

**Lorain Port and Finance Authority**  
**Board of Directors**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**Port Office**  
**Tuesday, May 11, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.**

**Board of Directors:** Ms. Bonilla; Messrs. Kuszniir, Mullins, Nielsen, Scott,  
Sommers, Veard, Zellers and Zgonc (9)

**Staff:** Tom Brown, Executive Director  
Tiffany McClelland, Assistant Director  
Yvonne Smith, Accountant  
Kelsey Leyva-Smith, Office Manager

**Guests:** Rick Payerchin, The Morning Journal  
John Piskura, Lorain Resident/Tow Boat US

**I. Roll Call**

A. The meeting was called to order at 7:04 p.m. by Chairman Brad Mullins with roll call indicating a quorum present.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

**III. Disposition of Meeting Minutes**

A. March 9, 2021, Regular Board Meeting: Mrs. Leyva-Smith explained on page six the word “one” was changed to “on.” Mr. Sommers moved to approve the meeting minutes with the correction. Second by Mr. Scott. Motion carried.

**IV. Report of Officers**

**A. Chairman**

1. Correspondence received:

a. Great Lakes Seaway 2020 Season “Pacesetter Award”: Mr. Brown said COVID-19 changed a lot, but we still had good freighter traffic and a good shipping season. As a result, we are a 2020 Season Pacesetter Award winner. They will likely set up a virtual meeting as they are not traveling yet but they want to give us some recognition. We were one of three or four ports to get the designation this year. Mr. Mullins asked if this was our second year in a row receiving the award? Mr. Brown said we had received one the year prior, but not twice in a row.

**B. Executive Director**

1. Commendation for Steve Bansek: Mr. Brown said Mr. Bansek served our board well. We're waiting for decreased covid restrictions and good weather to plan an event. He said the idea is to have a picnic before the June meeting and invite Mr. Bansek and other recent board members such as Barb Cook and Roberto Davila. It will be a social event to thank them for their service.

Mr. Mullins presented:

**A RESOLUTION COMMENDING STEVE BANSEK FOR HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE, DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT TO THE LORAIN PORT AUTHORITY.**

Mr. Kuszniir moved to approve Resolution No. 2021-11. Second by Mr. Zellers. Roll call vote as follows:

**Ayes: 9                      Nays: 0                      Abstain: 0                      Resolution Passed**

2. Controlled Burn: Mr. Brown said he sent out videos in an email prior to tonight's meeting. Reporter Rick Payerchin gave us great coverage in the Morning Journal newspaper as well. This was a big undertaking, and it went well. There was perfect wind and weather conditions. About 70 percent of the phragmite burned. Mr. Brown said he is happy to report no animal injuries during the burn. There was a walkthrough before and after. Some area enthusiasts were concerned about the birds and local wildlife. Mr. Brown assured them this would not harm the natural habitat and would benefit it. If you were to walk the berm today, you can actually see the water. The birds flew away during the burn, the phragmite burned very rapidly and the birds were returning 20 minutes later. Green grass remains and was left undamaged. The next phase will be much different and handled by the US Army Corps of Engineers. They will be rebuilding/repairing the berm. It could look very different by August/September. Mr. Brown said he is prepared to take phone calls and asked board members to direct calls to us, so they can then be directed to USACE. He explained the Diked Disposal Site is a federal construction site, and we simply manage it to make it as nice as possible. We will seed native plants later this year. Ms. McClelland thanked Mr. Nielsen for

saving the day during the burn. His kayak came in handy. Mr. Mullins asked about the beach to the east of the disposal site? Mr. Brown said another public input session will happen soon. A 204 study determines where the dredge material goes next. There has been talk about a breakwater, but surfers do not want that to happen. It's in the design/public input phase right now. It has not been budgeted yet. The study is in process now.

3. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Lorain County Sheriff's Office: Mr. Brown said for many years as we've accepted the Marine Patrol Grant, we've had an unwritten MOU with the Sheriff's Office to deputize our officers. The Sheriff now wants a written MOU in place. They reached out and offered a simple agreement. The Lorain Police Department wanted to include other items in the MOU, so the city may want a secondary MOU to address their other concerns. Motion by Mr. Nielsen. Second by Mr. Veard. Motion carried.
4. US Army Corps of Engineers Moorage Agreement: Mr. Brown said this was discussed last month. We decided not to enter the agreement due to the cost. When we let them know that, they decided it was unfair to raise the rate. It would be retroactive to 2019 and be \$450 per moorage. Motion to approve by Mr. Nielsen. Second by Mr. Zgonc. Motion carried.

### **C. Assistant Director**

1. 2021 Leadership Lorain County Intern: Ms. McClelland said this is something we do every year. We have every intention of hiring someone, but it's hard to find people to intern. Leadership Lorain County has had a few changes. There is no agreement to present this year because we don't have an individual picked. Ms. McClelland urged everyone to send any college students they know to Leadership Lorain County. Due to the lack of interested students and abundance of positions, they're raising the pay rate from \$10 to \$12.50 per hour. Usually we pay 50%, so the rate would go up to \$6.25 for us. Budget wise, we can do that. We normally have great interns.

Mr. Mullins presented:

### **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OR HIS DESIGNEE**

**TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH LEADERSHIP LORAIN COUNTY IN REGARD TO SUMMER INTERN STAFFING.**

Mr. Sommers moved to approve Resolution No. 2021-12. Second by Mr. Zgonc. Roll call vote as follows:

**Ayes: 9                      Nays: 0                      Abstain: 0                      Resolution Passed**

**V. Report of Committees**

**A. Contract Management Committee**

1. 2021-2023 Insurance Proposal: Mr. Zellers said last week Mr. Brown sent over the insurance increases. Sommers Insurance has offered us a rate that went up 6%. Next largest was Marine liability and shipping. The pricing provided is for the next three years. Mr. Zgonc weighed in and didn't think it was necessary for a full presentation. Board approval is recommended. Mr. Brown said he believed it was a fair increase.

