

**MUSKEGON COUNTY
PORT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

January 24, 2017

Muskegon Innovation Hub
200 Viridan Drive
Muskegon, MI 49442

Committee Mission/Vision

Mission Statement – The Muskegon County Port Advisory Committee, working with private shoreline landowners, local and regional economic development partnerships, governmental units, and maritime/logistics experts will coordinate appropriate services, anticipate future needs, provide marketing assistance, and develop long-term strategies for economic growth and environmental sustainability at the Port of Muskegon.

Vision Statement – The Muskegon County Port Advisory Committee will serve Port of Muskegon partners in further development of West Michigan’s international and domestic logistics services through a coordinated strategy of planning, governmental assistance, and infrastructure improvements

1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Representatives	Present	Absent	Representatives	Present	Absent
Ben Cross, Vice Chair, County Commissioner, Chairman	X		Justin Headworth, Genesee & Wyoming		X
Ron Matthews, Verplank Dock. Co. Vice-Chairman	X		Ken Mahoney, County Board of Commissioners	X	
Susie Hughes, County Board of Commissioners	X		Dennis Marvin, Consumers Energy	X	
Kevin Ricco, GVSU	X		Frank Peterson, City Manager	X	
Michael Caliendo, Andrie, Inc.		X	Scott Musselman, CFO, West Michigan Dock & Market		X
Rick Chapla, West Michigan Economic Development Partnership		X	Charles Nash, County Board of Commissioners	X	
Joe Bailey, Great Lakes Dock		X	Kenneth Szallai Lake Express		X
Jack Kennedy, Road Commission	X		Arn Boezaart, Subject Matter Expert	X	
Ed Garner, KOMFTZ	X				

MINUTES

I. Call to Order – Meeting was called to order at 1:03pm by Ben Cross

- a. Introductions
 - i. Muskegon County Board Commissioner Susie Hughes was introduced as a new member, representing the slot reserved for Chair of the Muskegon County Public Works Board.
- b. Selection of Officers (Chairman and Vice-Chairman)
 - i. Since committee appointments for all members expired on December 31, 2016, selection of officers will be postponed until the March 28th meeting.
- c. Committee (re)appointments
 - i. Current members and any individuals interested in being appointed to the Port Advisory Committee must complete a committee appointment form. The form may be downloaded [HERE](#). Please return the completed application to:
Muskegon County Administration - Admin Coordinator
990 Terrace Street, Suite 416, Muskegon, MI 49442
Or e-mail to: chalkoli@co.muskegon.mi.us

II. Sub-Committee Reports

- a. Economic Development/Marketing Sub-Committee
 - i. B.C. Cobb Plant Status Update – Dennis Marvin, Consumers Energy
 - 1. Dennis Mavin provided the following status update:

In late November, we told you that our ability to move a final acquisition agreement to our Board of Directors and to the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) was delayed due to a very complex set of negotiation parameters which extended the timeframe longer than we originally projected. Today we are very pleased to let you know that last week, our Board of Directors did review and support the divestment acquisition agreement which enables us to file for approval with the MPSC. We expect to complete this filing within the next few weeks. From that point, the MPSC will have up to 180 days to review and make their decision about our filing (same amount of time as any regulatory filing we make as stipulated by state law). In the meantime, we expect to have more information for you around the time of our MPSC filing about the company that we have been in negotiation with since we made a decision about their selection to acquire the BC Cobb and JR Whiting sites. Thank you very much for your continued patience and support.

- ii. Erasmus University Rotterdam Student Research – Arn Boezaart
 - 1. Arn Boezaart provided a summary of the research done by the two students from Erasmus University Rotterdam. Their research studied the potential of agricultural exports through the Port of Muskegon. The reports will be made available on the Port of Muskegon website.

- b. Infrastructure Sub-Committee
 - i. 2017 Cruise Ships Update – Bob Lukens, Muskegon County
 - 1. Bob Lukens and Cindy Larsen provided an update on the status of the cruise ships coming in 2017. In addition to the returning Pearl Mist, the Victory Cruise Line has also scheduled a visit on September 23rd. More information is available on [Mlive](#). Marketing efforts continue to promote the port as a destination for cruise ships. Cindy Larsen will be attending upcoming conference to promote the port.

III. New Business

- a. Road Program – Ron Matthews, Verplank Trucking
 - i. Ron Matthews provided an overview of a study done by the state regarding the economic impact of the aggregate industry.
- b. American Great Lakes Port Association Winter Meeting – February 13th, Cleveland OH
 - i. County officials and staff will attend the AGLPA Winter Meeting on February 13th. A report of the event will be given at the March meeting.
- c. Port of Muskegon Shipyard/Ship Repair Facility Potential
 - i. Staff distributed a press release from the Lake Carriers' Association regarding the economic impact of Great Lakes Shipyards. It is estimated that a wintering vessel generates an additional \$800,000 in economic activity in the community in which it is moored. The Port of Muskegon offers infrastructure that could support a shipyard, or top side repair operations. Staff is interested in working with the private operators to determine the feasibility of this type of operation and identify steps to pursue the opportunity.

- d. Port of Muskegon Symposium with Rep. Bill Huizenga
 - i. Rep. Bill Huizenga is interested in hosting a Port of Muskegon Symposium to provide a community forum where open discussion can take place about Port development. This event will be considered for later in the year.

IV. Public Comment

V. Remaining 2017 Meeting Dates:

- March 28th
- May 23rd
- July 25th
- September 26th
- November 28th

VI. Adjournment – Meeting adjourned at 2pm