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

MINUTES OF THE BROWN COUNTY HARBOR COMMISSION

A meeting was held on **Monday, September 9th, 2024**
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 10:30 am.

2) Roll Call:

Present:	President Tom Klimek Vice President Bryan Hyska Commissioner Barb LaMue Commissioner Pete Diemer Commissioner Mike Vizer Commissioner Ron Antonneau Commissioner Wes Kornowske
Not Excused:	Commissioner Tim Feldhausen
Also Present:	Dean Haen, Brown County P&RR Mark Walter, Brown County P&RR Chad Doverspike, Brown County P&RR Theresa Slavek, Brown County Administration Katie Platten, Brown County P&RR Ann Franz, NWTC Amy Beaudo, KK Integrated Logistics Melissa Schwiner, GLC Minerals Ken Przybyla, GLC Minerals Jeff Bollier, Green Bay Press Gazette Chip McDonald, McDonald Companies

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 August 12th, 2024 Meeting.

A motion to approve the minutes of the August 12th meeting was made by Ron Antonneau and seconded by Mike Vizer. Unanimously approved.

5) Announcements/Communications

Director Dean Haen invited the Commissioners to attend the Customer Appreciation Days that the Resource Recovery Department hosts. Mr. Haen introduced Ann Franz, whose appointment to the Harbor Commission will be brought to the County Board for approval in September. The Commissioners introduced themselves and welcomed Mrs. Franz.

6) 2025 Budget

Mr. Haen gave an overview of the 2025 budget, focusing on changes to the Port Development Site (PDS) project.

In 2024, a total of $21 million has been received for development of the PDS project. The budget is proposing building a $25M project with $4M coming from internal or external sources. Additionally, the budget reflects additional external funding that may be available for the project. Continued efforts to advance Renard Island as a possible NERR Research Facility site, a new water gauge in the Fox River, and improvements to daylight restrictions were detailed in the budget memo. Commissioner Wes Kornowske asked how the department would approach the County Board to continue the development of the PDS project with the metric tonnage declining. Mr. Haen explained that changes from coal to other commodities account for the decrease in tonnage, but other terminal operators have diversified their commodities which brings the year's tonnage closer to the continued goal amount of 2 million metric tons. Commissioner Barb LaMue agreed that having a footnote to acknowledge the reasons why the tonnage is lower, such as that a lack of salt shipments is cyclical due to weather patterns, could be beneficial.

When discussing the statement of funds, Commissioner Bryan Hyska asked a clarifying question on budgeted verses received revenues regarding grant monies, which Mr. Haen and Mark Walter answered. Mr. Hyska and Mr. Kornowske recommended a footnote be added to the statement of funds to explain that a $33 million budget is shown but not expected to be expended due to reimbursable grant agreements. Staff will work with Finance Department to a footnote that the statement of funds are based on budget estimates and not actual expenditures. Mr. Walter explained that the budget book and statements are based on budget estimates and not actual revenue and expenses. Statement of funds are prepared by the County Finance department, so the format remains uniform across County Department.

There was a discussion about the approval process and if the department expected and was prepared for any last-minute changes due to project changes. Mr. Haen said that budget any budget changes by County Board would be communicated to the Harbor Commission. Mr. Haen detailed the permits that are pending, and how the project bid needs to be flexible to expand or retract based on contractor's bid results and secured funding.

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Mr. Haen answered a final question from Mr. Hyska about ARPA dollars that were allocated by the County Executive for the PDS project.

A motion to approve the 2025 Budget was made by Mike Vizer and seconded by Ron Antonneau. Unanimously approved.

7) Port Development Site

A handout was given to the commissioners of project updates and timelines. Since not being awarded the RAISE grant, the project changed. Secured grants have had extension requested as the County moves towards the bidding out the reduced scope project. Mrs. LaMue asking about the likelihood of receiving the extensions. Mr. Haen felt confident in the extensions, but funds are not secured util project scope, revised budget and extension granted. The project remains complicated, and funds are not secured until project scope and revised budgets are approved by granting agencies. Mr. Haen then presented on the current phased approach for the PDS project. Improvements to the center section of the property, including 800 ft of dock wall and dredging will occur first. This will improve the site to become a leasable port property, with remaining improvements to the north and south deferred into the future. This first phase of improvement will account for $25 million of work. Should additional funds be secured, the funds will be spent on additional dock wall, dredging and filling of the old slip.

At the most recent Brown County Board, County Supervisor Ron Antonneau requested staff develop a Request for Information to explore what the market is for the public to invest money or find uses for the property. The communication was forwarded to the County's Planning, Development & Transportation (PD&T) Committee. Commissioner Ron Antonneau explained that the proposal received from Robindale Energy needed more conversation about full intent, port development, taxes, and leasing. PD&T delayed the RFI for one month (30 days). A meeting with C. Reiss is planned for the next week with additional meeting planned during the 30-day window. Mr. Hyska briefly explained that there was a wide gap between what C. Reiss and the County is looking for and their interest.

Mr. Kornowske asked if additional dollars were being spent to change the project scope with a specific user in mind, which Mr. Haen responded that the goal is to develop a property for any user, including Robindale.

There was a brief conversation on the Harbor Commission's approval and authority measures. The discussion finished with comments by Mr. Kornowske on port growth and a question from Commissioner Pete Diemer regarding the ATC power line.

8) Director's Report

Mr. Haen gave updates on several Port Department projects such as Tier One Designation priority and the ongoing efforts to get an easement for Renard Island from the City of Green Bay. A project called Connect the Bay from the City of Green Bay is looking to make improvements to the South Bay Marina and Bay Beach with the help from GEI Consultants. Efforts to connect the project to Renard Island improvements have been sought. Mr. Haen also gave a brief update on the NOAA NERR prospectus progress.

9) Tonnage Report

The tonnage report through August 2024 was presented.

10) Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law

None.

11) Adjourn

A motion to adjourn the Harbor Commission meeting at 11:39 am was made by Barb LaMue and seconded by Ron Antonneau. Unanimously approved.

Tom Klimek, President
Harbor Commission

Dean R. Haen, Director
Port & Resource Recovery Department