

**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



**MINUTES**

**FRNSA Board of Directors Meeting**

Tuesday, April 22, 2025 – 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 (S), John Vette, Tom Buchholz (DOT), Dean Haen, Ashley Dooley (DNR)

**Attending:** Ron Van De Hey, Jeff Feldt, Tim Short, Bruce Enke, John Vette, Tom Buchholz, Dean Haen, Phil Ramlet, Beth Taubel, Scott Erb, Tom Mace

**Virtual:** Andy Rossmeissl (Herrling-Clark), Mary Schmidt (Schmidt Communicates)

Start: 3p      End: 4p

**Agenda:**

- I. Introduction
  - A. Introductions made of all present
  - B. Introduced two new prospective board members, Steve Erb (Outagamie County) and Tom Mace (Winnebago County)
- II. Review and approval of previous board meeting minutes
  - A. Discuss
  - B. **Tim Short motions to accept previous meeting minutes, Tom Buchholz seconded all approved**
- III. Items carried over from previous meeting for follow-up
  - A. None
- IV. 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
  - D. **Tim Short motions to approve Treasurer's Report, Tom Buchholz seconded, all approved**
  - E. Investment Management Selection

1. Memo from Community Foundation-Unlock the Fox-RFP for review of investment firms
  - a. Thirteen firms invited to bid
  - b. Nine replied
  - c. Three presentations
  - d. Decided to continue with Association Bank
    - i. Have been with them since 2011
    - ii. Average return on investments has been 7%
    - iii. Executive to meet with financial advisors
    - iv. Recommended that the Board of Directors meet with financial advisors too
  - e. The Board of Directors will do this process every three to five years

V. Executive Director – Phil Ramlet

A. Potential new board members

1. Tom Mace Winnebago County
  - a. Review and approval
    - i. Phil Ramlet will compose a letter on behalf of Tom Mace and submit it to the governors' office, stating a recommendation by the Board to accept Tom Mace as the Winnebago County representative
    - ii. Tom Mace will be able to vote in an "advisory" role prior to appointment by governor and approval by senate
    - iii. Term would start 07/01/2025 when John Vette resigns effective 06/30/2025
2. **Jeff Feldt motions to approve Tom Mace as a member on the Board of Directors, John Vette seconds, all approved**
3. Steve Erb Outagamie County
  - a. Review and approval
    - i. Phil Ramlet will compose a letter on behalf of Steve Erb and submit it to the governors' office, stating a recommendation by the Board to accept Steve Erb as the Outagamie County representative
    - ii. Steve Erb will be able to vote in an "advisory" role prior to appointment by governor and approval by senate
    - iii. Term would start 07/01/2025 when Ron Van De Hey retires effective 06/24/2025
4. **Jeff Feldt motions to approve Steve Erb as a member on the Board of Directors, Bruce Enke seconds, all approved**

B. FRNSA Bylaw Revision

1. Review and Approve

- a. Attorney, Andy Rossmessl, reviewed/discussed revisions requested for Bylaws of FRNSA
- b. Changes will be effective as of 04/22/25
2. **Tim Short motions to approve bylaw revisions, Jeff Feldt seconds, all approved**

C. 2026 Budget

1. Discuss
  - a. FRNSA funds are down due to the market
  - b. 2025-2026 budget to be brought before the Board in May 2025 for approval
  - c. Bids will be requested for guillotine gate maintenance in 2025; however, job may not move forward until 2026
  - d. Capital projects FRNSA will move forward with include:
    - i. Little Chute Turning Basin – work has already begun
    - ii. Little Rapids foundation work
  - e. TAFT funding has previously been brought to the attention of the Board by Tom Buchholz
    - i. 80% reimbursement if chosen
    - ii. Project needs to be completed prior to reimbursement
    - iii. Unsure of who makes the decision to award
    - iv. FRNSA has projects that would be appropriate for this funding: Shoreline Rip Rap; (4) Levy sections tree removal and rebuild; Kaukauna Guard Lock

D. Outreach

1. Discuss
  - a. Phil Ramlet attended a Green Bay Port Authority event
  - b. Phil Ramlet met Congressman Tony Wied at the event and has been invited to Congressman Wied's office

VI. Capital Projects Committee – Tom Buchholz

- A. Motion to approve to pay the following invoices
  1. Westwood Invoice 1250301053
- B. **Tom Buchholz motions to approve payment, Dean Haen seconds, all approved**

VII. Executive Committee – Jeff Feldt

- A. Update
  1. Executive Committee-items discussed

**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



- a. Investment firm memo from the Community Foundation for the Fox Valley Region (CFFVR)
- b. Phil Ramlet has reached out to Mr. Stadtmueller regarding Appleton 3 Lock property, but has not received a response
- c. Met the two potential Board candidates
- d. Bylaw revisions
- e. Bench "donation" amount lowered from \$7,500 to \$2,500
- f. Strategic Plan
  - i. Facilitator needed

VIII. Fundraising Committee – John Vette

A. Update

- 1. No update

IX. Rapide Croche Committee – Bruce Enke

A. Discuss

- 1. No update

X. Adjourn

- A. **Tim Short motions to adjourn, John Vette seconds, all approved**