

**PORT & RESOURCE RECOVERY DEPARTMENT**



2561 SOUTH BROADWAY  
GREEN BAY, WI 54304

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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, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 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 10:32 am.

2) Roll Call:

Present:                    President Tom Klimek  
                                  Commissioner Barb LaMue  
                                  Commissioner Tim Feldhausen  
                                  Commissioner Hank Wallace  
                                  Commissioner Wes Kornowske  
                                  Commissioner Ron Antonneau

Excused:                    Vice President Bryan Hyska  
                                  Commissioner Mike Vizer  
                                  Commissioner Pete Diemer

Also Present:              Dean Haen, Brown County P&RR  
                                  Mark Walter, Brown County P&RR  
                                  Chad Doverspike, Brown County P&RR  
                                  Katie Platten, Brown County P&RR  
                                  Melissa Schwiner, GLC Minerals  
                                  Frank Heafy, VIA Rail Engineering

3) Approval/Modification – Meeting Agenda

**A motion to approve the agenda was made by Ron Antonneau and seconded by Barb LaMue. Unanimously approved.**

4) Approval/Modification – Minutes of July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 Meeting

**A motion to approve the minutes of the July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022 meeting was made by Ron Antonneau and seconded by Wes Kornowske. Unanimously approved.**

5) Announcements/Communications

Director Dean Haen announced the Brown County Port & Resource Recovery Department's Customer Appreciation Days on September 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>. He welcomed the Commissioners to attend.

6) 2023 Budget

The proposed 2023 budget for the Brown County Port & Resource Recovery was presented to the Harbor Commission. Included in the packet presented was a memorandum to the oversight committees, an overview (which includes reports on initiative status, salary summary, table of organization change resolution, and staff shortage analysis), a proposed budget spreadsheet, and budget worksheet reports.

Mr. Haen discussed the purchase of the Pulliam Plant property, grants that have been awarded, and plans for 2023 to begin utilizing grant funds for site re-development.

Commissioner Ron Antonneau commented that there is support from at least two WI state legislators for further funding from the WI State budget, just as long as a plan of use is provided. Mark Walter suggested the support be directed to increase funding the Wisconsin Harbor Assistance Program. Mr. Antonneau asked if any Brown County funding was available for use in the Port Redevelopment Project. Mr. Haen responded that Port funds were used to purchase the Pulliam site. The County will be providing \$1.2 million in County ARPA funding from 2022, and \$2.7 million in County ARPA funding proposed for 2023. The Port has been awarded a Neighborhood Investment Fund Grant of \$15 million, and Harbor Assistance Program Grant of \$1.1 million. Around \$30 million is needed, with two \$10M grant requests submitted with the hope the Port is awarded one.

President Tom Klimek asked for a chart of what was applied for and a status on each grant that the department has applied for. Mr. Walter confirmed that there is an existing spreadsheet he maintains. Commissioner Wes Kornowske noted that there was a chart of the grants from 2022 in the budget appendix provided. There was further discussion clarifying the funds awarded in 2022.

Mr. Haen continued by listing the other budget items such as Renard Island and the potential NERR facility, Bayport plan of operation and beneficial reuse, and the 217 Agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Mr. Antonneau asked if the channel is dredged completed, to which Mr. Haen responded that the Corps of Engineers has been dredging primarily in the outer harbor in the Bay of Green Bay.

A discussion about the proposed table of organization changes and analysis of labor shortages took place. Positions subject to change are all on the Resource Recovery side of the department and do not affect the Port. Mr. Haen discussed

the wage increases proposed for the Account Clerk II and Resource Recovery Aide positions, as well as adding a Resource Recovery Associate to the South Landfill site for grounds maintenance. Lead pay for the Heavy Equipment Operators is also proposed. Mr. Haen presented the labor shortage issues that the department has continued to face, including nine position vacancies. With lack of staff, service adjustments have been made and further changes have been discussed including the closing of all facilities on Saturdays. Mr. Haen noted that as an enterprise fund, the department has the ability to fix the issue internally but has to work with the County on the issue of internal equity. Mr. Antonneau wanted to express to the PD&T Board and County Executive that he gives his wholehearted support for Mr. Haen to raise the wages so that the department can continue to provide the services that they provide. Mr. Klimek also agreed. Commissioner Barb LaMue questioned if the Harbor Commission was expected to make a motion to approve the budget as presented and identify the increases to support talent as a part of the agreement. Mr. Haen clarified that the staff shortages is not being addressed in the budget presented and would have to come in the form of a budget adjustment, if acceptable to Administration and the Executive.

