



UMWA May Meeting Minutes

Thu, May 20, 2021 12:30 PM

1. In attendance: Shari Chorney, Dann Cottrell, Mike Wilson, Vince Reuter, Mark Wegner, Rick Voigt, Bill Judd O2D, Zac Morris AMI, Mark Caspers, Kevin Cook, Patrick Phenow, Kathryn Sarnecki, Paul Rohde, Greg Genz, John Menniti, Linda Loomis,
2. Minutes – motion to approve March minutes by Kathryn Sarnecki, second by Vince Reuter. Passed. No vote required for April notes.
3. Financial Report presented by Amy Beckham. Outstanding members notes, all have been contacted by Amy or her team. Payment is anticipated soon. Also noted that there have been difficulties with obtaining the high yield online bank acct., banks either don't respond or have gone out of business. Amy is talking other association execs to see what is working for their organizations, and will have an update or resolution by next month.
4. Chairman's Report – n/a
5. Agency Report
 1. USACE – Daniel Cottrell – provided report of just updated items. Will send separately.
 2. SPPA – Kathryn Sarnecki / Ava Kenney – no updates
 3. LMRWD – Linda Loomis – no updates
 4. MNDOT – Patrick Phenow – no updates
 5. Red Wing – Shari Chorney provided an update on a proposed new pedestrian trail that will connect their riverfront park to their downtown area. Photos and artist renderings were shown. Red Wing is very excited about this new improvement to the riverfront and downtown areas. Possible future UMWA meeting site after completion.
 6. Paul Rohde – Pete Buttigieg visited Pittsburgh to view lock and dam in the area. While out of his jurisdiction, it is informative and aligns with other infrastructure work the Dept of Transportation will be undertaking. WCI is moving ahead on appropriations requests, including full use of the inland waterway trust fund and cost shifts from past year's WRTA. President Biden's infrastructure proposal is out, with versions being presented by the GOP and the bipartisan group as well. The package from the President and from the Senate GOP include funding for inland waterways. Full budget should be coming out by month's end. WCI is pushing the Upper Mississippi delegation to include Lock 25 new start construction in prospective appropriations. A question was presented about the ability to use money appropriated to keep Pool 2 open? It is determined that it is an appropriate use. Step 1 is to coordinate with St Paul District to make sure it's on the list of needs. Also reach out to the congressional delegation to make them aware and also ask how this project can get some assistance. Annual Waterways Symposium will be held in conjunction with the Waterways Journal – live event

in St Louis November 2-4 at the Loews Hotel. All are encouraged to attend this national industry event.

6. Sub-committees for Common Issue Guide were discussed, no action.
7. Upcoming monthly meeting locations
 1. June – conference center in Hastings? Meeting room at Lock 2?
 2. July – Pool and Yacht Club confirmed
 3. August – Red Wing Marine Museum – possibly slighter later in the day to accommodate more schedules. Maybe end with a meal or something?
 4. September – Pool and Yacht Club confirmed
8. Mark Wegner asked for UMWA support for the MN Valley Rail Authority. This is a shortline railway operated by Carver, Sibley, Renville, Yellow Medicine counties as the MN Prairie Line. They are applying for a raise grant to increase the speed and capacity on the line. Stretches of it are 10 mph and 35 mph, this would increase speed on a 38 mile stretch. One of the primary uses of this line is transporting grain to the river. They currently have a federal grant and this would be a matching grant if received. Motion from Kathryn, second from Mark Caspers, passed. Mark will provide Amy with a draft letter and contact information, Amy will send letter of support as requested and approved.
9. Adjourned 1:20 p.m.