

Fox River Navigational System Authority

1008 Augustine St
Kaukauna, WI 54130
920-455-9174



Executive Committee Minutes

Tuesday November 14, 2023, 8:00 AM (CDT)

Location: 1008 Augustine Street, Kaukauna, WI 54130

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/781018437>

United States: +1 (646) 749-3122 Access Code: 781-018-437

Members: Jeff Feldt (Chair), Ron Van De Hey (Vice Chair), Tim Short (Treasurer), Jean Rombach-Bartels (Secretary)

Attending: Jeff Feldt, Ron Van De Hey, Tim Short, Phil Ramlet, Beth Taubel, Channel 26 representative

Attending Virtually: Jean Rombach-Bartels

Start: 8:00am End: 9:30am

1. Review and approval of past meeting minutes
 - a. Discussion
 - i. Items carried over from previous meeting for follow-up and to verify completion of tasks:
 1. UWGB Testing
 - a. Should FRNSA continue testing
 - i. Discussion
 1. Three options
 - a. Continue as we have
 - b. Test for goby upstream of Menasha Lock
 - c. Discontinue all testing
 2. Determine what is the value in testing and having testing results
 3. DNR currently tests Lake Winnebago
 - a. Jean Rombach-Bartels will find out exactly where DRN is testing
 - i. Does it include government canal to Menasha Lock?
 - b. Is DNR and UWGB redundant testing?

4. Phil Ramlet recommends that FRNSA direct UWGB to continue testing
 - a. Duration of 2 years
 - b. Upstream of Menasha Lock
 - c. Coordinate with DNR to compliment UWGB testing
 - ii. Jeff Feldt motions to approve previous meeting minutes, seconded by Tim Short, all approve
2. Executive Director
 - i. Fundraising
 1. Discussion
 - a. Since FRNSA isn't a 501(c)(3), majority of private foundations won't accept FRNSA's application
 - i. Phil Ramlet will contact Curt Detjen with the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region (CFFVR) and Andy Rossmeissl with Herrling Clark Law Firm
 1. Get answers to see if FRNSA could become a 501(c)(3)
 2. Phil Ramlet will meet with Curt Detjen (CFFVR) to ask them to be our fiscal agent
 - b. Funding is mostly going to meet basic needs at this time
 - c. It may be harder for FRNSA to get funding for "general" use like "manage system"
 - d. FRNSA should be more specific when asking for funding
 - i. Capital Campaign
 1. What will money actually be put towards
 - ii. Little Chute Emergency Repair-Motion to accept
 1. No motion made
 2. Sink Hole Update presented by Jeremy Cords
 - a. Vinton Construction to repair
 - i. Time and Material basis
 1. Not to exceed \$57,000
 - a. Executive Committee members approved via email on November 2, 2023
 - b. Project is three quarters complete
 - i. Expect Vinton to finish onsite by Wednesday or Thursday of this week
 - c. All issues are relevant to one sink hole at the base of the wall
 - d. Dug 18' to bedrock

- e. Important to not have trees on levees and remove any root balls
 - f. May exceed the approved \$57,000.00 amount
 - ii. Kaukauna Lock 5
 - 1. Vinton Construction will also be working on repairing a seepage issue
 - 2. Will take approximately one week to complete
 - b. Cedars Lock levee embankment bulk up
 - i. Tabletop Discussions with Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE), Jeremy Cords and Amanda Peterson identified this area as a potential risk area and brought concerns forward to be addressed
 - c. De Pere Lock Sinkhole
 - i. Found in Spring of 2023, scheduled to be addressed end of 2023
 - ii. Westwood Professional Services and DNR are working on detailed plans
 - 1. Tim Bolwerk with Westwood Professional Services will present information about De Pere and Little Chute at the December 12, 2023 Board of Directors meeting
- 3. Locks and Levees were built between 1850 – 1900
 - a. Made up mostly of dredge spoils
- 4. State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) has been notified of current earthwork projects
- 5. Phil Ramlet and Ron Van De Hey will discuss with the Department of Administration (DOA)
- iii. Menasha Update
 - 1. Discussion
 - a. Phil Ramlet and Ron Van De Hey met with Dave Brooker from US Congressman Mike Gallagher's office
 - i. Sturgeon may become an endangered species
 - 1. Federal contingent focused on not having that happen
 - 2. There is a movement to make sturgeon an endangered species
 - 3. Resolve before next step to electric barrier
 - ii. Jean Romback-Bartels inquires as how the subject of the sturgeons came up
 - 1. Whole purpose of electric barrier is to keep goby out

