System.

The meeting on Friday was opened up by Mayor Tom Barrett, Representative Peter Barca and Betty Sutton. Betty Sutton from the St. Lawrence Seaway awarded officials from the Port of Milwaukee with the Pacesetter Award. The topics that were presented on include the Southeastern Wisconsin Load Center by Adam Schlicht and Vince D' Amico from the St. Lawrence Seaway, Ernie Perry from CFIRE addressed the Wisconsin Ports Development Initiative, Jesse Patchak from the WDOT spoke about the WDOT State Freight Plan, Martin Griffin from the WDNR talked about the Wisconsin Public Trust Doctrine and Steven Brooks from the Chamber of Marine Commerce talked about Capitalizing on Great Lakes—St. Lawrence Seaway Investments.

The Port of Green Bay is excited for the next WCPA Meeting which will be in La Crosse next year!

2015 SHIPPING SEASON

(Green Bay, WI) – Tonnage for the Port of Green Bay increased by 36,000 metric tons in August compared to last year, but overall tonnage remains down about 10 percent for 2015.

"One cause for the decrease in tonnage may be the timing of delivery of expected tons over the shipping season," said Dean Haen, director of Brown County Port and Resource Recovery. "One commodity bright spot was a 90 percent increase in cement, which reflects the strong regional economy and associated construction activity."

With more than three months remaining in the shipping season, Haen hopes that tonnage will reach 2014 levels, which were the highest since 2007.

The Port is experiencing less ship traffic due to high water levels as well. "Right now we have higher water levels, which means ships can carry significantly more raw material per transit," Haen said. "When more cargo is being carried on a ship the environmental footprint is reduced through less fuel consumption and emissions. It's a good example of how waterborne shipping is a more sustainable option to transport goods and raw materials when compared to other transportation methods."

AMERICAN GREAT LAKES PORTS ASSOCIATION BOARD

Dean Haen, director of Brown County Port & Resource Recovery has been re-elected as board Vice President for the American Great Lakes Ports Association (AGLPA). Haen will serve a two year term.



**AMERICAN
GREAT LAKES PORTS
ASSOCIATION**

The AGLPA represents the interest of the public port authorities and promotes maritime commerce on the U.S. side of the Great Lakes. The organization focuses on working with legislators on issues important to the shipping industry including harbor dredging, invasive species, infrastructure renewal and funding for maritime research.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

HARBOR COMMISSION

October 12, 2015

Port & Resource Recovery Department @ 10:30 a.m.



HARBOR COMMISSION

November 9, 2015

Port & Resource Recovery Department @ 10:30 a.m.

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