

HARBOR COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES

January 27, 2015
6:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

James Anderson
Fred Radandt
Peter Allie
Jim Ruffolo
Mike Dailey
Lee Kummer
Jack Resch
Jason Sladky

STAFF PRESENT

Paul Braun, Harbor Master

OTHERS PRESENT

Rich Larson
Troy Flentje
Dan Koski

MEMBERS EXCUSED

Approval of the Minutes from the February 25th, 2014 Meeting

Motion made by Lee Kummer and seconded by Peter Allie to approve the February 25th, 2014 meeting minutes. Motion carried unanimously, no further discussion.

New Business

At the last meeting everyone agreed that sending Harbor Commission packets digitally was fine. Paul Braun asked if anyone needed hard copies of the agenda.

Wis DOT 2015-2017 Annual 3-year Statement of Intentions

Mr. Braun explained that this is an annual statement that is sent to the State Department of Transportation – Bureau of Railroads and Harbors. The statement must be submitted to the DOT before April 1st of each year.

Mr. Braun commented that the current statement is very similar to the 2014 statement with a few minor edits. He also asked the Commission to respond back to him within the next couple of weeks if they know of any other potential projects that should be added to the statement.

It was stated that private individuals can submit their own statement of intentions so they don't need to work through the local municipality, this changed a few years ago. Submittal of the statement does not commit the City to fund any projects it simply makes the project eligible for potential Harbor Assistance Funds.

The statement is also referred to the City Plan Commission and then to the Council for final action.

Bridge Lifts Report

Mr. Braun said he was just provided the bridge lift document by the Engineering Department. The report shows the number of bridge lifts and the tonnage of commodities that have been shipped in and out of the port of Manitowoc. The tonnage of commodities for 2014 was 296,424 tons compared to 141,209 for 2013. The 2014 tonnage was highest amount since 2009.

Mr. Braun stated that a community must ship more than 1 million tons before it is eligible for federal dredging, ports below 1 million tons are dredged on an as need basis when federal money is available. Discussion was held regarding the criteria used to determine if the corps would dredge or not. The Commissioners felt tonnage shouldn't be the determining factor but the economic impact and jobs created or retained should be used. The example given was that there are more jobs created when a yacht is constructed versus a shipment of salt.

Mr. Braun stated that future tonnage numbers may increase if MPU and Briess Malting start to receive their commodities by way of water rather than rail. The Commission also discussed the number of lifts for the 8th and 10th Street bridges. There were approximately 780 lifts for both bridges with the highest number occurring in August which was due to the dredging projects that were done in the peninsula area.

The discussion was for informational purposes only and the commission took no formal action.

Update 2014 Dredging Projects

Mr. Braun gave the Commission an update regarding the dredging projects that occurred in 2014. City Centre dredged a total of 5,714 cubic yards from the area around the former railroad bridge and St. Marys Cement dredged a total of 6,331 cubic yards from the area in front of their dock wall.

Mr. Braun mentioned to the Commission that he also contacted the Army Corps of Engineers to get a report on the Confined Disposal Facility (CDF) to see how much capacity is remaining in the facility. The Corps had not yet responded back to Mr. Braun prior to the Commission meeting. Mr. Braun told the Commission that he wanted to talk with the Corps to see if they will be doing anything proactive to deter any seagulls from nesting in the area to prevent another gull invasion like the one that occurred in the past.

The discussion was for informational purposes only and the commission took no formal action.

Update Marina Prop Project

Mr. Braun explained to the Commission that he sent out an email to them earlier in the year to get their input regarding the project which entails the placement of the propeller from the steam ship "Charles C. West". The prop will be located in a grass island area near the south entrance into the Marina. The structural drawings for the footings and support system were prepared by AECOM for no charge. AECOM provided this service because they were working with the City on various other projects.

Mr. Braun stated that the Harbor Commission didn't have any concerns with the placement of the prop when he sent out the original email earlier in 2014. The Harbor Commission reaffirmed its position and showed support of the project.

