

**City of Portage
Ad Hoc Canal Committee Meeting
Wednesday, October 7, 2015**

Field Visit 2:30 p.m. (Meet at the City Municipal Building, 115 West Pleasant Street, transportation will be provided.)

Meeting will follow field visit, approximately 4:00 p.m. at the City Municipal Building, 115 West Pleasant Street, Conference Room One

Agenda

Members: Fred Galley, Chairperson; Chris Arnold, Ron Dorn, Jerry Foellmi, Marianne Hanson, Doug Klapper, Bob Redelings, Jesse Spankowski (citizen member), Mayor William Tierney ex-officio

1. Roll Call
2. Discussion and possible action on minutes from 8/13/15 meeting.
3. Columbia County Buildings/US 51 Reconstruction/Canal Projects meeting
4. DNR Update from Scott Inman, DNR representative
5. SEH Design Session Jill Fehrman and Darren Fortney
 - Wisconsin River Lock bridge
 - Boat Launch and ramp
 - Canal Width Segment 2
 - Future maintenance
 - Storm Water Outlets
 - Under RR bridge
 - Hamilton St. - McPearson St. bridge
6. Set Next Meeting Date
7. Adjournment

**City of Portage
Ad Hoc Canal Committee Meeting
Thursday, August 13, 2015, 5:00 p.m.
Municipal Building, Conference Room One
Minutes**

Members present: Fred Galley, Chairperson; Ron Dorn, Marianne Hanson, Doug Klapper, Bob Redelings, Jesse Spankowski (citizen member), Mayor William Tierney ex-officio

Members excused: Chris Arnold

Members absent: Jerry Foellmi

Others present: Scott Inman, Shawn Murphy, Darren Fortney, Jill Fehrman, Karen Richardson, Bill Welsh and Craig Sauer

1. Roll Call

2. Discussion and possible action on minutes from 4/13/15 meeting.

Motion by Klapper, second by Dorn to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

3. Columbia County Fair booth report.

Galley said the booth provided a very positive exposure of the canal project and Klapper indicated the information presented was very much appreciated.

4. DNR Update from Scott Inman, DNR representative

Mr. Inman provided an update to the DNR remediation investigation process. Ten Statement of Qualifications (SOQs) were received in March and short-listed to 4 firms. Proposals were received from these firms and 2 firms were interviewed for the work. Rambo & Environ was selected to perform the remedial investigation feasibility study, which is scheduled for completion in September, 2016. The study will incorporate AdHoc Canal meeting discussions.

5. SEH Kick Off, Welcome Jill Fehrman and Darren Fortney

- Review the scope of work planned.
- Identify areas where additional information/coordination may be required early in the process.
- Public/Committee Involvement Going Forward

Ms. Fehrman indicated the only work in segment 1 is the pedestrian bridge at the locks.

In segment 2, hydrology would be performed to ensure stormwater conveyance would be accommodated while simultaneously analyzing the potential for a reduced cross-section with sloped walls.

Features to initially investigate include:

- The second pedestrian bridge & verifying the location (Hamilton St.?)
- Identifying a small watercraft access point (Adams St.?)
- Coordination with the C.P. railroad for the bridge under the tracks and connecting the paved path with Superior St.

Segments 3 & 4 will only be examined conceptually, but the Environmental Report (E.R.) will view these segments as a consistent system. The historical elements and 4f. criteria will also be initially examined.

The first Public Information Meeting (P.I.M.) is scheduled for January, 2016 to present options. Another P.I.M. will be held in August, 2016 to present the preferred alternative. The goal is to have the E.R. signed by April, 2017.

SEH's initial effort will include survey and data acquisition in concert with Agency scoping. They'll be relying on direction from the City regarding the locations of the second bike/pedestrian crossing and the small watercraft access point(s).

Klapper inquired whether the watercraft access point would be able to launch a weed cutter. Ms. Fehrman indicated more information would be needed on the equipment. Dorn suggested a parking area would also be beneficial at this site.

Galley expressed concerns about the Adams St. stop log structure. The ultimate goal would include a bridge at this location – to provide continuous small watercraft navigation. The stop log structure was constructed as part of the levee project to minimize the effect of water seepage during high water events on the Wisconsin River. It's difficult to determine the benefits of the increased water height in the canal. No problems have been identified although the City has removed the stop logs many times – normally during periods of low water.

