PORT & RESOURCE RECOVERY DEPARTMENT

Brown County

2561 SOUTH BROADWAY
GREEN BAY, WI 54304

DEAN R. HAEN
DIRECTOR

PHONE: (920) 492-4950 FAX: (920) 492-4957

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY HARBOR COMMISSION

A meeting was held on **Monday, December 14th, 2015**
Port & Resource Recovery Department 2561 S. Broadway, Green Bay, WI 54304

1) The meeting was officially called to order by President Craig Dickman at 10:31 am.

2) Roll Call:

Present:	President Craig Dickman Vice President Tom Klimek Commission Bryan Hyska Commissioner Bernie Erickson Commissioner Hank Wallace Commissioner Tim Feldhausen Commissioner Mike Vizer Commissioner Ron Antonneau
Excused:	Commissioner John Hanitz
Also Present:	Dean Haen, Brown County P&RR Mark Walter, Brown County P&RR Shelby Schraufnagel, Brown County P&RR Ngosong Fonkem, Corneille Law Group Jim & Sylvia Graefe, Residents

3) Approval/Modification – *Meeting Agenda*

A motion to modify the agenda to move item #13 after item #6 and approve the modified agenda was made by Bernie Erickson and seconded by Tim Feldhausen. Unanimously approved.

4) Approval/Modification – October 12th, *2015 Meeting Minutes*

A motion to approve the minutes of October 12th, 2015 was made by Hank Wallace and seconded by Tom Klimek. Unanimously approved.

5) Announcements/Communication

President Dickman stated that he will be resigning from the Harbor Commission effective today. He explained that it has been a pleasure working with everyone on the Commission over the past 10 years.

Mr. Haen explained to the Commissioners that Commissioner Hanitz has been having health problems and that is why he is not been able to make this meeting. Commissioner Antonneau suggested that the board should get him a get well card.

6) Election of Officers

President Dickman nominated Commissioner Tom Klimek for the role of President, Commissioner Wallace seconded the nomination. Unanimous consent was given.

Commissioner Wallace nominated Commissioner Bryan Hyska for Vice President, Commissioner Antonneau seconded the nomination. Unanimous consent was given.

6a) Dedication Signs – *Update*

Mr. Haen stated that as part of the resolution for the Renard Island easement with McDonalds it was agreed to name the causeway in honor of Mike McDonald. Previously, the west island of the Cat Island chain was named after past president of the Harbor Commission Neil McKloskey and Renard Island was renamed from Kidney Island to Renard Island in honor of Harbor Commissioner Clarence Renard as well. Intentions are to place dedication signs at these locations. Staff presented memorial sign options and costs. Staff was directed to seek pricing for signage larger than 12"x18", purchase all three signs and install the signs vertically rather than angled to increase sign life. Dedication of McDonald sign will occur in Spring 2016 with Neil McKloskey and family of Clarence Renard also invited. Commissioner Erickson will track down Renard family members.

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

Mr. Haen stated that the Fox River Clean-up Project has concluded for the year. Included in the packet was a letter from U.S. Venture to the Project regarding dredging near their facility. The letter has been shared with the other terminal operators and EPA and DNR to use as a format if they feel they are being unfairly impacted because of the Project.

Mr. Haen included his response to the DNR and EPA on how the federal government was able to successfully dredge over the I-43 fuel pipeline. The DNR and EPA are allowing the Project to cap over other utility pipelines. These pipes are crossing the navigation channel; once these areas are capped these areas will not be able to be dredged deeper in the future. Commissioner Vizer asked if these pipes are sitting on the bottom of the river. Mr. Haen explained that they are horizontally drilled beneath the bottom of the river. Commissioner Vizer expressed his concern that if dredging happens deeper than these pipelines there might be a chance they will collapse. Commissioner Wallace asked if Mr. Haen has received a response from the DNR or EPA regarding his response. Mr. Haen stated that he has not received a response.