The remainder of the budget packet was presented to the Harbor Commission by Mr. Haen. Changes to revenue in 2023 include two expiring dock wall leases and the creation of the Burger Boats subzone of the foreign trade zone. Expenses have little changes outside of the Renard Island and Port Development Site projects. A question about professional services for the Port was asked, which Mr. Haen answered that professional services were budgeted under harbor fee and beneficial reuse. The budgeted number was reduced from 2022's \$60,000 to the proposed \$25,000.

**A motion to approve the 2023 Budget was made by Ron Antonneau and seconded by Hank Wallace.** Unanimously approved.

#### 7) Renard Island

A new easement of the vacated Sauk Road will be pursued again with the City of Green Bay. A permanent easement with McDonalds Company was already granted. Mr. Antonneau asked who was in charge of championing this easement with City officials and Mr. Haen responded that Executive Streckenbach is taking the easement to the Mayor.

The extent of the NERR research area will be announced within the next few weeks. A letter between the Port Department and the Ho-Chunk Nation was presented to the Harbor Commission. The letter discusses the creation of committees to support the tribal interests and pursuit of Renard Island as the physical location of the NERR. A cultural site is proposed in partnership with all tribes in Wisconsin. Through previous discussions with tribal elder, Robbie Brown, a path was verbally discussed that involved leasing a portion of Renard Island.

Funding to pave the causeway and install a parking lot may be sourced from the Bureau of Indian Affairs if there is a leased property. With no other parties or funds applicable to pave the causeway and install a parking lot, the County Executive may propose future sales tax funds be used for the project.

Commissioner Tim Feldhausen asked if the settling of the land after it was capped has affected the development plans and is that anticipated. Mr. Haen answered that settlement on the island adds 15% more to costs of any construction project per Foth Environmental. Mr. Walter explained that gaining access to the island is harder to fund through grants, where the development of the island itself will be easier to source grant funding.

Commissioner Barb LaMue asked if the committees that are determining site location for the NERR were aware of the interest from the Ho-Chunk and tribal involvement, which Mr. Haen and Mr. Walter confirmed that they are aware.

#### 8) Port Development Site

Mr. Haen explained GEI's subsurface exploration and sampling of the Fox River and upland. Four samples were taken, with one sample finding PCBs at a detectable level in the Fox River. Communication on this has begun with the EPA and DNR. Within the slip of the former Pulliam Plant site, the department tried previously to have Wisconsin Public Service dredge the PCBs out, but a protective cap was installed. A sample was requested to be taken in the slip to help determine future settlement, but the EPA and DNR were unsure who has the authority to permit disturbing the cap. Georgia Pacific is the responsible party for the cap. Brown County is not interested in assuming that responsibility. Plans are to enclose the slip with steel sheet pile and top with clay and/or gravel. The worst case is that dredging is required, and the hot PCBs will have to be de-watered and transported to Detroit which may result in this project failing. Mrs. LaMue asked that in a hypothetical situation that Georgia Pacific responds that they do not want liability, and then the Port department passes on liability, what happens if the slip does not get filled in? Mr. Haen responded that a loss of six to eight acres of usable property would be happen and/or the project doesn't happen. This loss would no longer accommodate larger lessees like C. Reiss. Mr. Haen is optimistic that the EPA and DNR will recognize that the slip requires filling.

Commissioner Hank Wallace asked if Mr. Haen had knowledge that the EPA and DNR are working cooperatively with GEI Consultants on the effort of filling the slip, which Mr. Haen responded yes. Mr. Antonneau asked if there were any comments from Georgia Pacific on the matter, which Mr. Haen responded no and that the EPA and DNR were handling all communications currently. Mr. Wallace also asked what the timeline for this new development would be, which Mr. Haen responded that more samples are needed. GEI Consultants has not been fully allowed to engineer this project until grant agreements are in place.

A discussion on the progress with a new access easement with WPS and redirection of ATC powerlines is occurring and needs to be figured out for the GLC Minerals property transactions to be finalized.

9) Director's Report

All other items of the Director's Report were covered in previous discussion.

10) Tonnage Report

Mr. Haen commented that tonnage is up by 5% over last year. He also discussed that 2022 numbers will be used for the newest economic impact study.

11) Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law

No other such matters.

12) Adjourn

**A motion to adjourn the Harbor Commission meeting at 11:27 am was made by Tim Feldhausen and seconded by Barb LaMue. Unanimously approved.**

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Tom Klimek, President  
Harbor Commission

Dean R. Haen, Director  
Port & Resource Recovery Department