



Board of Harbor Commissioners (BHC) Meeting Minutes
Thursday, August 1, 2024 – 8:00am
In-Person Meeting
Port Milwaukee – 2323 S. Lincoln Memorial Drive
Milwaukee, WI 53207

BOARD COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE:

President (Pres.) Tim Hoelter, (VP) Ron San Felippo, Commrs. Alderman Peter Burgelis, Kathy Smith, Claude Krawczyk, Diane Diel, Craig Mastantuono

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Alex Carson – City Attorney’s Office
Benji Timm – City of Milwaukee Dept. of City Development
Angelique Pettigrew – City of Milwaukee – Budget & Management Division

PORT MILWAUKEE STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

Jackie Q. Carter – Port Director	Shauna Thompson – Administrative Assistant
Selena Cole – Finance Specialist	Rich Watt – Port Finance & Admin. Officer
Maria Cartier – Market Development Manager	Korey Garceau – Trade Development Rep.
Madison Goldbeck – Communications Officer	Brian Kasprzyk – Chief Engineer
Matt Gwiazdowski – Engineering Technician IV	Peter Daniels – Civil Engineer III
Gerard Guerra – Design Engineer	Eric Polzin – Port Operations Manager
Eddie Carter Jr. – Port Operations Technician	John Dermeyer Jr. – Port Facilities Supervisor
Sean Hendley – Port Operations Technician	Michael LeSieur – Port Operations Technician

I. BHC Meeting Called to Order

Pres. Tim Hoelter called the August 1, 2024 meeting to order at 8:00 am.

II. ACTION ITEMS

a) **Approve Thursday, June 13, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

Presented by Pres. Tim Hoelter

Following consideration, discussion and corrections by the Commissioners, Kathy Smith motioned to approve the June 13, 2024 minutes, seconded by (VP) Ron San Felippo, carried by the following vote:

AYES: All Commissioners

NAYS: None

b) **Approval of Contract 685, Dockwall Rehabilitation**

Presented by Brian Kasprzyk

Approved for the contract of the Dockwall Rehabilitation project to be rebuilt (VP) Ron San Felippo motioned to approved this project with the Commissioner Kathy Smith who seconded the motion.

AYES: All Commissioners

NAYS: None

III. INFORMATIONAL UPDATES

a) Grand Trunk Wetland Presented by Benji Timm

Mr. Benji Timm spoken at the meeting on behalf of the Department of City Development/DCD regarding the Milwaukee Estuary areas of concerns (AOC). The Milwaukee Estuary AOC is a designation for waterways with contaminate sediment, leading to collaborative clean-up efforts Milwaukee AOC collaborative efforts includes a regional team with representatives from the Wisconsin DNR, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, Milwaukee County Parks and City of Milwaukee at WE Energies. Efforts are focused on the Milwaukee River, Menomonee River, Kinnikinic River and Milwaukee Bay.

Mr. Timm, displayed a map of the many projects included as part of the AOC effort, going as far as north of Cedarburg, Wisconsin to the South Shore beach areas. There are different types of projects include: 7 river clean-up, habitat restoration which is the Wetland Project and beach clean-up.

IV. PORT MILWAUKEE TRADE DEVELOPMENT REPORT – Maria Cartier

Presented by Maria Carter and Korey Garceau

Ms. Cartier gave the Trade Report, beginning with the current Tonnage Report. Total tonnage through June, is 954,772 metric tons, ahead by 4% of last year's numbers. Major categories of Dry Bulk which consist of Salt, Cement, Limestone and Agriculture has risen by 5%. Liquid bulk is in line with last year and Steel to prices are down by 9%. Steel numbers are down throughout the Seaway system. The reduced tonnage is related to current high inventory, lower prices and an effort on decarbonization. The prediction is that by the end of the year we should be at about the same tonnage numbers as last year.

The Trade Development group attended and hosted a number of events over the previous month and one half, meeting with a variety of groups in the areas of education, industry and business development. Visits included 2 Interns who participate in the Milwaukee Summer Youth program placed with DCD. The team provided a Pot 101 and tour. We talked about the different careers here at the Port and highlighted careers in the Maritime industry. Most of the youth are not aware of the Maritime industry and the careers available. During our Port 101's our team raises the awareness of the many opportunities that are offered in this industry.

