PORT & RESOURCE RECOVERY DEPARTMENT

Brown County

2561 SOUTH BROADWAY
GREEN BAY, WI 54304
PHONE: (920) 492-4950 FAX: (920) 492-4957

DEAN R. HAEN
DIRECTOR

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY HARBOR COMMISSION

A meeting was held on **Monday, March 9th, 2015**
Brown County Resource Recovery Facility, 2561 S Broadway, Green Bay, WI

1) The meeting was officially called to order by Commissioner Tom Klimek at 10:32am.

2) Roll Call:

Present:	Vice President Tom Klimek
	Commissioner Bernie Erickson
	Commissioner Bryan Hyska
…	Commissioner Hank Wallace
	Commissioner John Hanitz
	Commissioner Mike Vizer
	Commissioner Tim Feldhausen
	Commissioner Ron Antonneau
Also Present:	Dean Haen, Brown County P&RR
	Mark Walter, Brown County P&RR

3) Approval – *Meeting Agenda*

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Mike Vizer and seconded by John Hanitz.
Unanimously approved.

4) Approval – February 9, 2015 and February 16, 2015 - *Meeting Minutes*

A motion to approve the meeting Minutes from February 9 and 16th of 2015 was made by Hank Wallace and seconded by Tim Feldhausen.
Unanimously approved.

5) Announcements/Communication

Mr. Klimek made an announcement to the Commissioners that the Annual Port Symposium will take place at Titletown Taproom on April 17th.

Mr. Haen introduced Shelby Schraufnagel, clerk/typist II as the department's new staff member

6) Fox River Environmental Clean-up Project - *Public Comments/Update on Standing Item*

In the agenda packet from February 2015, Mr. Haen included a letter that was sent to Wisconsin DNR and US EPA regarding the Port's opposition to capping in the Green Bay Harbor as part of the Fox River Clean-Up Project. The letter reestablished the County position from 2009. Mr.

Haen informed the Commission that responses were received from the NCR, USEPA, and WDNR. Their position is that capping is an approved remedy and cannot be dismissed. This is unfortunate, since NCR is interested in capping as a less expensive option, even though capping in the Green Bay Harbor area is at the expense of the long term vision for the port. Mr. Haen stated the County has taken a broad position of no capping. The strategy moving forward is to begin tackling each individual capping location. We might have to fight for dredging in some areas while allowing other areas to be capped. The interesting part will be utilities; we will have to push for the utilities to be dredged over. If the Corps can demonstrate that they can dredge over a gas line then there is no reason the clean-up project won't be able to.

Mr. Wallace asked about how many operators sent in responses to this letter. Mr. Haen responded that RGL holdings, CRM, Georgia Pacific all wrote specific letters about capping. Others like WPS, LaFarge and US Venture are in the process of writing letter as the terminal continue meeting with the clean-up project. Mr. Klimek asked if there had been any responses from legislators. Mr. Haen stated that he sat down with Representative John Macco, who wanted to know more about this topic. Other legislators have communicated by email. In general, the legislators have been asking for more information but not taking a position.

There was no public input about the topic.

7) 2015 Federal Policies – *Update*

Mr. Haen gave the Commission a recap about his meeting last week in Washington D.C. with the Great Lakes Commission and separate meeting with our local federal legislators on topics of importance to the Port. The attached federal policies were agreed to by all Great Lakes Ports Association members at the winter meeting. Legislator meetings included the policy positions and immediate local issues. The challenge for the federal legislators is to abide by the language agreed to in the 2014 WRDA bill that will move towards full utilization of the harbor maintenance tax for its intended purpose of dredging the nation's waterways.

A motion to approve made by Bernie Erickson and seconded by Hank Wallace.
Unanimously approved.

8) Environmental Monitoring RFQ Results – *Update*

Mr. Doverspike, Operations Manager, spoke about the Environmental monitoring for the Department. He explained to the Commission that every five years the department solicits vendors for prices on environmental monitoring. MSA, the previous contractor cost about $54,000 to do three locations; East Landfill, West Landfill and Bay Port. Separately, Foth performed environmental monitoring for Renard Island at a cost of $25,000. This RFQ will be awarded to Robert E. Lee and Associates and will include Renard Island. Overall costs will decrease for Renard Island from $25,000 to $12,500. Haen explained that in the end the port area received most of the cost savings of the new RFQ.

9) Harbor Assistance Program Funding - *Update*
Last week Mr. Haen sent a letter to all of the WCPA legislators advocating for restoring the Harbor Assistance Program funding. Governor Walker wanted to reduce the bond funding. Mr. Haen stated that in terms of bonding there's nothing more appropriate than infrastructure that lasts 75-100 years to be bonding for 20-30 year bond.
Mr. Haen stressed the length of the assets life as well as the small nature of the harbor assistance program makes the program affordable and valuable

Mr. Ron Antonneau asked if Mr. Haen has received any comments back from the legislators yet.