Mr. Mullins presented:

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PAYMENT TO SOMERS AGENCY, LLC FOR INSURANCE COVERAGE POLICIES FOR THE AGENCY.**

Mr. Zellers moved to approve Resolution No. 2021-13. Second by Mr. Zgonc. Roll call vote as follows:

**Ayes: 9                      Nays: 0                      Abstain: 0                      Resolution Passed**

2. 2021 Marine Patrol Grant Agreement: Mr. Brown said this is all based on the MOU mentioned earlier. We got the grant award late last week.

Mr. Mullins presented:

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OR HIS DESIGNEE TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES, DIVISION OF PARKS AND WATERCRAFT FOR THE 2021 MARINE PATROL PROGRAM, CONTINGENT UPON THE MOU WITH THE LORAIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE.**

Mr. Veard moved to approve Resolution No. 2021-14. Second by Mr. Nielsen. Roll call vote as follows:

**Ayes: 9                      Nays: 0                      Abstain: 0                      Resolution Passed**

**B. Strategic Development Plan Committee**

1. Mr. Kuzsnir said there was a good joint meeting with the Marketing and Public Affairs Committee despite strategic lacking a quorum. The presentations were good.

**C. Marketing and Public Affairs Committee**

1. Mr. Nielsen agreed with Mr. Kuzsnir and said there were a lot of good ideas shared. We had two interviews with potential architects for the stage project. One more interview coming up.
2. Marketing campaign: Mr. Brown said three t-shirt designs were created. We sought quotes and four items have been ordered to distribute opening night. Mr. Nielsen said the idea is to brand Black River Landing. With the success of Rockin' on the River, we want to revisit branding BRL. He said this year the slogan is "shakin' the rust off." Small budget for giveaways. We'll gauge the reaction and see how it goes. Next year we would like to sell BRL apparel. Mr. Zellers said he wants to tie in the stage top process to this.

**D. Grounds Maintenance and Capital Improvements Committee**

1. Mr. Brown said the old broken trash cans at Riverside Park and Lakeside Landing are being replaced by new blue dual trash and recycling cans. We plan to have branding on the cans. Our front grass was repaired and is growing back. At Lakeside Landing, the nice new swing was installed. Vegetation was taken out once a few years back and will be done again tomorrow. Landscaping was changed near the pergola at Black River Landing. The site is coming together. Mr. Brown said he's happy with progress so far at BRL.
2. Mr. Zellers asked about the LED lights. Mr. Brown said the new setup is working great.
3. Mr. Nielsen said he had no report.

**E. Financial Planning and Audit Committee**

1. April 2021 Financial Statement: Mr. Kuszniir said he reviewed the financial statements with Mrs. Smith. Everything looks good this month and he recommends approving it. Mr. Zellers moved to approve the April 2021 Financial Statement. Second by Mr. Kuszniir. Motion carried.
2. Advancement of Funds for Marine Patrol Grant: Mrs. Smith said earlier in the meeting the board passed the resolution to receive the Marine Patrol grant award. Due to the state’s fiscal year and the funding not being available until after June 30, we need to do an advancement of funds. It will be repaid before December 31, 2021. Mrs. Smith said this is essentially a loan from one fund to another.

Mr. Mullins presented:

**A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AN ADVANCEMENT OF FUNDS FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO A SPECIAL REVENUE MARINE PATROL FUND.**

Mr. Zellers moved to approve Resolution No. 2021-15. Second by Mr. Kuszniir. Roll call vote as follows:

**Ayes: 9                      Nays: 0                      Abstain: 0                      Resolution Passed**

**F. Bylaws and Personnel Committee**

1. Mrs. Smith said we’re adding a policy we’ve done in practice but not had in writing. On page 32, updated Ms. Tiffany McClelland’s title. She thanked Mr. Sommers for his input. Mr. Sommers apologized for not being able to meet before the meeting. Mr. Sommers moved to approve. Second by Ms. Bonilla. Motion carried.

**VI. Other Business**

- A. Mrs. Leyva-Smith mentioned the Caboose Committee Picnic.
- B. Mr. Zellers asked about the new board members introducing themselves. Mr. Vassie Scott said he has a business in Lorain and lives in Amherst. Ms. Tamika Bonilla said she lives in Lorain and was a 1991 grad of Admiral King High School. Lorain means a lot to her. She thinks it’s a gem and a beautiful area. She looks forward to working with everyone about getting the word out about how

great Lorain is. Ms. Bonilla also recently celebrated her 9<sup>th</sup> year in business. Mr. Mullins said we're happy to have the new members and looking to continue the positive momentum. Summer is an exciting time for the port.

**VII. Public Comment**

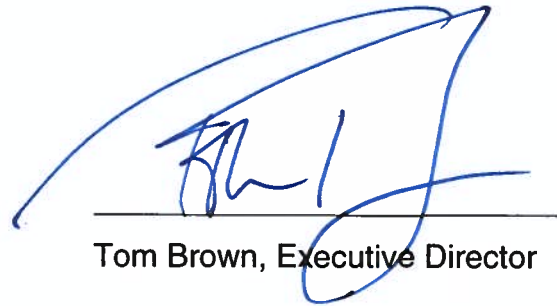
A. None.

**VIII. Adjournment**

A. There being no further business to come before the board, Mr. Nielsen moved to adjourn. Mr. Veard seconded. Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.



Brad Mullins, Chairman



Tom Brown, Executive Director