

Fox River Navigational System Authority

1008 Augustine St
Kaukauna, WI 54130

Timothy Rose, Chairman
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Meeting Minutes

Tuesday December 18, 2018 - Board Meeting 3:00pm
FRNSA Office Boardroom

Members: Tim Rose (Chair), Jeffery Feldt (VC), John Vette (T), Kathryn Curren (S), Bruce Enke (Rapid Croche), Tim Short, Jean Romback-Bartels (DNR), Daina Penkiunas (SHPO), William Dorsey (DOT), Jeremy Cords

Missing: none

GUESTS: Phil Ramlet, OMNNI, Randy Stadtmueller, Mary Schmidt, Shawn Newman, Associated Bank, Christine Williams, Fox River Tours

Agenda:

- Introductions
- Review and approve meeting minutes from last Board Meeting
 - Motion to approve made by Jeff Feldt , second by Diana Penkiunas, approved unanimously
- Associated Bank Discussion-Shawn Neuman--Review plans for financing Visitor Center regarding a construction loan and how to reduce financing costs. Looked at the difference between a commercial line of credit versus a construction loan, length of financing terms, rates of interest on different funding solutions, etc. Discussion regarding pledging assets as collateral on the loan, length of time to release funds.
- Needs Action - Jeremy
 - Board reviewed regular billing from OMNNI and Associates
 - Motion to approve made by Jean Romback-Bartels, second by Jeff Feldt, approved unanimously
 - Dry Dock proposal: Staff is working with the DNR and Army Corps of Engineers to facilitate remediation of the Dry Dock in Kaukauna to prep the area for possible use by the public. Discussion has been around which entity is responsible for paying for the clean-up. According a document from the DNR, the Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for environmental cleanup and FRNSA is responsible for organization of testing. Options for remediation include capping the east side of the dry dock or removing contaminated ground. CEO Jeremy Cords requested board approval for testing by Omni.
 - Motion to approve dry dock testing made by Jeff Feldt , second by John Vette, approved with one abstention (Jean Romback-Bartels)
 - Proposal for shoreline cleanup at Lock 3 at site of future Visitor Center: Three areas of the river at Lock 3 need shoreline reinforcement: an area west of the Lawe St. Bridge near the lock tender house, the shoreline in front of the Visitor Center, and the shore downstream of the lock. Options for shoreline reinforcement were presented by OMNNI and include Installing riprap along the shoreline OR riprap with a stair down to the water so there is access to the water, OR building pilings. OMNNI did not recommend stacked stone due to cost, but board member Diana Penkiunas asked why we wouldn't consider stacked stone to match rest of locks. She indicated stacked stone would give the most authentic, historic appearance of the locks for future visitors. Randy Stadtmueller indicated he did a historic study of the riverfront near the locks and the majority of the banks were left wild. Reinforcement was only used near turning basins where barges had the potential to erode the shoreline. Only the sections surrounding the locks were covered with stacked stone.

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- The board asked OMNNI to review the cost of stacked stone and or cut stone veneer and revise the plan, discussion was tabled for next meeting.
- De Pere Levee ACOE progress: There are sinkholes in the levee that need repair and they are on the side of the property that is in the Army Corps of Engineer jurisdiction. The Corps has started repairs but has exhausted its budget and FRNSA may have to assume further costs for repair. Chair Rose spoke with leaders from the Corps who indicated there will be no additional financial help from their organization,
- Position Paper on Rapid Croche regarding use of Rapide Croche as a portage: Chair Rose and CEO Cords requested a position paper from a perspective Law Office in Madison clarifying the issues surrounding trespass violations at the Rapide Croche lock. Currently, individuals from the Fox River Kayaking Company have violated trespassing signs on FRNSA property to portage kayaks, and (according to the legal opinion) have also violated NR 40 and transported invasive species past the barrier at the lock. Discussion ensued regarding informing law enforcement and monitoring the site. The board was given a copy of position paper.

Reports from Officers, Members, Committees

- Financial Status Reports/Tim Short
 - Unlock the Fox Fund, October & November & Board Statement: Due to market fluctuations, the Unlock the Fox Fund will finish the year losing some money. Monthly budget management indicates that operational cash disbursements are variable and the goal will be to better plan monthly expenses. Short presented a summary of revenues and annualized 2018 spending to compare to budget, which highlighted some increases in expenses that were not planned but that are expected. Short indicated FRNSA will be over budget for this fiscal year. Board discussion ensued about setting realistic budgets and forecasting operating expenses accurately.
 - Motion to accept the financial report made by Tim Short, second by Kathy Curren, approved unanimously
- Visitor Center Updates/Tim Rose
 - Visitor Center – Randy Stadtmueller updated the board that the land transfer at Lock 3 would be completed later this week and that a zoning change is underway. By early January soil testing will begin and the site will be prepped for construction. The construction schedule will be delayed date TBD. Appleton city staff is concerned with the trail width, trail surface, and public amenities at the site.
 - Split Rock – Tim Rose reported status of budgeting and estimates from Split Rock. Rose/Cords segregated items from the proposal that FRNSA will source locally for a lower cost that include the Durham boat and cargo, lock gates, animatronics, and other items. Video equipment is being quoted by Sues Electronics, Starbucks has been contacted for a proposal to run the coffee shop.
 - New North-Chair Rose attended annual meeting and their board would like a meeting w/FRNSA to learn more about Visitor Center
 - Chair Rose reported there is discussion between FRNSA, Hearth Stone and Paper Discovery center to develop school curriculum as a joint venture.
- 2018 FRNSA (De Stasio) Monitoring Reports: Reports given to the board which indicated that no round gobies were found between Rapide Croche and the Menasha lock. Jean Rombach-Bartels presented a report from the DNR indicating the goby was found as far as the Elm St. Bridge in Kaukauna and distributed the report to the board.

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- Kathryn Curren/Property Committee: no report
- John Vette /Fundraising Committee Report—fundraising materials were presented to committee for review. Drafts will be presented to the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley fund managers for review and input
- William Dorsey: no update
- Unfinished Business and General Orders--none
- New Business—none
- Closed Session in accordance with Ss.19.85
- Locks Status
 - Motion to go adjourn into closed session by Jean Romback-Bartels, second by Jeff Feldt, approved unanimously

- Adjournment 5:45pm Moved by John Vette, second by Will Dorsey, approved unanimously