



Board of Harbor Commissioners (BHC) Meeting Minutes
 Thursday, April 11, 2024 – 8:00am
 In-Person Meeting
 Port Milwaukee – 2323 S. Lincoln Memorial Drive
 Milwaukee, WI 53207

BOARD COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE:

In Person: Commrs. Alderman Mark Borkowski, President Tim Hoelter, Craig Mastantuono, Kathy Smith and Diane Diel.

Via Phone: Vice President Ron San Felippo

Excused: Claude Krawczyk

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Sarah Pancheri Gregory Bird
 Will Baines Leo Penrose
 Greg Kruse Zach Hasenstein
 Jason Stuewe

PORT MILWAUKEE STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Jackie Q. Carter – Port Director	Shauna Thompson – Administrative Assistant
Maria Cartier – Market Development Manager	Brian Kasprzyk – Chief Engineer
Madison Goldbeck – Communications Officer	Rich Watt – Port Finance & Admin. Officer
Matt Gwiazdowski – Engineering Technician IV	Peter Daniels – Civil Engineer III
Eric Polzin – Port Operations Manager	John Dermeyer Jr. – Port Facilities Supervisor

I. BHC Meeting Called to Order

Pres. Tim Hoelter called the April 11, 2024 meeting to order at 8:00 am.

II. ACTION ITEMS

a) **Approve Thursday, February 8, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

Presented by Pres. Tim Hoelter

Following consideration and discussion by the Commissioners, Kathy Smith motioned to approve the February 8, 2024 minutes was seconded by Diane Diel and carried by the following vote:

AYES: All Commissioners

NAYS: None

b) **Approve BHC Meeting Schedule Change - August**

Presented by Pres. Tim Hoelter

Approved for the change of BHC meeting from 08/08/2024 to now 08/01/2024.

Kathy Smith made a motion to approve, seconded by Craig Mastantuono.

AYES: All Commissioners

NAYS: None

c) **Approve Milw. World Festival, Inc. Capital Improvements & Access Calendar**

Presented by Sarah Pancheri and Zach Hasenstein of MWF

Ms. Sarah Pancheri reviewed the 2023 annual report and audit, as well as the 2023 season report, employment numbers and figures with the 2024 calendar information. From May 7th - October 14th, about 1.2 million patrons attended over 50 events at the park. This includes ethnic festivals, charitable walks, concerts and Summerfest events.

Northwestern Mutual Community Park was open for 154 non-event days to the public and offered arts and crafts, robotics, and a play area for families - 42,00 in attendance with parking provided and security by MWF staff.

Mr. Hasenstein provided a review of the 2023 audit. Cash on hand is down compared to 2022 at 5.5 million. Operating Expenses remained the same from last year. Investments are increasing

MWF has a longstanding tradition for community outreach and several partnerships for non-profits programs. These promotions helped the disability programs for children and brought the community together to get more donations and needed goods. In 2023, 17% of Summerfest attendees gained admission to the festival with either free or discounted admission from many of their promotions.

Mr. Stuewe provided an overview of the 2024 access calendar to date and explained all upcoming events happening for 2024. Events begin May 5th with the MS walk and go until October 6th finishing with the Lakefront Marathon.

In 2023, MWF hired 2,300 seasonal workers to assist with events scheduled for the year. 79% of people that MWF hired were Milwaukee County residents, 66% were City of Milwaukee residents. All recruitment starts in March of every season. This recruitment will continue for this year and recently MWF had a job fair on April 6th and hired over 100 people to work for the upcoming summer season.

Following consideration and discussion, Commissioner Craig Mastantuono motioned to approve the Capital Improvements & Access Calendar and was seconded by Commissioner Kathy Smith.

AYES: All Commissioners

NAYS: None

III. INFORMATIONAL UPDATES

a) Port Milwaukee Annual Report Presented by Maria Cartier

An Annual Report for 2023 was launched with the theme of Charting, Challenge and Change. The Port Director's letter highlighted the theme and reported on the activities from last year. The full report highlighted achievements and activities such as: the DeLong Agriculture Maritime Export Terminal opening, investments in infrastructure, community engagement activities, and the Launch and rebranding of Discovery World. Statistics on the number of vessels, tonnage, financial performance with revenues and expenses were also included. Ms. Cartier thanked Commissioners for their input, which was incorporated in the report. Ms. Cartier shared that the information would be posted on our website and sent to our distribution list with hard and digital copies. This will also be promoted on our social media page, and Director Carter has provided a list for custom mailings to targeted businesses in the region.

