

Water Transportation Advisory Board (WTAB)  
June 20, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Approved by WTAB (date): \_\_\_\_\_December 3, 2025\_\_\_\_\_

The meeting of the Water Transportation Advisory Board (WTAB) was called to order at 1:00 PM on Friday, June 20, 2025, held at the Transportation Cabinet Office Building, 200 Mero Street, Frankfort KY.

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	

Joining online were:

Chad Dorsey, MARAD	Greg Curlin, Hickman Riverport
Jim Garrett, Paducah Riverport	

**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 February 28, 2025**

The minutes of the February 28, 2025, meeting were presented and subsequently unanimously approved on motion of Billy Ray Coursey, 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)-12,000 lbs. Forklift Project-Project purchased a new 12,000 lbs. forklift to replace an older 11,000 lbs. model nearing the end of its useful life. Forklift has been delivered, KYTC inspection needed, closeout in progress.
- Ben Weithman (Henderson Riverport)-15,500 lbs. Forklift Project-Project purchased a new 15,500 lbs. forklift to replace an older 15,500 lbs. model nearing the end of its useful life. Forklift has been delivered, KYTC inspection needed, 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 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, KYTC inspection is needed, closeout in progress.
- Brian Wright (Owensboro Riverport)-Low Road Loadout Project-Project stabilized and concreted the bulk loadout dock. Construction is complete, KYTC inspection complete, closeout in progress.

- 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, closeout in progress.
- 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, KYTC inspection complete, closeout in progress.

### **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. Engineering finalizing location of dolphins, Geotech to start soon, drilling rig scheduled.
- Eric Patton (Greenup Boyd County Riverport)-Material Handling replacement & Improvement Project-Project will purchase a new material handler, skid steer, and backhoe. Skid Steer and backhoe delivered. Down payment made on material handler.
- 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)-Crane Aggregate Clamshell Bucket Project- Project will design and construct a four-rope 4-cubic yard aggregate clamshell bucket. Bid packet has been approved and bids are due next week.
- 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 repairs completed, remaining work to begin in summer.
- Greg Curlin (Hickman Riverport)-Grain Truck Conveyor Upgrade-Project will upgrade grain truck conveyor for eventual addition of a hopper surge tank. Bid packet is being developed.
- Greg Curlin (Hickman Riverport)-Volvo L90H2 Wheeled Loader Project-Project replaced wheel loader from 2003 that had become increasingly difficult to maintain due to its age. Loader has been delivered, KYTC has inspected, closeout in progress.
- Miguel Zamora (Louisville Riverport)-Gantry Crane Rehab Project-Project will replace 35-year-old gantry cranes electronic power, command control, cab, and braking systems. Phase I (bus bar replacement) in progress. Procurement of final phase underway.
- 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 will repair and resurface existing asphalt through entrances and warehouse area, widen an exit and install sleeved bollards. The bidding process has been completed and the vendor selected.
- 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, pending an electrical inspection and engineering sign off.
- 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. RFQ for dredging/environmental services completed, scope for repairs being developed.
- 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. The bidding process was completed. Notice to Proceed issued.

- 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. Right of Entry obtained, Section 7/Wetlands field work complete. Archaeology contract under review.

**Conflicts of Interest for Board Members**

Prior to discussion of KRI and 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 Riverport Improvement program**

Jeremy Edgeworth reviewed the FY 26 KRI program and noted the changes from prior KRI programs, namely that this round of grants are a maximum 80/20 match. Also reiterated to the board the criteria by which the projects should be selected based upon eligibility and priority.

**Review and Prioritization of FY 2026 Kentucky Riverport Improvement project applications**

Five applications were received for the \$500,000 in funding available through the FY 2026 KRI 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 \$502,503.36.

Riverport	Project	Total Cost	KRI Funds Requested
Eddyville Riverport and Industrial Development Authority	Port Authority Road Paving	\$183,876.00	\$91,928.00
Henderson County Riverport Authority	Dock Staging Pad	\$95,590.00	\$76,472.00
Louisville Jefferson County Riverport Authority	Barge Cover Handling System	\$114,578.00	\$91,662.00
Owensboro Riverport Authority	Two CAT 255 Compact Track Loaders	\$183,051.20	\$146,441.00
Paducah McCracken County Riverport Authority	Mobile Crane	\$120,000.00	\$96,000.00
<i>Total</i>		\$697,095.20	\$502,503.00

**KRI Project Eligibility discussion:**

Jeremy Edgeworth distributed 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 given back to Jeremy Edgeworth for tabulation. All applications were unanimously determined to be eligible.