This is an important item which needs to be addressed. The increased water height also provides the benefit of having more water in the canal on a regular basis. Removing the stop logs permanently would result in water depths of less than 2 feet – resulting in an undesirable effect on water quality. A possible solution would be to increase the water elevation in segments 2, 3 and 4 by relocating the stop log structure to the location of the former Fox River locks.

As for future meetings, Mr. Inman requested he be informed as to whether project meetings would be public meetings or staff meetings. He needs to apprise his constituents of public meetings. Administrator Murphy said many meetings would be staff meetings. Galley was concerned that the Committee's desires may be overlooked. Mayor Tierney said there'll be coordination with the Committee, but financial decisions will be made by the City Council.

Klapper requested to be apprised of upcoming meetings. Klapper requested to be apprised of any meetings not including the adhoc committee. Upon request he will be given a rundown of what was discussed and what decisions were made. Emails pertaining to the Portage Canal will also be copied to Klapper.

6. Set Next Meeting Date

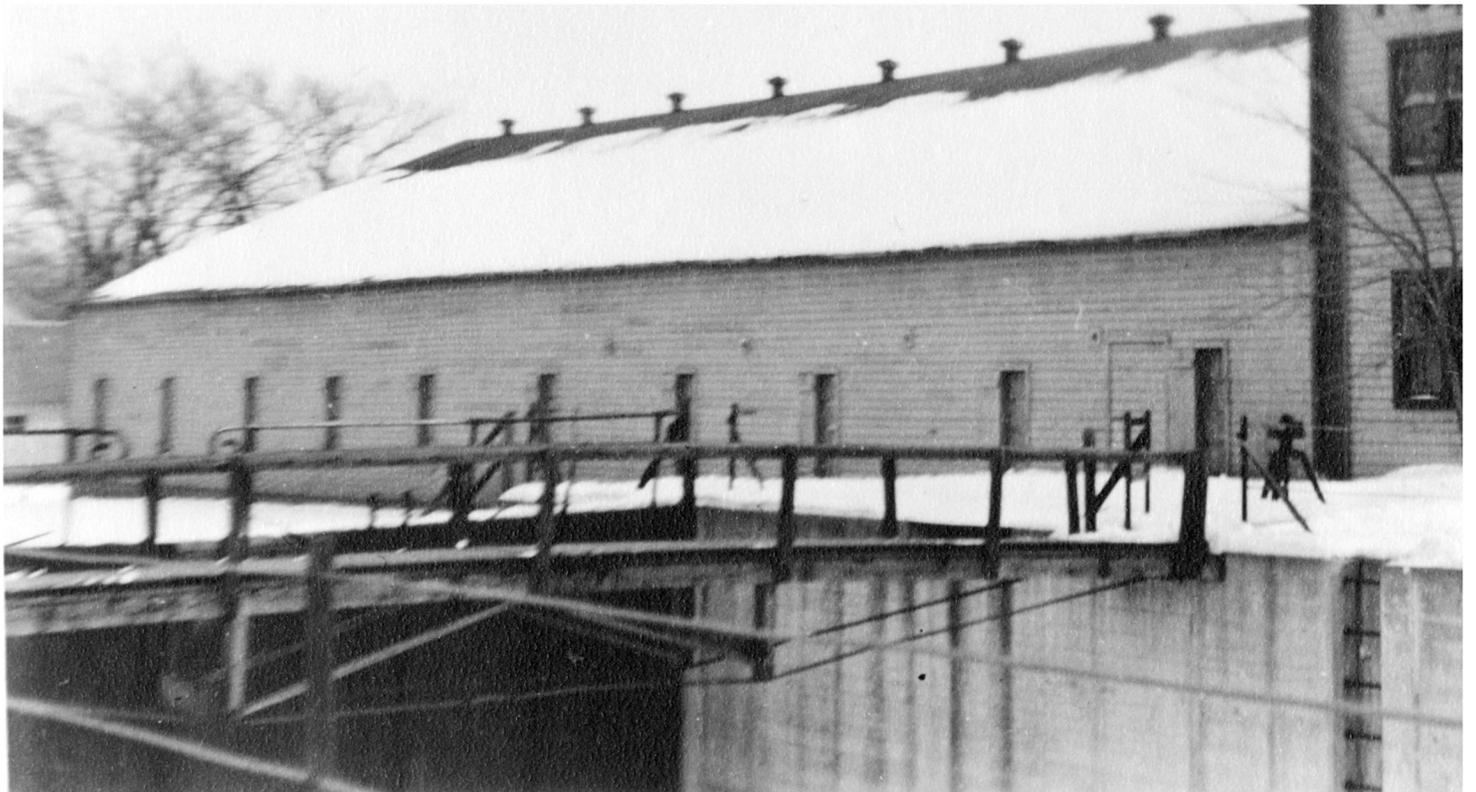
Though a date wasn't set, it appears that a meeting in September is appropriate and should include a site visit.