Other activities for the Trade Development included: attending VISIT Milwaukee's annual meeting, hosting representatives from the Quebec Delegation of Chicago the state of Wisconsin has an MOU with Quebec, Port provided the delegation with updates and discussed potential business development opportunities); and M7's Foreign Ambassador event during the week of the RNC. This event took place at the American Family field, and included presentations from the Executive Director of M7, the Secretary for the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation and others speaking about opportunities with Wisconsin businesses. The event also offered the opportunity to do networking with attendees. Ms. Cartier also presented at the Women's Club Luncheon and gave a Port 101, with a Q&A following the presentation. Milwaukee Mitchell Airport is building a new Cargo Terminal and they had an update on what this facility will look like. The terminal is looking to capture transportation and logistics businesses and is targeting overflow from Chicago's O'Hare airport. They did a few slides on our foreign trade zones and highlighted that the Port is Grantee for FTZ 41.

Mr. Garceau gave cruising update. There have been 11 calls so far this season, to which equates to the 22 itinerary visits. So far, these visits have only been with the Viking and Pearl seas. More

lines will visit in the fall season. Port continues to have a strong passenger count, greater than projected. We have welcomed over 7,000 passengers this year. Last week, Port hosted executives from Victory Cruise Lines. This company operated in the Great Lakes in the past and is reestablishing their business. The meeting served as an introductory meeting with their leadership team who will operate the former America Queen vessels, which made a few calls in Milwaukee in previous years. Their new operations will begin in 2025 and any further updates will be presented in October.

V. Public Relations Report – Madison Goldbeck

Presented by Madison Goldbeck

Ms. Goldbeck gives the Public Relations and Social media report on the feature story with the Dry Cargo International of transportation of the highlights our Dry Bulk materials with an interview story with Ms. Carter. The article highlighted collaborations with our tenants and was picked up by The Uncontained. Ms. Carter was also interviewed by the MKE Lifestyle magazine on our relationship with the waterfront and DCD staff was also interviewed. Two departments spoken on our waterfronts, but this story hasn't been published as of yet. Ms. Goldbeck spoke about the significant level of press coverage U.S. Dept. of Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg who visited Port Milwaukee. On the social media's side, the Secretary's visit to the Port brought high numbers on both Facebook and LinkedIn.

During the RNC, Port Milwaukee was part of efforts to communicate waterway restrictions and closures. Social media was used to share graphics and maps of the maritime restrictions. QR codes directed to residents to frequently asked questions were also used. This information was also listed on Port's website. The same level of detail was provided for the Air & Water show, where maritime restrictions were also put into place. Social Media Statistics - Facebook continues to be Port Milwaukee's top page. In the last 20 days Port saw a 60% increase in new followers, 11% increase in post interactions and 31% increase in Facebook views.

VI. Port Milwaukee Operations Report – Eric Polzin

Presented by Eric Polzin

Mr. Polzin begins by introducing our new face in the room of Mike LeSieur who joined us on July 8th as our newest Port Technician. Tonnage numbers are tending upwards with Steel Barge. The RNC coordination for Port of Milwaukee was effective, no incidents were reported on Jones Island or in the waterways. The National Guard, Sheriff's Department, MPD and the U.S. Coast Guards worked together to manage the points of entry. Access control on the different points of entry areas. There were restrictions on Commercial boating over the water on vessels that were over 60 foot in size. All communication went well, no impediments to commercial traffic was reported. On the security side, there was only one incident, as opposed to the 10-20 reported on a given week. The reduction is attributed to limited access to the island. Normal security issues include: trespassing and people going near or climbing the salt piles after hours.

Shortly after the last meeting, one of the contractors working on the Harbor Seagull quit the project. Another contractor could not be identified right away. A new contractor has been identified and going to wrap up this project very soon.

This is in concerns of no one showed up this week on this project. Currently this project is on hold and 3 of our 4 fort lifts are broken down too. We used a lot of these machines to pick up the luggage for the different vessel boats. One of the machines has an electrical issue whereas the other one has a hydraulic leak.

Port recently assisted Rand Logistics with the gypsum vessel Port Operations also assisted with equipment replacement for the Viking Octantis and Viking Polaris, installing new garbage dehydrators. Mr. Dermeyer states that these machines were supposed to be installed when the ships were being built.

