

Executive Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 12, 2026, 8am (CST)

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), Tim Short (Treasurer), Bruce Enke (Vice Chair), Steve Erb (Secretary)

Attending: Jeff Feldt, Tim Short, Bruce Enke, Steve Erb, Phil Ramlet, Jeremy Cords, Beth Taubel

Start: 8:00am

End: 08:45am

Agenda:

- I. Review and approval of past meeting minutes
 - A. Discuss
 1. Items carried over from the previous meeting for follow-up and to verify completion of tasks:
 - a. None
 - B. **Tim Short motions to approve past meeting minutes, seconded by Jeff Feldt, all approve**
- II. Executive Director Phil Ramlet
 - A. Strategic Planning Update (Steve Erb/staff)
 1. CIP
 - a. CIP needs to be part of the Strategic Plan
 - b. Maintenance is doing what it can to keep the system operational
 - c. FRNSA will need grant dollars to get projects done (dredging/etc) when lease renewal is considered in 2034
 2. Discussion
 - a. Team leaders need to reach out to their group to schedule dates for virtual, or in person, meetings
 - i. Identify work that needs to be done
 - ii. Bring first draft to meeting for members to react and build on
 - b. The “2034 Update” and “Opening Menasha” teams to bring first drafts to the August 25, 2026 Board meeting
 - B. Operations Update
 1. Discussion
 - a. Revenue is currently 10-15% less than the 2025 season
 - b. Appleton Locks to Rapide Croche has low boat numbers
 - c. Suggestions to curb expenses for 2027 season to reduce billing amounts to municipalities for bridge operations

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



- i. Reduce lock tender hours by having "roving" lock tenders; don't staff the rarely used locks and if passage is requested, lock tender(s) can come from a different lock to operate requested lock
 - ii. Reduction in hours would offer approximate savings of \$20-26K
 - iii. Southern lock hours could be reduced
 - iv. Would need to work with Mary Schmidt (Schmidt Communicates) to get the word out to the public
 - v. Possible signage posted prior to the affected locks so boaters can call ahead
 - d. Tornado damage to Menasha lock was minimal
 - i. One tree down; maintenance will clean up
 - ii. Will be lots of debris in river
 - e. Radtke passage through the Menasha lock went well
 - i. Menasha Lock operated without issues
 - f. De Pere lock maintenance needed to work on doors due to leaking and gate adjustments need work
 - i. Will need to dewater to complete above projects
 - ii. Estimated cost \$150-200K
- C. FRNSA info to Kaukauna Public Library
 - 1. Discussion
 - a. Carol Van Boxel has requested that historic documents/pictures/etc be donated to the Kaukauna Public Library so they can be preserved and cataloged
 - b. Parameters would include that no structural prints of any infrastructures (dams/locks/levys), no personal employee information and no confidential information to be included in the cataloging
 - c. Carol Van Boxel will be informed of these parameters, and the project can be started as soon as it's conveniently possible

III. Adjournment

A. **Tim Short motions to adjourn, seconded by Jeff Feldt, all approve**