

**Upper Mississippi River International Port District's
Board of Commissioners
Regular Meeting
Wednesday April 9th, 2014 1:00 PM
Upper Campus Building 21
Savanna Depot Park
Savanna IL 61074**

Approved May 14th 2014 UMRIPD

- 1. Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order at 1:21 PM
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Roll Call:** Present, Chair Skip Schwerdtfeger, Co-Chair Bill Jahnke, Treasurer Kevin Stier, Secretary Jim Francis, Kurt Brunner. Also in attendance; Jack Bernhardt, Lisa McCarthy, Bill Hooten, Dave Albee, Brad Petersburg, Theresa Wittenauer, and Marty Mulcahey.
- 4. Approval of Agenda:** Motion by Bill, second by Kurt to approve. All aye.
- 5. Approval of Minutes:** Motion by Bill, second by Kurt to approve March 19th 2014 minutes as presented. All Aye.
- 6. Treasurers Report:** April 2014 Financial Report shows a bank balance of \$ 1466.51 with no outstanding bills. Motion by Bill, second by Kurt to approve. All Aye.
- 7. Public Comment:** Brad Petersburg gave insight into extending and completing the Great River Trail from Savanna to Galena for biking and hiking. They would like to open an abandoned stretch of River Road near Chestnut Mountain and form a coalition that would support the completion of the entire trail from Savanna to Galena. He asked that the Port District consider being part of this coalition and requested a letter of support from the District for this project. It was the unanimous consensus of the Board to offer support and Jim Francis offered to draft a letter stating support and provide to Brad.
- 8. Old Business:**
 - a) Sunflower Update; From Lisa McCarthy, there is a problem with the Enterprise Zone qualification in East Dubuque that stems from the Stephenson Zoning Board never forwarding the request to the State after East Dubuque submitted the application in August of 2013. The former Administrator was replaced and ten letters of support had to sent to the State in regards to this application. It is understood that everthing is now in place for the application to move forward.
 - b) Savanna Depot Park Update; From Jack Bernhardt, a tour of the facility will take place with Growmark on May 13th. They are looking for a rail site with storage capabilities of LNG. There is still a large volume of business in regard to the North Dakota oil cars. More work is coming to Rescar and they are looking to add more people and provide additional positive local impact RR will be shipping it's first boxcar popcorn from Shannon to Mexico. There is currently on site 10 loaded cars containing ceramic coated "frack sand" from Georgia. Bill Hooten added that a Chinese capitalized US based fish processing business wants to use building # 26 which is currently occupied by the FTZ. This would require a zoning change in Carroll County which has already been applied for. They would employ no less than 50 people to process a fihf paste mostly from Asian carp and would like water access nearby.
 - c) Grant Research; Theresa Wittenauer has had feedback from Mike McQuillan of Hanson & Co., she also had a good conversation with Jim Hoving of HR Green & Co. in regards to scope of work for

feasibility study. She stated that EDA is pushing back the filing deadline for the application to mid-June. According to Kelly at EDA, 40-60 thousand dollars for a competitive amount in award for a total including match of around \$90,000. Theresa would like to have Kelly review our application by June 1st. Skip said he would draft a response letter to distribute to our supporters.

d) MAP Printing; Bill said he will finalize costs on reprinting of brochure with best competitive bid prior to next meeting.

e) Campbell Center; Marty attended a site visit 2 weeks ago. It was a good meeting with good attendance. Dialogue currently lies with AQS and the Campbell Center.

f) IRPT Conference; We were given a waiver of the registration fee for Kevin participating as a speaker at one of the sessions on start-up Port Districts.

9. New Business;

a) TIF District Sponsorship; Dave reviewed and reported that it was not worth pursuing at this time.

10. Report of Counsel;

Dave reported that there may be other incentive programs out there that may require more research.

11. Report of Chair;

Skip has been pushing Jo-Carroll Energy to generate their own electricity. His question to the Board is should we pursue expanding solar energy here? A hand-out was given from the "National Toxic Land/Conservation Service. Bill Hooten added that he has evaluated solar power. Economics work well but utility laws in Iowa are more favorable. Illinois has passed legislation that requires the 3 big power companies to utilize renewable energy, but this does not include Co-ops. Co-ops are also not required to buy back generated power.

12. Committee Reports; None

13. Adjournment;

Bill moved to adjourn at 3:56 PM, second by Kurt, all aye.