

Water Transportation Advisory Board (WTAB)
February 28, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Approved by WTAB (date): 6/20/2025

The meeting of the Water Transportation Advisory Board (WTAB) was called to order at 10:02 AM on February 28, 2025, held online.

The WTAB members in attendance were:

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

Also, in attendance were:

Jeremy Edgeworth, KYTC	Jay Balaji, KYTC
Ben Weithman, Henderson Riverport	Chad Dorsey, MARAD
Greg Curlin, Hickman Riverport	Jennifer Kirchner, KBT
Jerry Pace, West Kentucky Regional Riverport	Jim Garrett, Paducah Riverport
Lisa Wilson-Plajer, Gonzalez Companies	Shelly Byrne, Waterways Journal
Bradley Syler, Marine Solutions	Vinay Polepalli, HMB
Mikael Pelfrey, KYTC	

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 December 4, 2024

The minutes of the December 4, 2024, meeting were presented and subsequently unanimously approved on motion of Miguel Zamora, seconded by Chuck Davis.

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.

- Ben Weithman (Henderson Riverport)-Automated Truck Scale Project-Project installed new automatic truck scales that provide more efficient movement of trucks. Project also included adding access drives to divert traffic increasing efficiency. Work is completed; KYTC Inspection completed, administrative closeout in progress.
- Brian Wright (Owensboro Riverport)-10,00lbs Forklift Project-Project purchased a new 10,000lbs forklift to unload metals receive by barge or railcar. Forklift has been delivered, KYTC has inspected, administrative closeout in progress.
- Brian Wright (Owensboro Riverport)-25,00lbs Forklift Project-Project purchased a new 25,000lbs forklift to handle metals for placing in storage and loading for outbound. Forklift has been delivered, KYTC has inspected, administrative closeout in progress.
- Jim Garrett (Paducah Riverport)-4th Street Concrete Aprons Project-Project replaced two 1970-1980s vintage entranceways and aprons that are extremely deteriorated. Replacement aprons provide increased access into bulk commodity storage yard. Work is completed; KYTC Inspection completed, administrative closeout in progress.

- Ben Weithman (Henderson Riverport)-12,000 lbs. Forklift Project-Project would purchase a new 12,000 lbs. forklift to replace an older 11,000 lbs. model nearing the end of its useful life. Forklift has been ordered; delivery scheduled for late May 2025.
- Ben Weithman (Henderson Riverport)-15,500 lbs. Forklift Project-Project would purchase a new 15,500 lbs. forklift to replace an older 15,500 lbs. model nearing the end of its useful life. Forklift has been ordered; delivery scheduled for late March 2025.
- Greg Curlin (Hickman Riverport)-Dock Dredging Project-Project dredged a 700 ft. by 30 ft. area around the docks and removed approximately 15,000 cubic yards of material to maintain normal business operations. Work was completed in August, administrative closeout in progress.
- 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 selected.
- Miguel Zamora (Louisville Riverport)-Caterpillar 255 Skid Steer Project-Project will replace leased skid steer with 2025 hours with a new CAT 255 on statewide master agreement. Skid steer to be procured in March 2025 when current lease expires.
- Brian Wright (Owensboro Riverport)-Low Road Loadout Project-Project will stabilize and concrete the bulk loadout dock. Construction is complete, awaiting KYTC inspection when water levels drop.
- Jim Garrett (Paducah Riverport)-48-foot Flatbed Trailer Project-Project purchased a 48-foot, spring slider, steel chassis flatbed trailer to replace rented trailer. Trailer has been delivered, awaiting KYTC inspection for closeout.
- Jim Garrett (Paducah Riverport)-Bobcat S650 Skid Steer Loader Project-Project replaced existing 2015 Bobcat near the end of its useful life with a new Bobcat S650 utilizing a statewide master agreement. Skid Steer has been delivered, awaiting KYTC inspection for closeout.