VII. Port Milwaukee Engineering Report – Brian Kasprzyk

Presented by Brian Kasprzyk

Mr. Kasprzyk begins by indicating that the current water level for July are 4 inches above average. This is similar to the water level last year at this time.

Next was an update on the Terminal 3 façade project. Mr. Kasprzyk reminded the Board of the brick façade falling off of the west side of Terminal 3 last year and that DPW initially helped secure the site, but the rehabilitation work was later put out to contract. During demolition it was discovered that the block wall behind the brick was also failing, and the project shifted to total demolition of the brick and block walls on both the west and east sides of the building. It was determined that it would be more cost effective to construct and install new steel supports and sheet walls instead of restoring the block and brick. The project is near complete. The only outstanding work is to tie the new walls into the roof, but seagulls are nesting and not allowing the work to proceed. It is expected to be complete once the baby seagulls leave the roof later in the summer or fall.

An update on MMSD's Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) project was given. It is now anticipated to be complete by October.

Finally, an update on the Dredged Material Management Facility (DMMF) was given. The Board was reminded how this new facility benefits the overall Area of Concern (AOC) clean-up project. The 42-acre facility will accommodate approximately 1.9 million cubic yards of sediment. Roughly 1.2 to 1.4 million cubic yards will be dedicated to the contaminated sediment, and the remaining capacity will be allocated for sediment from future Port dredging and MMSD waterway projects. MMSD is constructing the facility and the City/Port will be the owner and have long-term maintenance responsibilities.

VIII. Port Milwaukee Financial Report – Rich Watt

Presented by Rich Watt

Mr. Watt gave the financial report through the end of July 26th of Pay period of 15, 57.7% of the year. Between 50% to 60% has been spent of our budget amount through the year, with the exception of special funds that ties in on the Terminal 3 Project that Mr. Kasprzyk discussed with unexpected repairs. The expenses were a little higher then what we all expected.

Port outstanding receivables have improved since the last report. As of today, the outstanding amounts are down by \$382, 117.48. A large chunk of this is the delinquent accounts, going down by 52.9%. Within the next 30 days these numbers will come down even further.

IX. Port Milwaukee Director's Report – Jackie Q. Carter

Presented by Jackie Q. Carter

Ms. Carter begins sharing activities regarding her Community Collaborations. She participated with the State Committee for Transportation and Distribution & Logistics with the Department of Public Other industries have been established, this discussion focused on Transportation Logistics industries.

Ms. Carter also participated with the Summerfest Opening Ceremony in the Mayor's absence. Ms. Carter and the Trade Development Team hosted Camp Rise summer youth group 42 young ladies in 4th thru 6th grades visited Port Milwaukee for a port 101, discussion and tour. The discussion included talk about the different careers in the Maritime industry.

DCD Commissioner Lafayette Crump and she was able to find our link through their company. It's a company that sells and leases of spots that make sense between the two companies.

Lastly, Ms. Carter was asked to present at the Sister Cities Committee meeting. Alderman Stamper requested to explore more potential sister cities. Ms. Carter addressed a question from the Commissioners about the meaning of a Sister City. She explained that it's creates a cooperative relationship agreement to foster exchange between two countries.

Ms. Carter next met up with U.S. Coast Guards for a briefing with the Mayor Cavalier Johnson. Workforce development was also discussed.

Other activities and visits included; the Women's Innovation Event as part of the RNC. visit with Ambassador Filip Vanden Bulcke discussing business opportunities with Belgium, and the Dept of Agriculture with Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) Board, who also toured the Delong facility during their visit. U.S. DOT Secretary Pete Buttigieg visited Milwaukee and held several events/ with Port stakeholders, including a roundtable discussion with the Mayor and Port Milwaukee tenants Director Carter facilitated the discussion. After the roundtable meeting, Sec. Buttigieg toured the Delong facility, followed by a news conference.

X. ADJORNMENT

President Hoelter called to adjourn the meeting
Commr. Kathy Smith motioned for adjournment and it was seconded by Claude Krawczyk .

Pres. Hoelter adjourned the August 1, 2024 Board of Harbor Commissioner's meeting at 9:26 a.m.