8) Fertilizer Report – *Request for Approval*

Mr. Walter stated that every year a different commodity is looked at that could be brought into the port. This year it was fertilizer. Right now fertilizer moves through the state through the

Mississippi Ports, through Duluth/Superior, and a little through Milwaukee. There is an option of dry or liquid bulk fertilizer. There is a lot of fertilizer movement through the Great Lakes form Asia, Canada, Russia. Mr. Walter took a look at the types of fertilizer, what kind of market there is and the ability to attract businesses to our area. There are a number of large companies in the eastern Great Lakes that have not moved west yet. In Quebec and Ontario there are companies that are moving fertilizer to the east side of the Great Lakes. There is an interest for them to move west into western ports. There are at least six terminal operators in Green Bay that are in a position to bring in fertilizer whether it is liquid or dry. Commission Vizer asked if there is a desire to bring in these commodities. Mr. Walter stated that the only one that has stated their desire is RGL Holdings and they are well suited with warehousing, rail and trucking capabilities already. There are a few companies Mid-American Salt, Somavrac, AgriCo Canada, Koch Fertilizer and K+S Potash Canada have expressed an interest in leasing or buying facilities in the western Great Lakes. Mr. Feldhausen asked what the time frame to realize something like this is. Mr. Walter explained that it is a long term time frame. With the position that U.S. Venture is in with petroleum products this might be a good time for them. RGL Holdings is getting a complete upgrade by mid-year as well. Fox River Dock might be an opportunity as well because they are looking to get out of the business. Another option would be for the Port to invest in some terminals and potentially be the broker. Commissioner Hyska asked if there is an opportunity for the Port to have an independent financial future and if there is an opportunity to diversify revenue. Mr. Walter stated that the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation has an underutilized industrial site grant program that can be applied for next year. This would open half a million or more in funding to upgrade underutilized industrial sites. Commissioner Wallace asked if most of it comes up from the Mississippi River and is distributed from there. Mr. Walter explained that the Port of Prairie Du Chien used to handle fertilizer and has stopped. Commissioner Wallace also asked if fertilizer is being brought in, in eastern states and being moved by rail west. President Klimek pointed out a connection between C. Reiss Coal and the umbrella called Koch Industries. There has been a large downturn in coal and it is only going to further diminish. Koch Industries left an impression that they are looking to diversify their future business model because of the downturn in coal. Mark Cummings could be a contact person to look into this more.

A motion to continue to research fertilizer was made by Bernie Erickson and seconded by Ron Antonneau. Unanimously approved.

9) 2016 Public Relations Plan – *Request for Approval*

Mr. Haen explained the draft plan for the Port on public relations. This draft is an outline for the work the Leonard and Finco will perform. He also explained the NEW Eye Channel for the County and how the Port will be able to use this as an outlet.

A motion to approve the audit of bills was made by Mike Vizer and seconded by Tim Feldhausen. Unanimously approved.

10) Port Public Relation Video – *Update*

Mr. Haen shared with the Commission the recently completed Port of Green Bay video. The video will be able to be used on our website, at expos, at annual conventions, presentations, NEW Eye Channel and other educational/promotional purposes.

11) Renard Island Lakebed Legislation - Update

Mr. Haen provided a copy of 2015 Wisconsin Act 111 signed by Governor Walker. This was a requirement by the Army Corps of Engineers to be able to proceed with Renard Island closure and ownership transfer.

12) GLC Minerals Land Lease Amendment – Update

Mr. Haen stated that in 2011 GLC Minerals negotiated a land lease with the County. The lease included work in lieu of lease payment for work performed on the property. GLC Minerals is interested in leasing one additional acre of land. An amendment to the 2011 lease is being negotiated and will include updating the work in lieu of lease payments that will end prepaid rent in 2017. Final approve of the amendment will be forthcoming to the Commission.

14) Director's Report - Update

The County Board approved the budget as presented. Mr. Haen explained the County Board budget study and the minor changes in salaries.

There is a project partnership agreement amendment for Cat Island from the Army Corps of Engineers headquarters. This will close out the Cat Island project grant. The grant from the Harbor Assistance Program expires in December 2015. The Port has requested the DOT give Brown County an extension on the grant.

The Federal Government passed the Fixing America Surface Transportation (FAST) Act. The bill has put a lot of emphasis in freight in intermodal transportation and movement. This may aid the Port and regions efforts to improve freight transportation.

Mr. Haen explained the letter to the Coast Guard is a response to their proposed increase in rates. Many ports and companies have written their own letter in response to the increase.

15) Tonnage Report – Request for Approval

A motion to approve the tonnage report was made by Ron Antonneau and seconded by Hank Wallace. Unanimously approved.

16) Audit of Bills - Request for Approval

A motion to approve the audit of bills was made by Ron Antonneau and seconded by Tim Feldhausen. Unanimously approved.

17) Such other matters as authorized by law

There were no other matters as authorized by law.

18) Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the Harbor Commission meeting at 11:53 am was made by Mike Vizer and seconded by Hank Wallace. Unanimously approved.

Tom Klimek, President
Harbor Commission

Dean R. Haen, Director
Port & Resource Recovery Department