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 three mooring dolphins to facilitate the staging of additional barges. Engineering and design are in process, expect to bid out construction in early spring.
- Jeremy Edgeworth (Greenup Boyd County Riverport)-Material Handling replacement & Improvement Project-Project will purchase a new material handler, skid steer, and backhoe. Have purchase orders for all equipment.
- Ben Weithman (Henderson Riverport)-Electric Material Handler Project-Project will purchase a new material handler to replace the mobile conveyor system at secondary dock slated for removal. Material handler has been ordered, expected delivery October 2025.
- Greg Curlin (Hickman Riverport)-Mooring Dock Cell Repair Project- Project would make long term repairs to Mooring Cells 2, 3, and 4. Conveyor Mooring Cell has been bid out, work will begin in Spring.
- Greg Curlin (Hickman Riverport)-Volvo L90H2 Wheeled Loader Project-Project replaced wheel loader from 2003 that had become increasing difficult to maintain due to its age. Loader has been delivered, awaiting KYTC inspection for closeout.
- Miguel Zamora (Louisville Riverport)-Gantry Crane Rehab Project-Project will replace 35-year-old gantry cranes electronic power, command control, cab, and braking systems. Procurement completed, finalizing contract with vendor.
- 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. Putting together bid buckets for stacker/conveyors and checking on using a master agreement for the loader.

- 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. MCC Building and transformer pad have been poured, concrete forming of dock ongoing.
- 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. Inspection has been completed, report has been finalized, developing scope of work for repairs.
- 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. Going through process to procure archaeology services.

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 three 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 2025 Kentucky Public Riverport Construction and Maintenance (KPRCM) program

Jeremy Edgeworth reviewed the FY 25 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 2025 Kentucky Public Riverport Construction and Maintenance (KPRCM)-Final Call project applications

Twelve applications were received for the \$1,427,478.00 in remaining funding available through the FY 2025 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 any questions of the applicants. The applications requested \$2,374,963.00.

Riverport	Project	Total Cost	KPRCM Funds Requested
Eddyville	Mooring Dolphin Installation Project	\$515,075.00	\$515,075.00
Henderson	Final Lump Sum Payment for New Electric Material Handler	\$2,042,046.35	\$338,046.00
Henderson	Lump Sum Payment for New Material Handler	\$2,042,046.35	\$204,000.00
Hickman-Fulton	Crane Aggregate Clamshell Bucket	\$84,895.00	\$84,895.00
Hickman-Fulton	Grain Truck Conveyor Upgrade	\$175,000.00	\$175,000.00
Owensboro	20-ton Hook /Rotator	\$35,815.00	\$35,815.00
Owensboro	5,000 Lb. Forklift & Clamp	\$77,708.00	\$77,708.00
Owensboro	7-ton C-Hook Rotator	\$76,993.00	\$76,993.00
Owensboro	Resurfacing and Exit Road Extension	\$381,743.00	\$381,743.00
Paducah McCracken	Bulk Yard Access Road	\$167,063.30	\$167,063.00
Paducah McCracken	General Cargo Facility-Concrete Travelway	\$256,750.00	\$256,750.00
Paducah McCracken	Sennebogen Bucket Replacement	\$61,875.00	\$61,875.00
<i>Total</i>		\$3,874,963.65	\$2,374,963.00

Project Eligibility discussion:

Jeremy Edgeworth had previously emailed 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. These ballots were emailed back to Jeremy Edgeworth for tabulation. All applications were unanimously determined to be eligible.

Project Prioritization discussion:

Jeremy Edgeworth distributed a customized Project Prioritization Ballot to each WTAB member. Board members ranked each project 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 remaining KPRCM funds as follows:

Riverport	Project	Total Cost	KPRCM Funds Requested	WTAB Rank
Hickman Fulton	Grain Truck Conveyor Upgrade	\$175,000.00	\$175,000.00	1
Owensboro	Resurfacing and Exit Road Extension	\$381,743.00	\$381,743.00	2
Henderson	Lump Sum Payment for New Material Handler	\$2,042,046.35	\$204,000.00	3
Eddyville	Mooring Dolphin Installation Project	\$515,075.00	\$515,075.00	4
Paducah McCracken	Bulk Yard Access Road	\$167,063.00	\$167,063.00	5
Paducah McCracken	Sennebogen Bucket Replacement	\$61,875.00	\$61,875.00	6
Paducah McCracken	General Cargo Facility-Concrete Travelway	\$256,750.00	\$256,750.00	7
Hickman Fulton	Crane Aggregate Clamshell Bucket	\$84,895.00	\$84,895.00	8
Owensboro	7-ton C-Hook Rotator	\$76,993.00	\$76,993.00	9
Henderson	Final Lump Sum Payment for New Electric Material Handler	\$2,042,046.35	\$338,046.00	10
Owensboro	20-ton Hook /Rotator	\$35,815.00	\$35,815.00	11
Owensboro	5,000 Lb. Forklift & Clamp	\$77,708.00	\$77,708.00	12
<i>Total</i>		\$3,874,963.65	\$2,374,963.00	

