

## MINUTES

### FRNSA Board of Directors Meeting

Tuesday, March 26, 2024 – Board Meeting **3:00PM PROMPTLY**

**Meeting Location: 1008 Augustine Street, Kaukauna, WI 54130**

**Virtual: <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/412495285>**

United States: [+1 \(786\) 535-3211](tel:+17865353211)

**Access Code: 412-495-285**

**Members:** Ron Van De Hey (Chair), Jeff Feldt (VP), Tim Short (T), Bruce Enke, John Vette, Tom Buchholz (DOT), Daina Penkiunas (SHPO), Dean Haen

**Attending:** Ron Van De Hey, Jeff Feldt, Bruce Enke, Dean Haen, Phil Ramlet, Beth Taubel, Ashley Dooley (WI DNR), Steve Erb (Appleton Yacht Club), Mary Schmidt (Schmidt Communicates)

**Attending Virtually:** Tim Short, Daina Penkiunas

**Absent:** Tom Buchholz, John Vette

Start: 3:00 pm End: 3:55 pm

### **Agenda:**

- I. Introduction
  - A. All those in attendance introduced themselves
  
- II. Review and approval of previous board meeting minutes
  - A Discuss
    1. Items carried over from previous meeting for follow-up
      - a. Kleinschmidt Proposal
        - i. Motion to approve
          - i. Revised proposal not yet available
          - ii. See notes IV; A; 1
  - B. Title Search for the Friends of the Fox property donated at Kaukauna Lock 5
    - 1, Update
      - a. Title Search has not been completed
        - ii. Friends of the Fox (FOF) received a grant via WI DNR in 2011
        - iii. FOF received a grant via WI DNR in 2011
        - iv. Bureau for Remediation and Redevelopment Tracking System (BRRTS) shows property is clean and not contaminated
  - C. Verify UWGB 2023 monitoring proposal is either a draft or a final proposal
    1. Update
      - a. Verified that what was signed and returned to UWGB was the final proposal
  - D. Ashley Dooley checking on options that the WI DNR has available for buoy funding

1. Update
    - a. Recreational Boat Grant
      - i. 50% match grant
      - ii. Applications accepted any time of year
      - iii. Phil Ramlet has a phone call scheduled Thursday, March 28, 2024 with Jess at the WI DNR to discuss
    - b. Bruce Enke suggests updating Senator Eric Wimberger's committee with DOA participation and grants
  - E. **Jeff Feldt motions to approve previous board meeting minutes, seconded by Dean Haen, all approve**
- III. Review and approval of Treasurer's Report – Tim Short
- A. Financial Summary
  - B. Unlock the Fox monthly summary from Associated Bank
  - C. Monthly Expense Details
    1. Good month, expenses down
    2. FOF Funds up \$350K
    3. Spending in line, no surprises
  - D. **Tim Short motions to accept Treasurer's Report, seconded by Bruce Enke, all approve**
- IV. Executive Director – Phil Ramlet
- A. Menasha Lock
    1. Update
      - a. DNR comments on the Kleinschmidt proposal have been submitted to Jason Kent
        - i. Kleinschmidt to take comments into consideration
        - i. DNR has velocity concerns
          1. Where will water flow come from
          2. How will it impact resources
          3. Will there be an emergency plan in place
      - b. Conference call to take place in April with FRNSA, Kleinschmidt and DNR
        - i. Bruce Enke, Tom Buchholz and Jeff Feldt have been included in previous calls
        - ii. Kleinschmidt proposal may be revised after conference call
        - iii. Mostly need clarification
- V. Capital Projects Committee – Tom Buchholz
- A. Motion to approve to pay the following invoices
    1. Ron Van De Hey recommends that board takes a tour of the capital projects that are in progress and/or recently completed
    2. De Pere Lock
      - a. Vinton will clean up work area in spring
      - b. Tim Bolwerk pre-approves invoices that are sent to FRNSA from Vinton to make sure everything is in line with quote and progress/quality of work

3. Vinton Contracting, Application #2
  - a. \$239,992.99
  - b. Dean Haen motions to approve payment, seconded by Jeff Feldt, all approve**
4. Westwood Professional Services
  - a. \$20,094.45
  - b. Jeff Feldt motions to approve payment, seconded by Tim Short, all approve**

VI. Executive Committee – Jeff Feldt

A. Update

1. Short meeting, 25 minutes
2. Jeff Feldt was not in attendance
3. Items discussed
  - a. Modifications to the Personnel Handbook
    - i. Will have revisions for the April Board of Directors meeting
  - b. Legal action against OrgPix, Inc. d/b/a LIVEALITY for mobile application
    - i. OrgPix, Inc. denies any wrongdoing
    - ii. FRNSA will continue to move forward with legal action
  - c. Technical Assistance Grants available from the following that Phil Ramlet will follow up on
    - i. Bay Lakes
    - ii. East Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (ECWRPC)
  - d. Friends of the Fox donated parcels
  - e. Strategic planning

VII. Fundraising Committee – John Vette

A. Update

1. Mary Schmidt with Schmidt Communicates has provided “assignments” to some board members to complete by June 2024
  - a. Assignments will be board members reaching out to people they know to request donations/funds
    - i. Need to stress what it would be like if the locks were no longer accessible
      - i. Unable to use river
      - ii. Economic implications
      - iii. Tourist impact
      - iv. Funds needed to assist endowment
      - v. De Pere lock is the busiest
      - vi. Discuss how FRNSA should approach different people
        1. Figure out what they’re interested in the most
        2. Name a lock opportunity
        3. Portages
2. Phil Ramlet or Mary Schmidt will accompany, if necessary, any board member when member make contact to ask for funds
  - a. Members request word document with discussion points
    - i. Mary Schmidt will submit to members

**Fox River Navigational System Authority**

1008 Augustine St  
Kaukauna, WI 54130

Philip Ramlet, Executive Director  
Telephone: 920-850-1677  
Jeremy Cords, Operations Director  
Telephone: 920-309-4501



3. Greater Green Bay Community Foundation (GGBCF) was not able to provide FRNSA with any contact information
  - a. Very disappointing
4. “Basic Needs” fund raisers/donations continue to lead as to where people are willing to donate

VIII. Rapide Croche Committee – Bruce Enke

A. Discuss

1. Bruce Enke submitted photos of the damaged blue building that is located at Rapide Croche to Daina Penkiunas last week
2. Property has a great deal of potential
  - a. Unable to open by statute
  - b. Topography has real challenges
  - c. Need strategic planning committee
  - d. Kayak portages
    - i. Further studies needed due to invasives
    - ii. Need a cleaning station

IX. Buoy Project

A. Per Ashley Dooley, DNR has a permit process

1. If buoy permit was previously approved, would not need to reapply
2. Would be able to utilize a “replacement” permit
3. An enforcement ordinance must be adopted would be necessary if ordinance isn’t currently in effect
4. Coast Guard and Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) has no interest in participating
  - i. One section of river could involve a combination of county, city or village
    - i. Need to determine who has jurisdiction to request permits
    - ii. FRNSA is only responsible for the buoys inside the government canals
  - ii. Phil Ramlet and Ron Van De Hey will sit down with county boards
    - i. Will also talk with Jeff Nooyan, chairperson of the Outagamie County Board of Supervisors
    - ii. Phil Ramlet will put Jeremy Cords in contact with Ashley Dooley to discuss buoy and processes
      1. Informational buoy
      2. Navigational buoy

X. Adjournment

**A. Bruce Enke motions to adjourn, seconded by Jeff Feldt, all approve**