7. Adjournment

Motion by Redelings, second by Hanson to adjourn. Passed unanimously.

The meeting concluded at 5:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Robert G. Redelings, City Engineer

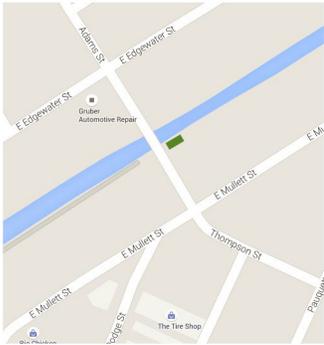


Wisconsin River Lock

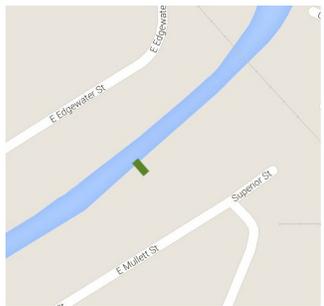
Proposed and Existing Boat Ramps & Lanches on the Portage Canal



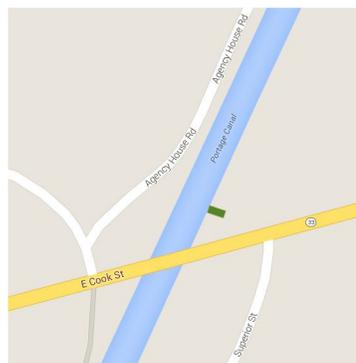
Proposed portage from Wisconsin River to Portage Canal
 McFarland Street, Portage Levee, West End Portage Canal Stairway from Wisconsin River level to top of Levee Trail.
 Mowed area at West end of Portage Canal next to water inlet structure.



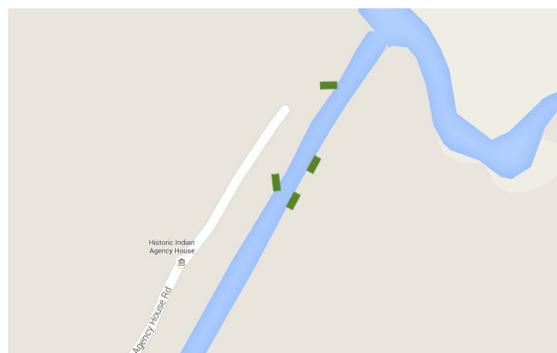
Proposed Adams Street & Portage Canal
 Fox Wisconsin Heritage Parkway has proposed a handicap access boat launch at this site.



Existing DNR boat ramp Mullett Street.
 DNR built a boat ramp to get test equipment into canal.
 Rough but useable.