The board discussed funding of the proposed projects. The board proposed fully funding the top four ranked projects on the prioritization list. Mr. Garrett with Paducah Riverport who had the 5th ranked project, indicated that he would have to decline funding for his Bulk Yard Access Road project as there was not enough remaining KPRCM funds to fully fund his request. The board offered to fund the 6th ranked project, Mr. Garrett's Sennebogen Bucket Replacement project which he accepted as it could be fully funded. The 7th ranked project was Mr. Garrett's General Cargo Facility-Concrete Travelway project which he again declined funding as there was not enough remaining KPRCM funds to fully fund his request. The board then proposed to fully fund the 8th ranked project, Hickman Fulton Riverport's Crane Aggregate Clamshell Bucket project. As this only left \$4,890.00 in unallocated KPRCM funds, Owensboro Riverport with the 9th ranked project declined KPRCM funding for their 7-ton C-Hook Rotator as it was only a fraction of what they requested. As the 10th ranked project is a continuation of the 3rd ranked project providing additional funding to Henderson Riverport for their purchase of a New Material Handler, the board proposed the remaining \$4,890.00 be awarded to that project which Mr. Weithman with Henderson Riverport accepted. This would utilize all the remaining KPRCM funds and would provide no funding to the 11th and 12th ranked projects as follows:

Riverport	Project	WTAB Rank	KPRCM Requested	KPRCM Funding Recommendation
Hickman Fulton	Grain Truck Conveyor Upgrade	1	\$175,000.00	\$175,000.00
Owensboro	Resurfacing and Exit Road Extension	2	\$381,743.00	\$381,743.00

Henderson	Lump Sum Payment for New Material Handler	3	\$204,000.00	\$204,000.00
Eddyville	Mooring Dolphin Installation Project	4	\$515,075.00	\$515,075.00
Paducah McCracken	Bulk Yard Access Road	5	\$167,063.00	0
Paducah McCracken	Sennebogen Bucket Replacement	6	\$61,875.00	\$61,875.00
Paducah McCracken	General Cargo Facility-Concrete Travelway	7	\$256,750.00	0
Hickman Fulton	Crane Aggregate Clamshell Bucket	8	\$84,895.00	\$84,895.00
Owensboro	7-ton C-Hook Rotator	9	\$76,993.00	0
Henderson	Final Lump Sum Payment for New Electric Material Handler	10	\$338,046.00	\$4,890.00
Owensboro	20-ton Hook /Rotator	11	\$35,815.00	0
Owensboro	5,000 Lb. Forklift & Clamp	12	\$77,708.00	0
<i>Total</i>			\$2,374,963.00	\$1,427,478.00

The board then unanimously approved on motion of Miguel Zamora, seconded by Wayne Cassady these are the funding amounts to recommend to the Secretary of the Transportation Cabinet for approval.

Discussion of the next WTAB meeting

Jeremy Edgeworth announced that a call for projects for riverports for the FY 26 KPRCM and KRI funds would come later this year. Also discussed that at the next meeting elections for the WTAB Chair and Vice Chair would be needed. Discussed that the next WTAB meeting would need to be the week of June 16th. Due to board member conflicts presented, it was determined it needs to be held on Friday, June 20th and it would be in-person in Frankfort.

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

The Chair discussed that KBT would be having a Waterways Committee meeting at Henderson Riverport on April 9th. One agenda item for that meeting is to discuss the potential 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 for additional funding for waterways and ports. Possibly use the recent study by Ohio DOT as a framework to develop the Scope of Work.

There being no further business, on motion of Billy Ray Coursey, seconded by Amanda Davenport and with unanimous approval, the meeting adjourned at 11:52 AM.

Submitted:

Jeremy Edgeworth

Water Transportation Advisory Board Staff, KYTC