

**RACINE COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS, PARKS AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE MEETING**  
**THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2015**  
**Summary Minutes**

Public Works-Development Services Conference Room  
Ives Groves Office Complex  
14200 Washington Avenue  
Sturtevant, WI 53177

**Committee Present:** Katherine Buske, Kiana Harden-Johnson, Scott Maier, Ronald Molnar  
Kenneth Lumpkin, David Cooke

**Members Excused:** Tom Hincz

**Youth in Government  
Representatives Present:** Mary Graeber, Kristi Parsons

**Staff Present:** Julie Anderson, Public Works & Development Services Director

**Also Present:** Russell Clark, Racine County Board Chairman  
Jim Rooney, Racine Board of Harbor Commissioners Chair  
Anthony Herrmann, Racine Board of Harbor Commissioners  
Jim Metzger, Parks Planning Manager

---

**1. Call to Order, Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order 6:00 by Chair Kay Buske.

**2. Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

**3. Approval of the March 12, 2015, Summary Minutes**

**SUPERVISOR RONALD MOLNAR MOVED, seconded by, Supervisor COOKE, to approve the March 12, 2015, summary minutes.**

**YOUTH REPRESENTATIVES' ADVISORY VOTES:**

Youth Representative Graeber: aye  
Youth Representative Parsons: aye

**Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 6/0**

**4. Request by the Chair of the Racine Board of Harbor Commissioners to appear and discuss possible future maintenance dredging of the Racine Recreational Harbor**

Mr. Jim Rooney and Dr. Tony Herrmann were present to provide information about future maintenance dredging of the Racine Recreational Harbor. Rooney explained that the harbor is 30 years old, and there is periodic work needed on the harbor facilities and structures. The Racine Harbor Commission is a City Commission and there are 4 city members. There is 110 acres in the main harbor and Racine County is responsible for that area. The harbor commission takes care of the navigation lights and some debris from the Root River. Rooney went on to explain how the phenomena of littoral drift pushes sediment, silt and sand into the harbor area. The sand is from North Beach and the Root River system contributes non-point pollution and silt into the harbor area. Rooney explained that dredging of the harbor should be done every 25-30 years, which means there should be dredging planned in the near future.

Rooney and Herrmann prepared maps to illustrate an area inside the north harbor where they feel additional filling could be done with dredged spoils from the harbor and river. This would be a built up area inside the north breakwater wall, which forms a right triangle, more or less. The approximate dimensions of the area to be filled would be 600' x 1000'. They feel this would be a good place to fill since the water is shallow and that area is prone to silt and sediment build up.

Rooney also feels that a new bathymetric survey and study need to be done in the entire harbor area. Director Anderson noted that the last complete study of water depths and harbor structures was done in 2011 at a cost of approximately \$55,000. Anderson also noted that this type of study is done about every five years and so it would be a budget request for the 2016 budget as a capital item.

Discussion followed. County Board Chair Clark asked why the filled area would be in the north harbor area when an area to the south of the Reef Point Marina could use a filled area for additional parking. He noted that the parking for the marina is, many times, woefully inadequate.

Rooney also discussed his many decades of service to the community with respect to him being Chairman of the Wisconsin Waterways Commission, as well as the former Director of Racine County Public Works and involvement in State government. He has brought many millions of dollars to Racine County for the lakefront projects. The South breakwater structure alone was an \$8 million renovation.

Rooney emphasized to the Committee that there is a lot of money available which he feels should be tapped by Racine County to help pay for studies as well as any dredging to be done in the harbor. Funding sources may include the Fund for Lake Michigan, as well as the Wisconsin Waterways Commission. He said there is approximately \$100 million in the Fund for Lake Michigan that could be used for projects. Rooney urged the Committee and Racine County to work to apply for funding as soon as possible for various lakefront projects and studies.

Additional discussion followed. Chair Buske indicated that Racine County was still in the process of completing work on Belle Harbor and that until those grants are closed out and the project is finalized, there likely would not be support by this Committee to move forward seeking additional grant funding.

Rooney explained what he feels are the next steps in the process. He said that would like to have a meeting with the new Racine County Executive, and then to have joint City and County collaboration for projects to be done along the lakefront and grants to pursue. He also referenced a 2020 study that was completed by the harbor commission which illustrates various options for improvements along the lakefront and within the harbor area in Racine.

Chair Buske thanked Jim Rooney and Tony Herrmann for the information. No action is required from the Committee or the County Board at this time.

**5. Communications and Referrals**

There were no communications or referrals.

**6. Miscellaneous Public Works Business**

- The next scheduled meeting of the Public Works, Parks and Facilities Committee is Thursday, April 9, 2015, at 6:00 p.m., if needed.

**7. Adjourn**

There being no further business, **SUPERVISOR DAVID COOKE MOVED, seconded by Supervisor JOHNSON**, to adjourn at 6:33 p.m. Motion carried unanimously. VOTE: 6/0