IV. PORT MILWAUKEE TRADE DEVELOPMENT REPORT – Presented by Maria Cartier

Ms. Cartier gave the Trade Report, focused on the Tonnage Report through February. The graph that was presented in this report compared results from the years of 2024 and 2023. Currently, the strongest category is dry bulk, which is mostly salt and aggregates. Michel's didn't have as

much volume last year and has seen increase this season, which accounts for the increase in aggregates. Liquid bulk has also shown good growth this year.

The first International vessel of 2024 arrived on Monday April 8th. The season started four days earlier this year compared to 2023.

Ms. Cartier provided an overview of PR activities. Susan Kim from channel 4 news interviewed Director Carter to coincide with Black History Month. The story aired on the news of TMJ4 and online. This story was picked up by Milwaukee Community Journal.

The Great Lakes Seaway Review did a story on the Phase 2 project for the Agricultural Maritime Export Facility; Maritime magazine did a piece on expansion projects and investments that highlighted the DeLong facility. Cruise Industry News had a section on the Great Lakes' variety of attractions, which featured Milwaukee's glamorous shot of Pier Wisconsin downtown.

Following the collapses of the bridge in Baltimore we had received multiple inquiries about safety measures and infrastructure integrity. In lieu of interviews, Port Milwaukee put out a press release, which was picked up by various news sources.

FTZ Update; FTZ annual reports are due at the end of March we are required to report FTZ performance to the foreign trade zone board. We are currently standing at 6 operators with 5 active operators. One operator submitted a preliminary request for production authority expansion. They are adding a product line that needs approval to go through their zone. For 2023, over 4,200 jobs were supported by the activity of our operators and \$3.4 billion in total value of shipments through the zone.

May is International Trade month. A trade symposium sponsored by BMO along with several international trade organizations who are participating is scheduled. Korey Garceau will represent Port Milwaukee, and lead a Foreign Trade Zone roundtable.

May 1st, we will have our first cruise vessel, which is the Viking Octantis and it will kick off our cruise season.

V. PORT MILWAUKEE OPERATIONS REPORT – Presented by Eric Polzin

Mr. Polzin shared that vessel visits have increased over 2023. Every four years, Quadrennial Crane Inspections are required. This involves proof loading the cranes with weight 10% above their capacity. 50, 870 gallons of water was used, plus the weight of the rigging, for a grand total of 484,000 pounds. A company in Georgia was contracted to regulate the water weights with certified meters.

On April 16th, there was a Port Operation Technician test held at the Port Administration building, in partnership with the Dept. of Employee Relations. The testing included written and performance exams (spike pulling / driving, heavy lifting procedures with instruction, etc). The 2021 exam process included six candidates. This time there were 31 candidates.

X-Ray Trailer Calibration was completed and is good to go for the upcoming cruise season. Today, Port Operations is assisting MMSD with launching their river skimmer at the City Heavy Lift Dock to begin their river cleaning operations this season.

Port Operations had a recent meeting with the Coastguard to discuss possible 24-hour security to secure the vessels and safety during winter lay-up. This may be a potential requirement in the future and will increase costs and likely impact the number of vessels choosing to moor in Milwaukee. DHS sent a notification about a potential port blockade protest that targeted Chicago and other large cities. Port Milwaukee does not anticipate protests on Jones Island, but will remain diligent the day of the scheduled protests in Chicago.

The tug boat for the barge Integrity came in last night and is expected to depart mid to late April. The boat, Margaret/ Albert departed back on March 8th of this year. Harbor Seagull work will resume this week when the contractor returns from winter work in shipyards. He is measuring for steel plates to repair the deck.

VI. PORT MILWAUKEE ENGINEERING REPORT – Presented by Brian Kasprzyk

Mr. Kasprzyk stated that water levels are matching all time levels of lake Michigan.

The building failed Exterior Insulation and Finish System (EIFS) project on the north side of the Port administration building has been completed. This replaced the original EIFS started last year, and due to material delivery delays, continued into early this year. The north façade was completely removed and replaced with metal panels. Lessons learned during this phase of the project will inform the plan for the remaining three sides of the building.

Last year, several bricks fell off of the west face of General Cargo Terminal #3. To address safety concerns, the Department of Public Works (DPW) removed additional bricks that were in danger of falling. DPW indicated that they do not have the appropriate staff level to make the full repairs, so Port awarded a contract late last year for the complete repairs. During the demolition phase the contractor found that the blocks behind the brick façade were also in danger of falling, and the situation was the same on the east face of the building. For safety reasons, we expanded the scope of the repairs to include the east face as well. Due to cost, we opted to completely remove the bricks and blocks and replace the façade with sheet metal siding.

