

Red Wing MN Port Authority 2021 Annual Report



Staff

Dan Rogness (Community Development Director / Executive Director), Shari Chorney (Port Authority Manager), Melissa Baartman (Community & Economic Development Facilitator); Dan Rogness was replaced by Kyle Klatt in September as the new Director.

Port Authority Board

Ralph Rauterkus (President), Beth Flattum (Vice President), Andrew Petersen (Treasurer), Evan Brown (Secretary and City Council), Jay Wardle, Becky Norton (City Council) and Pam Dahl.

Harbor Commission

William Simmons (President), Wylie Wilson (Vice President), Denny Tebbe, Jerry Cook, Mike Hill, Ron Collett, Paige Anderson, Greg Genz (Ex-Officio), Shari Chorney (Staff Liaison), Joe Melson (Staff Liaison), Lynn Nardinger (Staff Liaison).

Major Accomplishments

1. The Port Authority approved grants in the last of its three COVID-related business/organization financing assistance programs. This program (CARES Relief 911) distributed grants at \$4,000 or \$7,500 to 21 businesses, including home-based. This total allocation was \$118,000.
2. The Port Authority commissioned the University of MN Extension Service to complete an "Area Business Survey" to gain information on how local businesses are doing during COVID-19.
3. The Port Authority approved a contract with Perception INK to develop an economic development marketing plan/program.
4. The Port Authority approved a Redevelopment Study for the city-owned former Bauer Built property on Old West Main Street as completed by HKGi; reuse options will attract more people into this area.

5. The Port Board approved a new West End District Business Assistance Program to provide incentives for redevelopment projects that may include demolition, relocation and/or renovation.
6. The Port Board authorized the purchase of a vacant commercial building at 115 Dakota Street as a land-holding strategy for future redevelopment opportunities; the building was demolished in 2021.
7. The Port Board approved four Public Relations matching grants totaling \$17,500 to the Red Wing Chamber (downtown EV Charger), Downtown Main Street (Art Walk), Red Wing Arts (Fall Festival) and the Big Turn Music Fest.
8. The Port Authority issued matching grants worth \$12,688 that assisted six businesses in the Sign, Awning & Façade Grant Program.
9. Staff and the Port Authority continued working with its operator for the Little River Bulkhead (CD Terminal), which successfully moved 114,004 tons of product across the bulkhead, including Slag, Rebar, Scrap Metal, Salt, Coke, and Cotton Seed (compared to 115,019 tons in 2020).
10. The Harbor Commission and Port Authority saw riverboats stopping in Red Wing once again in 2020, including times where two riverboats docked at one time on the new Levee Park Dock.
11. The Port Authority continued to utilize the Harbor Commission for input and recommendations on various marina/waterfront topics, including the approval of a fiscal impact analysis for two city-leased privately operated marinas, and a structural analysis of the Little River Bulkhead.
12. The Port Authority's previous support for Old West Main Street reconstruction and the Upper Harbor bike/pedestrian bridge led to both projects being constructed in 2020 (partial completion of the street project and final completion of the bridge project).
13. Staff and a Port Board committee began to dialogue with local foundation representatives on supporting further downtown redevelopment and renewal. Staff worked directly with two or more potential developers looking at housing opportunities in the vacant Associated Bank and Maltery buildings (using a newly developed financing toolkit).
14. The Port Authority hired New History to provide professional technical assistance on the former Bauer Built site RFP process and on current/future downtown redevelopment opportunities.
15. The Port Authority Board developed and approved a 2022 budget of \$1,227,390 with a 2.5% tax levy increase (\$387,500); the Port's 2020 year-end fund balance was \$1,005,161.
16. The Port Authority participated in various meetings with the Minnesota Ports Association, developing a state capital bonding request to the state legislature for 2022. Red Wing identified two projects related to improvements at the bulkhead and repair/replacement of the Red Wing Grain dolphins, at a combined total estimated cost of \$1.5 million (80% bond financing).
17. The city of Red Wing welcomed a new industrial business, Volumetric Technologies, to occupy the vacant Republican Eagle building for its relocated home base (from Cannon Falls).
18. The Port Board welcomed its new Executive Director, Kyle Klatt, who replaced Dan Rogness due to his retirement at the end of 2021.

