



Board of Harbor Commissioners (BHC) Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, October 10, 2024 – 8:00am  
In-Person Meeting  
Port Milwaukee – 2323 S. Lincoln Memorial Drive  
Milwaukee, WI 53207

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**BOARD COMMISSIONERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

President (Pres.) Tim Hoelter, Kathy Smith, Diane Diel, Claude Krawczyk, Craig Mastantuono  
Excused - Commrs. Alderman Peter Burgelis, Alex Carson – City Attorney’s Office

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Mary Schanning – City Attorney’s Office  
Jeramey Jannene – Urban Milwaukee

**PORT MILWAUKEE STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:**

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

**I. BHC Meeting Called to Order**

Pres. Tim Hoelter called the October 10, 2024 meeting to order at 8:00 am.

**II. ACTION ITEMS**

a) **Approve Thursday, August 1, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

Presented by Pres. Tim Hoelter

Following consideration, discussion and corrections by the Commissioners, Kathy Smith motioned to approve the August 1, 2024 minutes, seconded by Craig Mastantuono, carried by the following vote:

**AYES:** All Commissioners

**NAYS:** None

**III. Port Milwaukee Financial Report – Rich Watt**

Mr. Watt gave the financial report through the end of September 30<sup>th</sup> of Pay period 20 displaying almost 76.9% of the budget through the year. The Operating Revenue is currently tracking at 4 million and at 89% of the budget through the year. The Summerfest Lease numbers are a little bit lower than predicted, because the Revenue Request didn’t reflect the recent sales tax that was approved last year. Expenditures are up a little higher this year, due to market studies and the resulting salary increases. The Special Funds are at 94% for the year. Port will continue to work with a few companies that have an Outstanding Accounts Receivable balance that reflects late accounts.

**IV. Port Milwaukee Operations Report – Eric Polzin**

Mr. Polzin spoke about the Harbor Seagull deck work that has been painted and completed, recently. Many of the final repairs were done by the Operations Team and it brought down cost for this project. The next priority of expectation is working to test out the electrical system on

the boat, to make sure everything is working properly. The team predicts to have this boat on the water before the end of this year. On September 29<sup>th</sup> was Harbor fest, approximately 250 people attended this event and tour the boat. One of the Operation team members participated in this event as he greeted and showed the public around of the Joey D. boat. From the last meeting on August, our location had 3 forklifts that we down for service and work. Currently, 2 forklifts of the 5200 pounds in size are back working and were recently repaired for usage. The Mastercraft forklift that sits in our shop, still needs to be repaired and has gone through several diagnostic testing to receive repair in the future. The price to fix this forklift is about \$12,000 and over our budget for repairs at this immediate time.

The month of September, was a busy month with 12 cruise ships that docked here in Milwaukee. This number of ships that arrived here, were as many as the number of cruises from the beginning of May through August of this summer. Many of the Operation staff members assisted with prepping for the arrivals and departures of these cruise ships. Next, there were collaborative partnerships with several groups, where the first incident was when the Operation team assisted the Southshore Yacht club with a sinking ship that is part our records of Mooring customers. This Mooring customer was contacted and the team was able to help with this ship. Other collaboration projects were assisting Southshore with a squarer vessel at their dock and also the Milwaukee County Parks for the South Shore Beach Rehabilitation Project that begins this month of October. Lastly, the Operations team has been working with Coleman Engineering company with crane work projects too.

#### **V. Port Milwaukee Trade Development Report – Korey Garceau**

Mr. Garceau gave the Trade Development Report. Total tonnage is down by 9% with year to date with a total of 1,237,842 metric tons. Dry Bulk is also down by 11% due to the low waterborne shipments in August. The weather played a large role in the overall tonnage, as there were a lot of carry-over of road salt due to last year's mild winter. Overall, steel is up by 13% compared to 2023 of the year to date and currently a steel vessel in port.

Mr. Garceau displayed a picture of a private sailboat that was delivered here in Milwaukee back in August. This unique cargo arrived on the Falline service aboard the Federal Mosel. This sailboat was manufactured in Germany, and loaded in Belgium. The Cruising season ends on Sunday October 13<sup>th</sup> and a media release will take place to announce the final cruise stats of the season. The passenger count was higher than \$13,000 and initial predictions were just above \$12,000.

An event that took place at the Port in August was the USSEC Northern Europe Visit that brought guests from the countries of UK, Ireland, Belgium and more. The group was given a presentation by Ms. Carter and receive a tour of the DeLong Facility. Next was the Doors Open, an event for the public to see the Port and receive a tour of the facility. There were about 100 people that attended this event and there were a number of vessels here in Milwaukee for everyone to see. Lastly, the 414 School Counselors group stopped by the Port to receive information about the Marine Industry and to help promotion amongst students at their schools on future career opportunities.