MMSD's Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) relocation project continues on South Lincoln Memorial Drive. The sewer is being relocated because the current outfall is located where the new Dredged Material Management Facility (DMMF) is being constructed. The completion date for the CSO work has been pushed back to the later part of summer. DMMF construction has begun, also being led by MMSD. The contract was awarded to Michels, the same contractor working on the CSO project. Michels is currently driving piles along the west wall of the new facility along the existing dock wall under I-794. When completed, anticipated in 2026, this new facility will receive much of the contaminated sediment from the Milwaukee estuary. The overall Area of Concern cleanup efforts are being led by the EPA, and is still in the design phase. Cleanup work is anticipated to begin in 2027.

Mr. Kasprzyk discussed ongoing state and federal grant projects that are currently open and pending. Wisconsin Dept of Transportation (WisDOT) grants include a Freight Railroad Preservation Program (FRPP) grant for railroad crossing reconstruction in coordination with DPW for the South Memorial Drive pavement replacement in 2026; Harbor Assistance Program (HAP) grant for spot repairs on the inner mooring basin dock wall, with a contract anticipated to be awarded later this summer; HAP grant and Wisconsin Department of Administration (WisDOA) Tourism grant for the South Shore Cruise Dock.

Work on the US Department of Transportation (USDOT) Maritime Administration (MARAD) Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) grant for Phase 1 of the DeLong project is complete with close out and continual reporting still underway; We are working with MARAD on getting a grant agreement in place for the recently awarded PIDP grant for phase 2 of the DeLong project. We are working to get an electrical design firm secured for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Port Security grant to upgrade lighting and security cameras all throughout the Port. Lastly, we are working with Port tenants to apply for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Clean Ports Program grant for zero emissions technology, with an application deadline in late May.

VII. PORT MILWAUKEE FINANCIAL REPORT – Presented by Rich Watt

Mr. Watt gave the financial report that covered unexpended Capital balances that will be used for the South Shore Cruise dock for DPW extension of a sewer main and other site improvements. We are a quarter of the way this year, and we are doing well with the budget so far. Revenue has been strong - total expenditures to date equal \$700,000 at a quarter of the way of the year which is good. Receivables from last meeting are up a little bit. Delinquent accounts are being addressed. If we have a tenant that is late, they would pay the late fee along with their payment. For next meeting, a summary by tenant will be provided for invoices that are 31 days or more overdue. Overall, revenues are still on pace from 2023 of: dockage is up 23%, wharfage is up 40%, mooring is down because fewer ships docked in Milwaukee during the winter months. Overall, revenue is up 3.7% from the same time last year. Positive news with the Perch Point company where late invoices should be collected by April 15th. These numbers will show on the next finance report with all updates.

VIII. PORT MILWAUKEE DIRECTOR'S REPORT – Presented by Jackie Q. Carter

Director Carter shared updates regarding our out-reach efforts. The annual report will be used as a tool to engage with people we may not have regular conversations with. The US Commercial Services has been engaged with the export community and this is an area for potential growth that the Marketing & Trade team is working on.

Port hosted a Commercial Tenant meeting to talk about updates and provide a venue for concerns that should be addressed/discussed as a group. This meeting was held in late February. There were a few discussions about grant applications and participation in future events at the Port. Tenants gave ideas and feedback for improvements during this meeting.

American Great Lakes Port Association (AGLPA - regional ports group) held its annual Legislative summit in Washington, DC. The summit included meetings with representatives from Great Lakes states. Director Carter met with Rep. Gwen Moore's staff and provided updates on the Port.

Director Carter and Mr. Garceau attended Transportation GO, a conference that focuses on transporting agricultural commodities. The Wisconsin District Export Council which looks at working with US Commercial service and trying to gear up our engagement with this community in addition opportunity time with them.

The American Association of Port Authority (AAPA – national ports group) held its legislative summit. Director Carter was able to meet with Senator Tammy Baldwin to give her updates.

Port 101, updates and tours are being used as a tool to elevate our profile through informational sessions. Recent informational sessions were held with; MMAC President Dale Kooyenga, Public Policy Institute and the First Unitarian Society at their Sunday Forum.

City Partners and Collaborations: Port staff will host 10th grade students from Madison High School (MPS) for a Port 101 and tour to highlight career opportunities in the maritime industry. On May 7th. Port will host its inaugural Leadership & Career Summit, hosting students from the Future Urban Leaders program. Middle and high school students will participate in a full day of activities that will include a Port 101 and tour, a leadership panel, and an interactive Port tour with interactive stops to hear from several Port tenants. Holcim, Michels, Kinder Morgan and Logistec will participate. The event will also include a vessel tour.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

President Hoelter called to adjourn the meeting

Commr. Kathy Smith motioned for adjournment and it was seconded by Diane Diel.

Before they concluded the meeting, Director Carter offered a final farewell to Alderman Mark Borkowski, as this was his final Harbor Commission meeting.

Pres. Hoelter adjourned the April 11, 2024 Board of Harbor Commissioner's meeting at 9:29 a.m.