

FRNSA Board of Directors MINUTES

Tuesday August 27, 2019 - Board Meeting 3:00pm
FRNSA Office Boardroom

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

MISSING: William Dorsey (DOT)

GUESTS: Phil Ramlet, OMNI Associates; Mary Schmidt, Schmidt Communicates; Jason Vollrath, Erickson & Associates; Tyler Howe, SHPO Compliance Area Supervisor; Ellen Balthazor, Friends of the Fox

Agenda:

Introductions

Review and approval of meeting minutes from last Board Meeting

- Motion to approve minutes made by Diana Penkiunas, second by Kathy Curren, passed unanimously.

Annual Audit Review – Jason Vollrath

- Reviewed structural organization of FRNSA and reported there were no major changes in financials from 2017-2018.
- Reviewed specific reporting requirements for the financial statement.
- Board decision was to delay approval of the report to the next meeting to give board members a chance to review the summary.

Randy Stadtmueller—report on Visitor Center

- Visitor Center design was augmented to convert three floors of commercial space from residential to commercial, 4th floor use is optional. Underground parking was eliminated and parking lot size was increased. The design changes will reduce the need for excavation and fill and therefore reduce the cost of the building.
- New design will be estimated for construction and presented to City of Appleton.
- Soil and groundwater tests have been completed and Randy will have the plan ready for DNR approval by end of Sept. He reported approvals should be completed in time to break ground in November.
- Updated on status of drafting legal documents and contracts for future review
- Board discussed issues of access to exhibits within the new layout, lease agreements for building occupants, historic accuracy of site development, timing on construction, and exhibit planning with Split Rock.

Introduction of Tyler Howe – new Compliance Area Supervisor from SHPO

- FRNSA will be one of agencies for which he will be responsible. He shared his background with the board and spent the day touring locks and ongoing projects.

Reports from Officers, Members, Committees

Review and approve Treasurer Report -Tim Short

- Unlock the Fox Fund Board Statement: Reported it was a good month and investment increases were good.
- Budget was approved last month and Tim is revising an annotated report for board.
- Motion to approve treasurer's report made by John Vette, second by Bruce Enke, passed unanimously

Fox River Navigational System Authority

1008 Augustine St
Kaukauna, WI 54130

Timothy Rose, Chairman
Jeremy Cords, CEO
Telephone: 920-759-9833
Fax: 920-759-9834



Operations - Jeremy

- Fox Locks informational packet is being prepared for fishing groups and other community groups. Intent is to hand out at different public meeting in the future to represent who we are, what we're doing, and why we are doing it to clarify incorrect perceptions about FRNSA and ongoing projects.
- Sturgeon and Walleye's for Tomorrow Ad Hoc Committee will tour the lock system on October 9th 1-5pm. Jeremy reported on his meeting with Ron Bruch which was held to improve relationships between FRNSA and fishing groups.
- Bids/Estimates: Directors were provided informational bids & estimates for:
 - Brush removal at Little Chute
 - Little Chute house basement repair
 - Repair to blue shed in back of FRNSA property
 - Repair railing on Little Chute lock
 - Repair of railing at FRNSA offices in Kaukauna

Project(s) statuses

- *Menasha Lock Barrier:*
 - Jeremy sent memo to DNR on status of review of the electric barrier project. Jeremy and Tim held a conference call w/Smith Root to address the four issues identified by the DNR and discuss the possibility of doing studies on all four topics. Jeremy reported that Jason Kent left Smith/Root and we are now dealing with the firm's president as our primary contact.
 - Reported that requests to the DNR about releasing the document outlining the proposals for the electric barrier may compromise proprietary information about the locks and design of the barrier. Currently researching what can be released.
 - SHPO project review update: Daina reported that as long as development at the Menasha lock is inside the fence, SHPO has no issues with project design. Phil Ramlet recommended the final, complete plan for Menasha should be presented for SHPO for approval.
- *Flagpole project:* Scott Thompson has completed a study to better understand the historical placements of flagpoles at the locks. The conclusion is the poles were within a short distance of the lock tenders' shacks. Jeremy will have a more thorough report for directors at next meeting.
- *Appleton Visitor Center/Shoreline Improvements:* SHPO needs to review the new, proposed designs for the Visitor Center to ensure the shoreline improvements are consistent with historic accuracy.
- *Repairs at Appleton Lock #4:* Phil Ramlet recommended excavating the canal and repairing the slope behind the caved in wall; he also reported they found a sink hole at the lock. SHPO reviewed the needed repairs and agreed it needed to be fixed immediately.
 - Motion made by Daina Penkiunas for executive committee to review a plan and estimate for repair, second by John Vette, motion approved unanimously
- *Velocity Study Proposal:* Board reviewed estimates for a study to review flow velocity at the locks. Proposal calls for installing an additional 16 flow meters to determine if there is any back flow in the current.
 - Motion made to approve spending \$15,000 for the study by Jeff Feldt, second by John Vette, approved with one abstention by Jean Romback-Bartels.
- *De Pere Lock Tender House and Canal Wall Repair*
 - Jeremy reported lease discussions with tenants in lock tender house have been amended to limit public access on the first floor. Lease is being reviewed by tenants' attorneys.
 - DePere Canal Wall under the sidewalk needs repair and Jeremy will create a project proposal to repair this section. Proposal will go to SHPO for review.
- *Fox Lock App:* Phone App released Aug 2 and is available on iOS and Android platforms. App is info rich, however we have not activated ability to purchase lock passes in the app at this time.

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Capital Projects Committee – Jeremy reporting in Will Dorsey’s absence

- Omni and Associates – monthly billing. Motion for approval made by Tim Short, second by Jean Romback-Bartels, passed unanimously
- Lunda Repairs to Kaukauna Lock 3 and Little Chute Guard Lock. Motion for approval made by Diana Penkiunas, second by Jean Romback-Bartels, passed unanimously

Executive Committee – Tim Rose

- Committee met and reviewed open issues with Visitor Center, Menasha Lock, De Pere Lock repairs, and hiring temporary help for fundraising work.
- Tim reported the USGS held a tour of their CO2 project study attended by regional elected officials and USGS staff from the east coast. The project is being conducted at the Kaukauna locks to study the effects of CO2 on fish behavior, hydrology, atmospheric conditions, wildlife affects, and the possible use of C02 as a barrier to invasive species.

Property Committee - Kathryn Curren: Nothing to report

Fundraising Committee - John Vette: Donor lists are being evaluated, refined and assembled into an Excel file. Excellent progress is being made on refining and identifying past and potential donors.

Rapide Croche Committee - Bruce Enke: Bruce raised a question about an article that ran in Gannett papers regarding the status of the closed lock. Mary Schmidt reported the article originated in the Milwaukee Journal and she and Jeremy Cords spoke with the reporter prior to the article being published. She reported that, despite a lengthy interview with the reporter, he chose to use information mainly from third party sources and used little of the information Jeremy provided.

New Business

- Tim Rose and Mary Schmidt shared photos of local craftsmen constructing the “mini” lock doors and the Durham boat both intended for exhibits in the Visitor Center.
- Jeremy shared a recently completed video explaining how a lock works.

Motion to adjourn made by Tim Short, second Jean Romback-Bartels, passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.