

Water Transportation Advisory Board (WTAB)  
May 27, 2021 Meeting Minutes

Approved by WTAB (date): June 10, 2022

The meeting of the Water Transportation Advisory Board (WTAB) was called to order at 1:07 PM on May 27, 2021 held virtually.

The WTAB members in attendance were:

Brian Wright, Chair	Greg Pritchett
Wayne Cassady	Matt Yates
Billy Ray Coursey	Joe Crabtree

Also in attendance were:

Tim Cahill, Paducah Riverport	Jeremy Edgeworth, KYTC
Mikael Pelfrey, KYTC	Bill Miller, West Kentucky Regional Riverport Authority
Maegan Mansfield, Bacon, Farmer, Workman	Chad Dorsey, MARAD
Greg Curlin, Hickman Riverport	Scott Thomson, KYTC
Karen Mohammadi, Michael Baker	John Licht, TNT Rail Services
Tim Kizer, Louisville Riverport	

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Jeremy Edgeworth provided general housekeeping reminders for the virtual meeting after which the meeting was turned over to the Chair to conduct. 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 January 7, 2021**

The minutes of the January 7, 2021 meeting were presented and subsequently unanimously approved on motion of Greg Pritchett, seconded by Matt Yates.

**Update on Status of Open and Closed KRI projects**

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

- Matt Yates (Louisville Riverport)-Riverport Rail Tie Replacement #6-Project replaced 1,900 ties to hold gage of 13 miles of track owned by Riverport. Condition of track has caused CSX shutdowns of service. Work has been completed, left over funds have been transferred to Rail Tie Replacement #7 project, project has been closed.
- Greg Pritchett (Henderson Riverport)-Forklift Project- Project purchased a new 30,000 lb capacity forklift to replace the forklift currently being rented. Forklift has been delivered. Truck hopper is also being replaced and railcar belt conveyor constructed to use up remaining funds. Truck hopper has been completed, rail car belt conveyor has been delivered, awaiting assembly and testing.
- Billy Ray Coursey (Eddyville Riverport)-Sheet Pile Shoring Walls Project-Project will drive sheet piling along bank and add embankment backfill material to correct eroded banks near boat repair well/bay. Contract has been awarded and construction will begin soon.
- Greg Pritchett (Henderson Riverport)-Mooring Dolphin Replacement Project- Project removes 2 damaged mooring dolphins installed in 1980 and installs 2 new mooring dolphins. Contract has been awarded and materials acquired, installation will begin during summer pool.

- Matt Yates (Louisville Riverport)-Riverport Rail Tie Replacement #7-Project will replace 1,000 ties and 49 switch ties to hold gage of 13 miles of track owned by Riverport. Increased work from Rail Tie #6 funds adds 21 switch ties, the tamping and regulating of 1-2 miles of main line, and all turnouts on industrial leads. Bids are due today.
- Brian Wright (Owensboro Riverport)-CAT 950M Front End Loader Project-Project will replace the existing 2009 front end loader that is becoming increasingly unreliable with a new front-end loader using a statewide master agreement. Front end loader has been delivered and the project has been closed.
- Tim Cahill (Paducah Riverport)-River Belt Discharge Chute Refurbishment Project-Project will refurbish the triple pantleg chute to repair third chute to reopen access to concrete storage pad. Chute has been fabricated and installed, awaiting KYTC final inspection.

**Conflicts of Interest for Board Members**

Prior to discussion of KRI project applications, Disclosure of Conflict of Interest Statement forms were finalized. Prior to the meeting, Conflict of Interest Statement forms had been emailed to all board member and upon completion were forwarded to the Chair before the meeting began. 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 and Prioritization of FY 2022 Kentucky Riverport Improvement projects applications**

Seven applications were received for the \$500,000 in funding available through the FY 2022 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 any questions of the applicants. Eddyville was asked to prioritize their submission by importance and Mr. Coursey indicated the Dock Tieback Repair project was their biggest priority. The applications requested \$995,468.00 in funding.