**KRI 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 given 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 KRI funds as follows:

<b>Riverport</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>KRI Funds Requested</b>	<b>WTAB Rank</b>
Eddyville Riverport and Industrial Development Authority	Port Authority Road Paving	\$183,876.00	\$91,928.00	1
Henderson County Riverport Authority	Dock Staging Pad	\$95,590.00	\$76,472.00	2
Paducah McCracken County Riverport Authority	Mobile Crane	\$120,000.00	\$96,000.00	3
Louisville Jefferson County Riverport Authority	Barge Cover Handling System	\$114,578.00	\$91,662.00	4
Owensboro Riverport Authority	Two CAT 255 Compact Track Loaders	\$183,051.20	\$146,441.00	5

*Total*    \$697,095.20    \$502,503.00

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

<b>Riverport</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>WTAB Rank</b>	<b>KRI Requested</b>	<b>KRI Funding Recommendation</b>
Eddyville Riverport and Industrial Development Authority	Port Authority Road Paving	1	\$91,928.00	\$91,928.00
Henderson County Riverport Authority	Dock Staging Pad	2	\$76,472.00	\$76,472.00
Paducah McCracken County Riverport Authority	Mobile Crane	3	\$96,000.00	\$96,000.00
Louisville Jefferson County Riverport Authority	Barge Cover Handling System	4	\$91,662.00	\$91,662.00
Owensboro Riverport Authority	Two CAT 255 Compact Track Loaders	5	\$146,441.00	\$143,938.00

*Total*                                    \$697,095.20                                    \$500,000.00

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.

**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**

Ten 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 \$5,175,801.18.

<b>Riverport</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>KPRCM Funds Requested</b>
Eddyville Riverport and Industrial Development Authority	Mooring Dolphin Installation Project	\$2,015,075.00	\$750,000.00
Greenup Boyd County Riverport Authority	Material Handling Replacement and Improvements	\$1,425,801.18	\$675,801.18
Henderson County Riverport Authority	Final Lump Sum Payment for New Electric Material Handler	\$2,042,046.35	\$750,000.00

Hickman-Fulton County Riverport Authority	Conveyor Upgrade & Replacement Project	\$750,000.00	\$750,000.00
Louisville Jefferson County Riverport Authority	Gantry Superstructure Upgrade & Crane & Wharf Replacement	\$750,000.00	\$750,000.00
Owensboro Riverport Authority	Two 25,000 lb. Forklifts	\$545,000.00	\$545,000.00
Owensboro Riverport Authority	4x2 DOT Yard Truck	\$155,000.00	\$155,000.00
Owensboro Riverport Authority	Triple Mast Forklift with Carton Clamp	\$85,200.00	\$50,000.00
Paducah McCracken County Riverport Authority	Barge Cell Revitalization-Phase II	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00
Paducah McCracken County Riverport Authority	Fertilizer Conveyor System Replacement	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00

*Total*    \$8,518,122.53    \$5,175,801.18

**KPRCM Project Eligibility discussion:**

Jeremy Edgeworth distributed 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 given back to Jeremy Edgeworth for tabulation. All applications were unanimously determined to be eligible. Thus, the recommendation of the board was to fund the following projects:

<b>Riverport</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>KPRCM Funds Requested</b>
Eddyville Riverport and Industrial Development Authority	Mooring Dolphin Installation Project	\$2,015,075.00	\$750,000.00
Greenup Boyd County Riverport Authority	Material Handling Replacement and Improvements	\$1,425,801.18	\$675,801.18
Henderson County Riverport Authority	Final Lump Sum Payment for New Electric Material Handler	\$2,042,046.35	\$750,000.00
Hickman-Fulton County Riverport Authority	Conveyor Upgrade & Replacement Project	\$750,000.00	\$750,000.00
Louisville Jefferson County Riverport Authority	Gantry Superstructure Upgrade & Crane & Wharf Replacement	\$750,000.00	\$750,000.00
Owensboro Riverport Authority	Two 25,000 lb. Forklifts	\$545,000.00	\$545,000.00
Owensboro Riverport Authority	4x2 DOT Yard Truck	\$155,000.00	\$155,000.00
Owensboro Riverport Authority	Triple Mast Forklift with Carton Clamp	\$85,200.00	\$50,000.00
Paducah McCracken County Riverport Authority	Barge Cell Revitalization-Phase II	\$500,000.00	\$500,000.00
Paducah McCracken County Riverport Authority	Fertilizer Conveyor System Replacement	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00

*Total*    \$8,518,122.53    \$5,175,801.18

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

**Election of WTAB Chair and Vice Chair**

The leadership terms of the Chair and Vice Chair had expired. After Board discussion about ability to serve, Brian Wright was nominated and unanimously approved as Chair on motion of Miguel Zamora, seconded by Amanda Davenport. Amanda Davenport was nominated and unanimously approved as Vice Chair on motion of Billy Ray Coursey, seconded by Brian Wright.

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

The Chair discussed that at the recent KBT Waterways Committee meeting at Henderson Riverport it discussed 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 additional funding for waterways and ports. The Kentucky Association of Riverports with WTAB input will develop the Scope of Work for the study, and KYTC would fund and execute the project.

**Discussion of the next WTAB meeting**

Jeremy Edgeworth announced that a call for projects for riverports for the remaining FY 26 KPRCM funds would come later this year. It was discussed that the next WTAB meeting would need to be in late November/Early December and with the potential for adverse weather it would be virtual.

There being no further business, on motion of Miguel Zamora, seconded by Amanda Davenport and with unanimous approval, the meeting adjourned at 3:03 PM.

Submitted:

Jeremy Edgeworth

Water Transportation Advisory Board Staff, KYTC