

Water Transportation Advisory Board (WTAB)
December 3, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Approved by WTAB (date): June 23, 2026

The meeting of the Water Transportation Advisory Board (WTAB) was called to order at 2:02 PM on Wednesday, December 3, held virtually.

The WTAB members in attendance were:

Brian Wright, Chair	Amanda Davenport
Billy Ray Coursey, Vice Chair	Wayne Cassady
Chuck Davis	Miguel Zamora
Jerry Pace	

Also, in attendance were:

Jeremy Edgeworth, KYTC	Jay Balaji, KYTC
Ben Weithman, Henderson Riverport	Jake Rice, KYTC
Eric Patton, Greenup Boyd Riverport	Jennifer Kirchner, KBT
Greg Curlin, Hickman Riverport	Oliver Douthitt, GEO Consultants
Jim Garrett, Paducah Riverport	Rob Fortier, Paducah Riverport
Sheryl Chino, HDR	Lauren O'Brien, Verdantas
Shelly Byrne, Waterways Journal	Vinay Polepalli, HMB
Mikael Pelfrey, KYTC	Shanna G. (unknown)

Welcome and Introductions:

The Chair welcomed all in attendance and all attendees introduced themselves.

Public Comment Period:

The Chair invited all attendees to make comments. No public comments were made.

Presentation of Minutes from June 20, 2025

The minutes of the June 20, 2025, meeting were presented and subsequently unanimously approved on motion of Amanda Davenport, seconded by Jerry Pace.

Update on Status of Open and Closed KRI projects

Jeremy Edgeworth presented a PowerPoint presentation of open and closed KRI projects and invited representatives from the Riverports to discuss the status of their projects.

- Greg Curlin (Hickman Riverport)-Spreader Bar and Coil Hooks Project- Project will design and construct new spreader bar and coil hooks for unloading different size wire coils from barges. Bid process has been completed and vendor has started on fabrication.
- Miguel Zamora (Louisville Riverport)-Caterpillar 255 Skid Steer Project-Project replaced leased skid steer with 2025 hours with a new CAT 255 on statewide master agreement. Skid steer has been delivered, closeout in progress.
- Amanda Davenport (Eddyville Riverport)-Port Authority Road Paving Project-Project resurfaced 4,500 ft of port road. Paving and stripping is complete, KYTC inspection this week.
- Ben Weithman (Henderson Riverport)-Dock Staging Pad Project-Project will construct a 3,000 sq ft pad for the new material handler to load trucks. Contractor is in the process of forming up the pad area for concrete.
- Miguel Zamora (Louisville Riverport)-Barge Cover Handling System Project-Project will purchase a mechanical barge cover handling system. Estimate bids will go out around Christmas.

- Brian Wright (Owensboro Riverport)-Two Compact Track Loaders Project-Project replaced two heavily deteriorated skid steers. stabilized and concreted the bulk loadout dock. Units have been delivered and are awaiting one additional attachment and KYTC inspection this week.
- Jim Garrett (Paducah Riverport)-Mobile Crane Project-Project replaced a 1998 mobile crane with a newer crane to maintain conveyor system. The new unit has been delivered and KYTC will inspect this week.

Update on Status of Open and Closed KPRCM projects

Jeremy Edgeworth presented a PowerPoint presentation of open and closed KPRCM projects and invited representatives from the Riverports to discuss the status of their projects.

- Amanda Davenport (Eddyville Riverport)-Dolphin Installation Project-Project will install four mooring dolphins to facilitate the staging of additional barges. Corp permits are in progress, bid out construction in the spring.
- Eric Patton (Greenup Boyd County Riverport)-Material Handling replacement & Improvement Project-Project purchased a new material handler, skid steer, and backhoe. Skid Steer and backhoe delivered. Material Handler has been delivered upriver and is being assembled for final delivery.
- Ben Weithman (Henderson Riverport)-Electric Material Handler Project-Project purchased a new material handler to replace the mobile conveyor system at secondary dock slated for removal. Material handler has been delivered, KYTC inspection this week.
- Greg Curlin (Hickman Riverport)-Crane Aggregate Clamshell Bucket Project- Project will design and construct a four-rope 4-cubic yard aggregate clamshell bucket. Down payment has been made and bucket has been ordered.
- Greg Curlin (Hickman Riverport)-Mooring Dock Cell Repair Project- Project is making long-term repairs to Mooring Cells 2, 3, and 4. Conveyor Mooring Cell repairs completed, rest of cells are about 95% completed.
- Greg Curlin (Hickman Riverport)-Grain Truck Conveyor Upgrade Project-Project will upgrade grain truck conveyor for eventual addition of a hopper surge tank. Bids are out with a 10th deadline.
- Greg Curlin (Hickman Riverport)-Conveyor Upgrade and Replacement Project-Project will combine with a PIDP grant to replace 40-year-old conveyor belt system. Waiting on execution of the PIDP grant agreement.
- Miguel Zamora (Louisville Riverport)-Gantry Crane Rehab Project-Project will replace 35-year-old gantry cranes electronic power, command control, cab, and braking systems, retrofit crane gantry to accept additional load capacity and replace bucket and hopper. Second phase of refurb in January, bids for bucket and hopper to go out first of the year.
- Jeremy Edgeworth (Maysville Riverport)-Project will purchase Triple Stack Portable Transfer Conveyor, Large Wheel Loader, and Radial Stacker to allow Riverport to continue current operations consisting of loading coal ash from the adjacent rail line facility. Bidding process completed, reviewing submitted bids.
- Brian Wright (Owensboro Riverport)-Resurfacing and Exit Road Extension Project-This project repaired and resurfaced existing asphalt through entrances and warehouse area, widened an exit and installed sleeved bollards. The major work is complete, contractor addressing punch list items.
- Brian Wright (Owensboro Riverport)-Warehouse 10 Project-This project will install new electric and build an overhang dock area for loading out during all conditions to a recently rehabbed warehouse. All work is complete, closeout in progress.
- Brian Wright (Owensboro Riverport)-4x2 DOT Yard Truck-This project will replace a 2009 yard truck having breakdown issues. Bids are due December 10th.
- Brian Wright (Owensboro Riverport)-5,000lb Triple Mast Forklift with Carton Clamp Project-This project will replace an aging forklift unit. Bids are due December 10th.