2. What is on the other side of the barrier has no bearing
 - a. The risk is the risk
 3. This would not change what the DNR would be looking at
 - b. Approximately \$6 Million to complete electrical barrier project
 - i. Ron Van De Hey isn't ready to do that at this time
 1. Wants a completely open system
 - a. Should project be "mothballed"
 - ii. Tim Short suggested that FRNSA start to address issues and address concerns
 1. Get a real plan together to move forward
 - a. Where are we at? Where to start?
 2. Start a dialogue with "fish" groups and interest groups
 - a. Phil Ramlet will summarize conversations at the next Board of Directors meeting on December 12, 2023
 - c. Conference call with DNR personnel and Kleinschmidt scheduled for November 29, 2023
 - i. Discuss velocity barrier
 1. Needs to be below the lock
 2. Fast water needs to move from the lock gates across the full width and length of the barrier
- iv. Buoy Project
 1. Presentation by Jeremy Cords
 - a. Jeremy Cords had worked with local business leaders and volunteers (20-25) from 2014-2017
 - i. This group can be reactivated if needed
 - ii. 39 miles of river encompassing
 1. Three counties and 22 municipalities
 - a. Are responsible for (Authority to place buoys)
 - b. Not much awareness
 - c. No resources available for
 - i. Permitting
 - ii. Buoys Management
 - iii. Storage and Maintenance
 2. Educate counties, cities and villages
 - a. Engage them as partners

- b. Have them “bring their checkbooks” along for funding this project
 - b. Hazardous areas/Slow No Wake zones need to be marked to protect people and property
 - i. Culverts
 - ii. Outfalls
 - iii. Boulders
 - iv. River is similar to a highway, needs signage to keep people safe and provide information
 - 1. The river is mostly unmarked, and navigation channels remain unmarked
 - v. Continuity is important in a large system
- c. Buoys
 - i. 255 buoys needed for entire system
 - ii. Costs
 - 1. Buoys \$130K
 - 2. One time installation \$200-216K
 - 3. Administration \$60K
 - 4. Each year after estimated annual Administration and Maintenance \$120K
 - a. Winnebago County Parks Department has a similar program
 - b. FRNSA could administer and manage program if funding is provided
 - i. FRNSA would manage and administer system of navigational buoys
 - ii. FRNSA anticipates \$60K for this service
- d. Funding and Responsibilities
 - i. Purpose of FRNSA is to
 - 1. Rehabilitate, Maintain and Manage
 - 2. FRNSA's current responsibility surrounds the locks and lock property only
 - 3. Capital budget would cover buoys needed in boundary of FRNSA managed properties, FRNSA unable to fund buoys outside of its properties
- e. FRNSA needs to clearly define funding and expected administrative responsibilities
 - i. Phil Ramlet will present at next Board of Directors meeting on December 12, 2023

- f. Phil Ramlet and Ron Van De Hey will discuss with the DOA
- v. Westwood Construction Services
 - 1. Review/Discuss
 - a. Motion to accept or decline
 - i. Proposal not received
 - ii. No motions made
 - iii. Phil Ramlet will have the updated/revised proposal at the next Board of Directors meeting on December 12, 2023
- 3. Closed Session per Wis. Stat. 19.85(1)(c)
 - a. Compensation consideration for specific employees (Administrative Assistant, Office Operations Manager, Operations Director)
 - i. Discussion
 - 1. Tim Short motions to go in to closed session, seconded by Jeff Feldt, all approve
 - 2. Jeff Feldt motions to go into open session, seconded by Tim Short, all approve
 - a. Motion made to give a 5% pay raise to the full-time, benefit eligible employees
 - i. Approved by all
- 4. Adjournment:
 - i. Jeff Feldt motions to adjourn, seconded by Tim Short, all approve