

## MINUTES OF THE MID-AMERICA PORT COMMISSION

July 14, 2025

Culver-Stockton College

1:15PM

1. Chairman Aeilts called the meeting to order at 1:15PM
2. Roll call of Board members Present: Aeilts, Munzlinger, Norris, Hinton, Roderick, Benjamin, Brownback, and Voss. The guests present were Bob Sinkler & Chris Smith (Corn Belt Ports), Debbie Husar (QHW), Chris Feeney (NEMO EDC), BJ Murray (IL DOT), Aspen Genenbacher (Muddy River News), Sean Freeman (Tri-State Development Culver-Stockton College) and Mike McLaughlin (MAIAPD).
3. Approval of April 14, 2025, meeting minutes: Motion by Norris to approve, second by Hinton. Motion Carried.
4. Reports:
  - 4.1. Financial Report – McLaughlin noted that balance was \$207.24 before adding \$5000 received from MAIAPD. Paid \$700 for Annual dues to the Missouri Port Authority Association.
  - 4.2. Staff Activity Report: none
  - 4.3. Chairman’s Report: none
  - 4.4. Committee Reports: none
  - 4.5. State updates:
    - 4.5.1. Illinois – BJ Murray - Rebuild IL \$150m project is ongoing, Rock Island and Savannah Projects are ongoing. An Illinois Marine Transportation study is in the works for both Public and Private terminals, this will include a database with rates for freight transportation. MAIAPD is doing a Mussel survey late summer, looking to have site completed during the Summer of 2026. Members thanked the MAIAPD for the continued financial support.
    - 4.5.2. Iowa: Port Association for Iowa Ports has been created with its only member at this time being Ports of Eastern Iowa. This is a municipality of the state similar to the Lee Co Port Authority. IOWA DOT updating the Iowa Freight Transportation Plan and is in talks with MAPC to coordinate extra-territorial input under a fee-for-services model from Illinois and Missouri ports, developers, and freight generators. Iowa was the only state in MAPC w/o a ports association.

4.5.3. Missouri: \$3 million capital improvements matching grant available for ports to apply for. FY27 money is now getting spoken for. Norris Hinton's position is expired but the search continues until it's filled. Blake has been working on this.

- 4.6. Federal Update: None
  - 4.7. Engineer: None
  - 4.8. Corn Belt ports: Trying to create Maritime Zone for marine prosperity – Hwy 35, will be finalized by 9/30/25. Pres Trump executive order has opened this opportunity. 20+terminal and 4 ship building yards. Corn Belt ports are being given the opportunity to host the National Waterways Conference Annual Meeting in 2026. No cost to ports, corporate funding covers cost of roughly \$20,000.
  - 4.9. Additional: Tri-State Summit Sept 24 & 25 - Illinois DOT Conference in Moline Oct 22-24 is free to attend. UMIMRA is now Mid-West Levee Association. The Annual Corn Belt Ports Annual meeting might look different due to this. Roderick suggested that MAPC be involved earlier in meeting format and agenda planning.
- 5. Acceptance of Reports: Mike Norris motioned to accept reports, seconded by Norris Hinton. Motion carried.
  - 6. Old Business (none)
  - 7. New Business: (none)
  - 8. Resolutions and Ordinances (none)
  - 9. Date of next meeting: October 13, 2025, 1:00pm, CSC IDEA Center. Motion made by Brownback and seconded by Hinton. Motion carried.
  - 10. Public input: None
  - 11. Executive Session: None
  - 12. Adjourn: Blake Roderick motioned to adjourn the meeting at 2:00pm. Seconded by Mike Norris, motion carried.