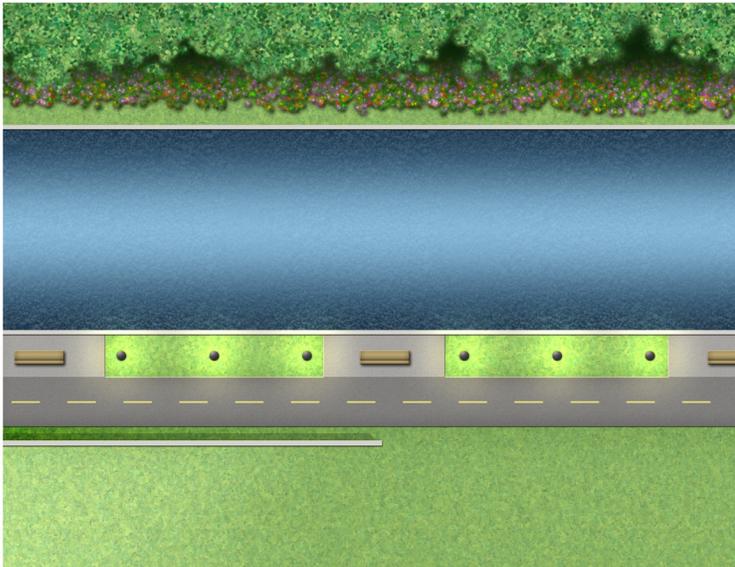
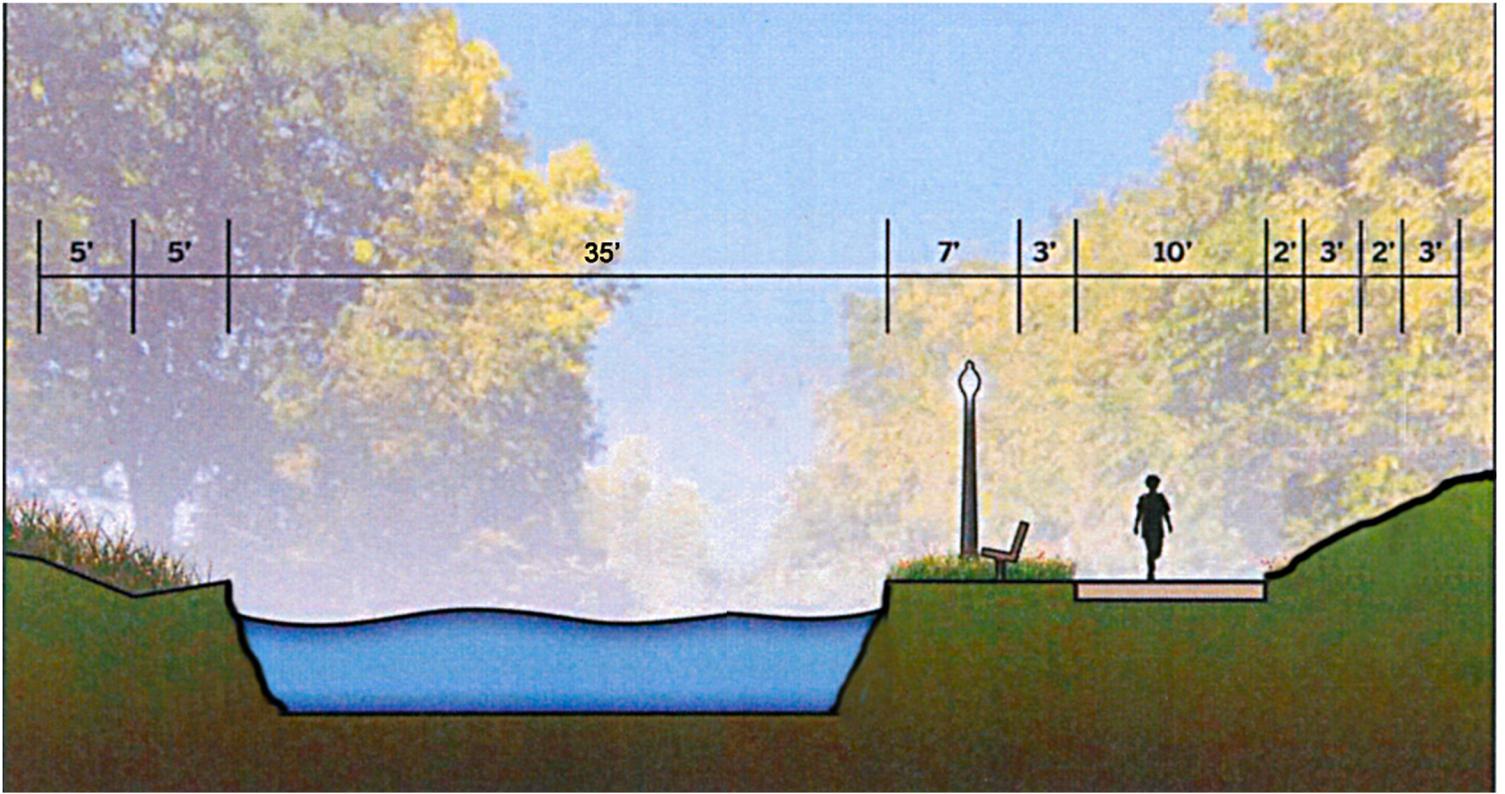


Existing Hwy. 33 & Portage Canal
 Natural boat ramp adjacent to parking area.



Existing Fort Winnebago Lock
 Boat ramps on both the upper and lower.
 (West Side)
 Boat Launches on both the upper and lower.
 (East Side)





Lutz Park Accesable landing



Sample



Sample



Hamilton Street



McPearson St.



Hamilton - McPearson St. Bridge