Discussion Wisconsin Commercial Ports Study

Mr. Braun explained that the report was prepared by the National Center for Freight and Infrastructure Research and Education (CFIRE) and the University of Wisconsin – Madison; the report studied all of the Wisconsin ports on Lake Michigan and Superior and tried to assess and develop a baseline inventory of all the ports.

Mr. Braun reviewed some of the highlights of the study.

- 30 million tons of freight move through Wisconsin ports annually which is equivalent to 1.2 million truckloads.
- Less than 5% of total freight moved in the state is moved via water so there is a tremendous opportunity to increase loads on waterways.
- Manitowoc's tonnage has been relatively constant since 2006 and has been about the same as the City of Marinette.
- The top inbound / Outbound commodities for the Port of Manitowoc are Coal Lignite Inbound, Barley & Rye Inbound and Cement & Concrete inbound.

Mr. Braun also highlighted the section regarding river barges and lake barges. River barges which are more common and less expensive to construct are allowed to travel on Lake Michigan from Chicago to Milwaukee but are not allowed to travel from Chicago to Manitowoc because the route does not meet minimum safe harbor distances set by the Coast Guard. Commodities shipped from Manitowoc to Chicago must be transloaded which adds to transportation costs.

The Harbor Commission discussed the process of trying to get an exemption from the Coast Guard to allow river barges to travel from Chicago to Manitowoc eliminating the need to transload commodities. Currently Muskegon, Michigan is working with the Coast Guard to allow river barges to travel from Chicago to Muskegon. Mr. Braun and Mr. Allie will contact the Coast Guard to investigate

what is needed to obtain an exemption to allow river barges to travel from Chicago to Manitowoc.

Discussion Infrastructure Investment Survey of the Great Lakes Study.

Mr. Braun explained that this is a study that looks at the economic impact of all of the ports on the Great Lake system including the St. Lawrence Seaway. The report was provided to the Commission for informational purposes only and if there were any comments the Commissioners should forward those to Mr. Braun who will then forward to the authors.

Old Business

Update on Coastal Management Grant.

Mr. Braun explained that the 2013 Coastal Management Grant project which studied the feasibility of constructing a river walk along the Manitowoc River from the former WPS Office building to the former Consumer Steel property was now complete. AECOM was the consultant for the project and presented their findings to the Common Council in October of 2014. The Council didn't take any formal action regarding the study but will look into the project in 2015.

Harbor Commission Expiration Dates

Mr. Braun explained that the following Commissioners terms will expire on June 1, 2015; James Anderson, Lee Kummer, and Jim Ruffolo. Alderman Jason Sladky's term will expire on April 20, 2015 but its expected he will remain on the Commission as the alderman representative because he is unopposed for the aldermanic position.

Mr. Anderson, Kummer and Ruffolo all expressed interest in continuing to serve on the Harbor Commission for another term. Mr. Braun also stated that Rich Larson will be appointed to the Harbor Commission by the Mayor at the next Common Council meeting; the vacant position was open for the last 2 years.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date will be selected at a later time.

Adjournment

Fred Radandt made a Motion to adjourn meeting at 7:10 p.m. Lee Kummer seconded the Motion.



Paul Braun
Harbor Master

SIGN IN SHEET
 MANITOWOC CITY HARBOR COMMISSION
 MEETING DATE: JANUARY 27, 2015

NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
1. Rich Larsen	Maving	
2. Troy flentje	Michels 500 sth	
3. FRED RADANOT	3604 BIRCHWOOD LN	
4. JACK RESEM	419 E MICHIGAN	
5. Sam Anderson	1310 E. 5th LN	
6. JIM RUFFOLO	1811 SPRING STREET	
7. JASON SKADKY	900 Quay	
8. Peter Allie	100 Manitowoc Dr Ste 3C	
9. Lee Kummer	3300 Lindbergh Dr.	
10. Dan Kuski	900 Quay S.	
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