<b>Riverport</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>Requested</b>
Eddyville	Dock Tieback Repair Project	\$253,000.00	\$126,500.00
Eddyville	Laydown Yard Project	\$278,884.00	\$139,442.00
Henderson	Road & Storage Lot Paving Project	\$600,000.00	\$300,000.00
Hickman	CAT 950GC Front End Loader Project	\$272,530.00	\$136,265.00
Louisville	Construction of Tangent Connection at Loop	\$469,658.00	\$234,829.00
Owensboro	Compact Track Loader Project	\$69,614.00	\$34,807.00
Paducah	Clamshell Bucket Replacement Project	\$47,250.00	\$23,625.00
<i>Total</i>		\$1,990,936.00	\$995,468.00

**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 had previously 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 KRI funds as follows:

Riverport	Project	Total Cost	Requested	WTAB Rank
Eddyville	Dock Tieback Repair Project	\$253,000.00	\$126,500.00	1
Paducah	Clamshell Bucket Replacement Project	\$47,250.00	\$23,625.00	2
Owensboro	Compact Track Loader Project	\$69,614.00	\$34,807.00	3
Hickman	CAT 950GC Front End Loader Project	\$272,530.00	\$136,265.00	4
Louisville	Construction of Tangent Connection at Loop	\$469,658.00	\$234,829.00	5
Henderson	Road & Storage Lot Paving Project	\$600,000.00	\$300,000.00	6
Eddyville	Laydown Yard Project	\$278,884.00	\$139,442.00	7
<i>Total</i>		\$1,990,936.00	\$995,468.00	

The board proposed fully funding the first four projects on the prioritization list, and providing the remaining funding to the fifth project as follows:

Riverport	Project	WTAB Rank	KRI Requested	KRI Funding Recommendation
Eddyville	Dock Tieback Repair Project	1	\$126,500.00	\$126,500.00
Paducah	Clamshell Bucket Replacement Project	2	\$23,625.00	\$23,625.00
Owensboro	Compact Track Loader Project	3	\$34,807.00	\$34,807.00
Hickman	CAT 950GC Front End Loader Project	4	\$136,265.00	\$136,265.00
Louisville	Construction of Tangent Connection at Loop	5	\$234,829.00	\$178,803.00
Henderson	Road & Storage Lot Paving Project	6	\$300,000.00	No funding
Eddyville	Laydown Yard Project	7	\$139,442.00	No funding
<i>Total</i>			\$995,468.00	\$500,000.00

The board then unanimously approved on motion of Greg Pritchett, seconded by Joe Crabtree these are the funding amounts to recommend to the Secretary of the Transportation Cabinet for approval. At this point Board Member Matt Yates left the meeting.

**Update on Status of Riverport Study**

While WTAB staff were tallying the results of the KRI prioritization, Mikael Pelfrey updated the board on the status Riverport Study. The study is progressing. Consultant finished second round of port visits. Next round of Riverport Summits will be virtual the week before Labor Day. Consultant making good progress and completion expected the end of October. Consulting team and KYTC made a presentation on study to IMX show. KYTC also made a presentation on the study to the Appalachian Regional Commission.

**MARAD Update**

Chad Dorsey with MARAD provided an update on potential federal funding sources. INFRA NOFA went out in February with March application deadline for \$889 million. RAISE grant program came out in April at \$1 billion that replaces old BUILD program. July 12<sup>th</sup> deadline for grants. Port Development Grant Program NOFA came out in March with July 30 deadline, \$230 million available for coastal, Great Lakes and inland ports. Americas Marine Highway program NOFA was last week for \$10 million for projects with current designation, with June

4th deadline. Chair posed question about which grant program would be best suited for inland port projects. Mr. Dorsey felt the Port Development and America's Highway programs would be most competitive for inland ports. At this point Board Member Greg Pritchett left the meeting.

#### **Discussion of Kentucky Riverport Capital Planning Template**

The Chair discussed recent Riverport Study site visits and consultant's effort to identify port infrastructure needs. Discussed having all ports identify needs consistently in the same format so it could be compiled for a state needs listing.

#### **Election of Chair and Vice Chair**

The last election of WTAB officers occurred on October 9, 2019, thus the officers 2 year terms was coming to a close. With the Chairs current term ending September 30 and with the Vice Chair position vacant as he was not re-appointed to the Board it was decided to hold elections to ensure leadership continuity. Chair entertained nominations for Chair first, and then Vice Chair. Billy Ray Coursey nominated Brian Wright as Chair, seconded by Wayne Cassady. No other nominations for Chair were made. Board voted unanimously for Brian Wright as Chair. Billy Ray Coursey then nominated Joe Crabtree as Vice Chair; Brian Wright seconded nomination. No other nominations for Vice Chair were made. Board voted unanimously for Joe Crabtree as new Vice Chair.

#### **Other Business**

Bill Miller led a discussion of developing an equipment capitalization program to determine the usable life of equipment. The Chair also mention an upcoming EPA webinar that may be of interest to the ports. The KBT Waterways meeting on June 8<sup>th</sup> was also announced.

There being no further business, on motion of Brian Wright and with unanimous approval, the meeting adjourned at 2:40 PM.

Submitted:

Jeremy Edgeworth

Water Transportation Advisory Board Staff, KYTC