Mr. Haen stat that local democratic representatives have indicated they would do what they could. Other legislator responses were mainly just looking for more information but not taking a position yet. Other ports have started to do their immediate reach out to their legislators. Mr. Haen said that the chamber is putting it on their lobbying agenda as well.

10) Federal Budget for Dredging – *Update*

Mr. Haen referred to the President's budget and an analysis from the American Great Lakes Association. He stated that the WRDA Bill is supposed to result in 10% of funding in the Great Lakes. The level of funding for the Great Lakes ports does not reflect any increase. A table was provided showing the recent annual funding level for Green Bay, this seems to be trending down slightly. Typically, Green Bay receives around $3M in dredging, which results in approximately $1.5-2.0M awarded to a dredging contractor. The difference is used to pay Corps salaries and overhead. In 2015, there are no other dredging projects proposed in Wisconsin besides Green Bay and Manitowoc. As a result, Green Bay's budget will be used to pay 100% of the local staff and portions of the district and division staff salaries. .

The amount listed in the President's budget is generated by the Corps. WRDA is going to move towards fully using harbor maintenance tax for dredging purposed with each year's seeing more money available.

Mr. Bryan Hyska asked what we have done when the budget does not provide the required amount of money for dredging. Mr. Haen's response to this question was that dredging is a federal responsibility. No local money has been used to maintain the federal navigation channel.– Prior Congresses have had the ability to earmark. The budget is now set by the administration with Congress giving the Corps discretionary funds that they can direct the Corps to use where they think it should be spent.

Mr. Erickson commented that Brown County pays dues to WACO (Wisconsin Association of Counties Organization) and NACO (National Association of Counties Organization), which are organizations that could help with influencing funding projects.

11) Renard Island – *Update*

Mr. Haen provided the board with a summary of events of Renard Island's update.

Harbor Commission had two February meetings dealing with Renard Island in an attempt to communicate to the Corps that there have been difficulties getting easement. The Corps is requesting a timeline for acquiring the easement. The County is obligated to communicate to the Corp if an easement is forth coming or not forth coming. There are several things happening behind the scenes but nothing to report out. The resolution is going to the county board for March 18th. The county board will take some type of action at that time. Their options are to pass it, not pass it, or delay it.

Commissioner Erickson stated that Friends of Bay Beach have given different responses to their interest in the island, but speaking directly with them they would like to see access preserved. They don't see the island as having future development. The City has been talking to its committees but he is not sure where that's going. . This issue is not a City or County issue; it is a community issue. What should be done is what is best for the community and preserving future development on 55 acres.

12) Director's report – *Update*

Senate Bill 373 will give the Coast Guard sole authority over Ballast Water regulation. Vessels that come into the Great Lakes should not have to get permits from two Canadian Provinces and eight Great Lake states. This is going to put all of the authority in the Coast Guard who is already responsible for regulations across the Great Lakes.

The first ship contest has been published. There will be a prize package consisting of a badger ferry ride to Michigan and dinner in Manitowoc for the community member who guesses the closest date to the first ship arrival.

The Cat Island advisory committee is supportive of pursuing beneficiary use of sand. The committee has visions of doing additional habitat features on Cat Island and sharing in the revenue in the sale of the sand can facilitate the additional habitat features. . The Ports interest in beneficial use of sand is preservation of capacity in the island. Placement of 400,000 cy of sand last year resulted in 65% of the westernmost island capacity reached..

Commissioner Erickson addressed the topic of developing a designated County account where the money should be held. Mr. Haen responded that this was a great idea; he envisioned that the department would hold that money and Cat Island's advisory committee would request through the budget process with County Board approval use of the funds.

Commissioner Antonneau asked if the Commission would be able to use some of that money to maintain the cause way to Renard Island. Mr. Haen's response to this question was that, if sand is beneficially reused. The County would determine appropriate used for the revenue that could include a variety of efforts.

Also in the director's report was an attachment on ice breaking

A motion was made to approve the Director's report was made by Wallace and seconded by Ron Antonneau.
Unanimously approved.

13) Audit of Bills – *Request for Approval*

A motion to approve the Bills was made by Bryan Hyska and seconded by Tim Feldhausen.
Unanimously approved.

14) Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law

The Commissioners decided that should a meeting be necessary in April, that the meeting be held before the Port Symposium on April 17

Tom Klimek brought up the Strategic Plan and asked for comments to be made by Thursday.

No other matters as authorized by law.

15) Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was made by Hank Wallace and seconded by Mike Vizer.
Unanimously approved.

Craig Dickman, President
Harbor Commission

Dean R. Haen, Director
Port & Resource Recovery Department