

Brown County Port & Resource Recovery Receives Grant to Develop End-Use Plan for Renard Island

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(Green Bay, WI) An end-use plan for Renard Island will be developed in the coming year, thanks to a grant from the Wisconsin Department of Administration's [Wisconsin Coastal Management Program](#) (WCMP) and funding from Brown County.

"We are pleased to be able to move ahead with this important project," said Dean Haen, Brown County Port Director. "Renard Island is one of the only areas in the Green Bay metropolitan area that provides direct access to the waters of the bay; and we know many people are looking forward to having a plan that identifies future uses for the island. There are a lot of opportunities for potential recreational usage as well as habitat creation."

[Renard Island](#) was constructed in late 1978 and operated until 1997; providing an area for placement of approximately 2.7 million cubic yards of contaminated, dredged sediments. When a causeway to the island was completed in 2010, additional clean material was placed there between 2010 and 2014 as a cover to protect human health and the environment. While that effort met the requirements of a Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources Approved Closure Plan, it did not address the final end uses for the island. In 2017, ownership of the 55-acre island was transferred from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to Brown County.

"As we begin developing the End-Use Plan for Renard Island, we will work with stakeholders and convene an advisory committee to review the design process," said Haen. The committee will be made up of natural resource managers, citizens, researchers and local officials who will review and comment on the options presented. The process will include a review of previously completed designs for Renard Island that explored a variety of options for the use and development of the island. Alternatives identified in the prior report ranged from the creation of extensive public use features, such as RV parking and amusement rides, to open space and wildlife habitat.

“We realize that many people were very excited about the wide range of possibilities previously considered,” explained Haen. “However, a change in the construction location of the causeway and the cap material may preclude major development on the island. That is why we will hold a series of meetings and design workshops with project partners and the project contractor to develop a plan that can actually be implemented.”

It is anticipated that the End-Use Plan will include designs for a number of small projects that can be implemented over time, as an integrated approach to achieving the end-use goals for the island. Those goals include wildlife-related beneficial uses, as well as recreational usage that could include fishing piers, passive recreational trails and wildlife viewing areas.

The total cost for developing the End Use Plan is \$110,000, with WCMP funding \$44,000 and Brown County and its partners contributing \$66,000. The Brown County Port & Resource Recovery Department, McDonald Lumber Company, WPS and NEW Water have committed to provide matching funds for this project.

“We anticipate the advisory committee will be convened by May of this year and have its final recommendations made by May or June next year,” stated Haen. “The projects related to this planning could get underway as early as the fall of 2019. We’re excited to see what is developed.”

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The Port of Green Bay has 14 active terminal operators involved in shipping commodities:

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- The C. Reiss Coal Company
- Construction Resources Management
- Flint Hills Resources
- Fox River Terminals, LLC.
- Georgia-Pacific Corporation
- Graymont
- GLC Minerals, LLC
- KK Integrated Logistics, Inc.
- Lafarge North America
- RGL
- Sanimax
- St. Marys Cement Company
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Media Contacts:

Dean Haen
Director
Brown County Port & Resource Recovery
(920) 492-4953

Noelle Cutler
Leonard & Finco Public Relations
(920) 965-7750
ncutler@LFpublicrelations.com