Mr. Garceau and Ms. Cartier attended National Association of Foreign Trade Zones (NAFTZ) Annual Conference in New Orleans, Louisiana on the same week of Hurricane Francine. Through it all, they were able to attend Grantee-focused sessions and receive updates on topics such as operating agreements and best practices for marketing zones. This Trade Development team

was able to come away with ideas that could be implemented as they move forward on future planning. As always in this meeting, they heard valuable information from CBP and the FTZ Board, who give updates on policies to better equip Grantees with knowledge on zone operations if there are questions that come up. Mr. Garceau also spoke at the Expeditors' Import Compliance Seminar and gave information during the FTZs of Wisconsin segment and provided details about our zone here in southeastern Wisconsin. Lastly, the Trade Development team is working to establish a new operator that will be based in Kenosha county. It's an electronics company that will be active soon. The prediction is for this operator to be activated by the end of Q1 of 2025.

## **VI. Public Relations Report – Madison Goldbeck**

Ms. Goldbeck begins with reporting the recent social media postings, which includes a new emphasis on the available services Port Milwaukee offers.

Recent social media updates include an upgrade on Port Milwaukee's Twitter (X) pages. Port Milwaukee upgraded its account to X-Premier in order to gain access to analytics. The most recent review of social media analytics was presented by Ms. Goldbeck. Port Milwaukee's Twitter (X) has seen an 11% increase in its engagement rate, a 17% increase in profile visits, and a 40% increase in new followers. Port Milwaukee's LinkedIn profile has seen a 75% increase in reactions. Facebook analytics proved Port Milwaukee sees more success when the team posts multiply photos instead of a single photo.

Ms. Goldbeck then reported on Port Milwaukee's most recent Public Relations. Ms. Carter was featured in the Milwaukee Business Journal in the Executive Profile Series. The Business Journal also did a feature story on the increased cruise activity boosting businesses for Milwaukee. Fox6 also had a story about the Mayor "eyeing" a new dock in the City's 2025 budget. Dry Cargo International did a feature on Port Milwaukee's "flexibility and excellent hinterland connections." Ms. Goldbeck also made a note about local media inquiries Port Milwaukee received during the east coast Port strikes.

Lastly, Ms. Goldbeck shared a Port Milwaukee "welcome video" that recently premiered at the American Association of Port Authorities in Boston. The video, filmed on the Joey D sailboat under the Hoan Bridge, featured Ms. Carter and Milwaukee Mayor Cavalier Johnson.

## **VII. Port Milwaukee Engineering Report – Brian Kasprzyk**

Mr. Kasprzyk begins by indicating that the current water level for October is approximately at the same level as the all-time average.

An update was provided on the Dredged Material Management Facility (DMMF) project. MMSD is constructing the facility and the City/Port will be the owner and have long-term maintenance responsibilities once the work is completed. Around 390 plies out of 950 have been installed to date. The 42-acre facility will accommodate approximately 1.9 million cubic yards of sediment. Roughly 1.4 million cubic yards will be dedicated to the contaminated sediment through the EPA's Great Lakes Legacy Act cleanup effort, and the remaining capacity will be allocated for sediment from future Port dredging and MMSD waterway projects. The DMMF is anticipated to be completed by late 2026 and the EPA is planning to begin cleanup efforts in 2027.

The federal breakwater repairs at the south breakwater is a USACE project. This is a long-term project that is predicted to take place over 15 years. The stones, which are placed one at a time, are 3-7 tons in weight. Currently, the amount of stones to be placed are estimated at just under 500,000 tons over the course of the project, with approximately 37,000 tons being placed this year alone.

Finally, Mr. Kasprzyk highlighted and provided detail on the Milwaukee County South Shore Breakwater repair project currently underway near the South Shore Yacht Club. The breakwater was damaged during the 2020 flood event. The plan is to raise the breakwater by 7 feet. Coordination regarding vessel moorings was required.

### **VIII. Port Milwaukee Director's Report – Jackie Q. Carter**

Ms. Carter shared the activities regarding the Intergovernmental Relations & Networking opportunities, including interactions with; Wisconsin Soybean Farmers, Wisconsin Dept. of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection, the American Great Lakes Port Association, and the Women in Business Symposium.

Ms. Carter also attended the following meetings/events:

- Muskegon Chamber of Commerce about partnerships between the two locations for Great Lakes cruising.
- The Inland River Ports & Terminals Conference –This conference is focused on business development, advocacy and policy that impacts commercial shipping through the river system, where Port Milwaukee is looking to increase its presence.
- M7 with Rebecca Gries - Port staff shared plans and expressed interest in partnering with M7 to market Port Milwaukee as a regional asset
- United Way Combined Giving - Ms. Carter was one of the campaign chairpersons for 2024. The City of Milwaukee hosted a Block Party near City Hall. BHC Commissioners expressed an interest in being part of the campaign in the future given that some do not have the option to contribute through their workplace.

Lastly, the 2025 Proposal Budget that the Port requested 5 million dollars for the cruise ship dock. Next week is the budget hearing for the 2025 Proposal to be presented. The ideas on the design for the dock has shifted and will be presented at the meeting for the Common Council to vote on it.

### **IX. ADJORNMENT**

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

Pres. Hoelter adjourned the October 10, 2024 Board of Harbor Commissioner's meeting at 9:04 a.m.