- Brian Wright (Owensboro Riverport)-Two 25,000 lb. forklifts project- This project will replace two aging forklift units. Bid process completed, unit ordered, 6 months for delivery.
- Jim Garrett (Paducah Riverport)-Barge Cell Revitalization Project-Project involves inspection of nine barge cells by engineers and divers and then begin making repairs to the most needed barge cells. Permits have been obtained, bids are being evaluated.
- Jim Garrett (Paducah Riverport)-Sennebogen Bucket Replacement Project- Project would replace the current 4.5 cu/yd bucket with a 3.5 cu/yd bucket. A smaller bucket would allow the machine to operate within its design parameters. Bucket has been delivered, KYTC inspection this week.
- Jim Garrett (Paducah Riverport)-Fertilizer Conveyor System Replacement Project-Project will remove the existing deteriorated conveyor system and reconfigure three 100-foot newly purchased 30-inch conveyors, install new bents and shoots. Scope finalized, working on bid packet.
- Jerry Pace (West Kentucky)-Archaeological Excavation of Fort Jefferson- Project would document and recover cultural resources in the proposed Fort Jefferson areas to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Stage 1 archaeology scheduled for January. Stage 2 in March and June.

Conflicts of Interest for Board Members

Prior to discussion of KPRCM applications, Disclosure of Conflict-of-Interest Statement forms were finalized. Conflict of Interest Statement forms were completed, and the Chair reported that four board members had a conflict of interest that was noted on their forms. Those members will not vote or prioritize their submitted projects for funding.

Review FY 2026 Kentucky Public Riverport Construction and Maintenance (KPRCM) program

Jeremy Edgeworth reviewed the FY 26 KPRCM program and reiterated to the board the criteria by which the projects should be reviewed for eligibility based upon the legislation.

Review of FY 2026 Kentucky Public Riverport Construction and Maintenance (KPRCM) project applications

Eleven applications were received for the KPRCM funding available through the FY 2026 KPRCM grant program by the deadline. Jeremy Edgeworth announced each project, and applicants presented the details of the project to the Board. Board members then asked the applicants questions. The applications requested \$2,819,364.84.

Riverport	Project	Total Cost	KPRCM Funds Requested
Eddyville Riverport and Industrial Development Authority	Building Replacement	\$459,030.00	\$459,030.00
Henderson County Riverport Authority	Electric Material Handler	\$322,940.14	\$322,940.14
Henderson County Riverport Authority	Front-End Loader Replacement	\$229,869.00	\$229,869.00
Hickman Fulton County Riverport Authority	Barge Moving System	\$353,895.00	\$353,895.00
Owensboro Riverport Authority	20-ton Rotating Lift Hook	\$39,146.50	\$39,146.50
Owensboro Riverport Authority	Terminal Yard Tractor	\$184,837.74	\$184,837.74
Owensboro Riverport Authority	Triple Mast Forklift with Carton Clamp	\$87,500.00	\$87,500.00
Owensboro Riverport Authority	Warehouse Autonomous Sweeper Scrubber	\$162,146.46	\$162,146.46
Paducah McCracken County Riverport Authority	Fertilizer Conveyor System Replacement	\$210,000.00	\$210,000.00

Paducah McCracken County Riverport Authority	Scale House Replacement	\$520,000.00	\$520,000.00
West Kentucky Regional Riverport Authority	Archaeological Excavation of Fort Jefferson Project	\$500,000.00	\$250,000.00
		<i>Total</i>	\$5,027,864.84 \$2,819,364.84

KPRCM Project Eligibility discussion:

Jeremy Edgeworth had emailed prior to the meeting a customized Project Eligibility Ballot to each WTAB member. Board members evaluated each project for which they did not have a conflict of interest as eligible for funding. The ballots were emailed back to Jeremy Edgeworth for tabulation. One board member voted the Owensboro Riverport Authority application for the Warehouse Autonomous Scrubber as not eligible. Concern was raised that the KPRCM funds are not to be used for maintenance activities. Discussions among board members determined that while the scrubber performed maintenance activities, the acquisition of a scrubber did not constitute a maintenance activity. The vote was retaken and all applications were unanimously determined to be eligible. Because the West Kentucky Regional Riverport Authority was requesting to use their allocated KPRCM funds, their application will automatically be sent to the Secretary for approval without the need for prioritization. The remaining 10 applications would be prioritized to utilize the remaining \$2,074,198.82 in unallocated KPRCM funds.

KPRCM Project Prioritization discussion:

Jeremy Edgeworth had emailed prior to the meeting a customized Project Prioritization Ballot to each WTAB member. Board members ranked each of the 10 projects for which they did not have a conflict of interest from highest priority to lowest priority for funding. The customized ballots omitted any projects for which the Board member had a conflict of interest preventing them from prioritizing those projects. These ballots were emailed back to Jeremy Edgeworth for tabulation.

After calculating the total score for each project, and ranking the projects by their average score, the WTAB board prioritized the awarding of the KPRCM funds as follows:

Riverport	Project	Total Cost	KPRCM Funds Requested	WTAB Rank
Paducah McCracken County Riverport Authority	Fertilizer Conveyor System Replacement	\$460,000.00	\$210,000.00	1
Eddyville Riverport and Industrial Development Authority	Building Replacement	\$459,030.00	\$459,030.00	2
Henderson County Riverport Authority	Electric Material Handler	\$2,031,440.14	\$322,940.14	3
Hickman Fulton County Riverport Authority	Barge Moving System	\$353,895.00	\$353,895.00	4
Paducah McCracken County Riverport Authority	Scale House Replacement	\$520,000.00	\$520,000.00	5
Owensboro Riverport Authority	Triple Mast Forklift with Carton Clamp	\$87,500.00	\$87,500.00	6
Owensboro Riverport Authority	Terminal Yard Tractor	\$184,837.74	\$184,837.74	7
Henderson County Riverport Authority	Front-End Loader Replacement	\$229,869.00	\$229,869.00	8
Owensboro Riverport Authority	20-ton Rotating Lift Hook	\$39,146.50	\$39,146.50	9
Owensboro Riverport Authority	Warehouse Autonomous Sweeper Scrubber	\$162,146.46	\$162,146.46	10
<i>Total</i>		\$4,527,864.84	\$2,569,364.84	

The board discussed funding the projects. The board proposed fully funding the first six projects on the prioritization list and funding the Owensboro Riverport project with the remaining funding as follows:

Riverport	Project	WTAB Rank	KPRCM Requested	KPRCM Funding Recommendation
Paducah McCracken County Riverport Authority	Fertilizer Conveyor System Replacement	1	\$210,000.00	\$210,000.00
Eddyville Riverport and Industrial Development Authority	Building Replacement	2	\$459,030.00	\$459,030.00
Henderson County Riverport Authority	Electric Material Handler	3	\$322,940.14	\$322,940.14
Hickman Fulton County Riverport Authority	Barge Moving System	4	\$353,895.00	\$353,895.00
Paducah McCracken County Riverport Authority	Scale House Replacement	5	\$520,000.00	\$520,000.00
Owensboro Riverport Authority	Triple Mast Forklift with Carton Clamp	6	\$87,500.00	\$87,500.00
Owensboro Riverport Authority	Terminal Yard Tractor	7	\$184,837.74	\$120,833.68
<i>Total</i>			\$2,138,202.88	\$2,074,198.82

The board then unanimously approved on motion of Billy Ray Coursey, seconded by Chuck Davis these are the funding amounts to recommend to the Secretary of the Transportation Cabinet for approval.

Discussion of a potential Economic Impact of Kentucky's Ports and Waterways study

The Chair discussed that at the recent Kentucky Association of Riverports meeting it discussed developing a Scope of Work for an Economic Impact of Kentucky's Ports and Waterways study. The last KYTC Riverport study was in 2020 and led to the current House Bill 1 funding. The new KYTC funded study would focus on the economic impact of Kentucky waterways and Riverports and could be used to advocate additional funding for waterways and ports. The Kentucky Association of Riverports will meet after the adjournment of the WTAB meeting to discuss the Scope of work.

Discussion of the next WTAB meeting

Jeremy Edgeworth announced that there are no more scheduled WTAB meetings. But if a member feels a meeting is needed, one can be called by the Chair. If there was additional riverport funding provided in the next state budget session, another WTAB meeting would be needed to review applications.

There being no further business, on motion of Amanda Davenport, seconded by Miguel Zamora and with unanimous approval, the meeting adjourned at 3:51 PM.

Submitted:

Jeremy Edgeworth

Water Transportation Advisory Board Staff, KYTC