

**Lake County Ohio Port & Economic Development Authority (LCOPEDA)  
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, September 15, 2021**

**Call to Order:** Chairman, Art Lindrose, called to order the regularly scheduled meeting held in person in the Lake Erie Conference Room 105 Main Street, Suite 505A, Painesville, OH 44077 at 3:01 pm with the pledge of allegiance and roll call. Board members in attendance included Mark Freeman, Kevin Freese, Nate Hicks, Bill Martin, John Rampe, Jim Struna, Wally Siegel, and John Uhran (Vice-chair).

**Others in attendance:** Dave Anderson, Tim Cahill, Debbie Connor, Patrick Mohorcic, Brandon Dynes, and Chad Felton.

**Approval of Minutes:** The members of the board were provided with electronic copies of the minutes from the August 25, 2021 meeting in advance. A motion was made by Mr. Siegel and seconded by Mr. Struna to approve the minutes as presented. The motion was approved with a 9-0 vote.

**Reports and Communications of Officers and Committees:**

Chairman's report – Mr. Lindrose commented that the old logo of the LCOPEDA would only be in effect for about 15 minutes. Secondly, he expressed that he is really excited about being on the cuff of getting things done on the coast. He commended Mr. Anderson and the staff.

Executive Director's report – Mr. Anderson shared a presentation of the rebranding process.

Presentation: He began back in 2005 where a need for a county Port Authority came to light. He continued with a brief history of the beginning of "Port Authority". A stakeholder group of about 100 local businessmen was developed with he, Harry Allen, Jr., and Jim Brown as co-chairs. They collected data, held discussions and reported to the BOCC. The County Commissioners agreed with the need and the Lake County Port Authority was established February of 2007 with three main goal; implement a Coastal Development Plan, acquire and operate Lost Nation Airport and to function as the Economic Development arm of the Lake County Commissioners.

Mr. Anderson jumped ahead to today and on to the re-branding process. He explained that the current name was cumbersome and often affiliated with ports. The goal of rebranding was to find an identity that was intuitive, attractive and relevant. Purple Carrot was the firm hired. We identified 5 areas that we are highly involved with; finance, partnership, spaces, transportation, and community. We studied functional and aspirational designs focused on accelerating projects and arrived at the name Lake Development Authority. There is a resolution on the agenda today ratifying and approving the name change.

**Public Comments:** There were no public comments.

**Economic Development:**

Public Finance & Chief Financial Officer – As CFO, Mr. Cahill advised the board the State Audit was complete and was a clean audit with no findings. He contributed Debbie Connor’s hard work and assistance to the outcome. In reference to the Airport Budget, he commented that we will be receiving \$ 59,000 in federal grant funds and we will be adding that into the 2021 budget and we are working on an adjustment. He did not expect an adjustment in the Port’s Budget. Mr. Cahill, as Deputy Director of Public Finance, commented on the two bond projects in the works; one is with CRW III LLC, (Marous Bros.) and we are moving quickly on that project. Mr. Cahill also gave a quick update on the Omni Living project; he is guessing this will close the end of October or November. He advised the board that we may need a special meeting in October.

Lake County Executive Airport – Mrs. Fulop let the board know we are finally seeing some movement on the closeouts of both the Master Plan grant and the Fence Construction grant. FAA has made some comments and asked for some additional information. A response to their comments was already sent on the Master Plan grant and a response to the Fence grant will go out in the next few days. It has been determined that our FAA project for 2021 will be funded 100%; no grant match required. We have a couple of ODOT grants tied to these closeouts that will also be finalized once FAA’s work is complete. We applied to ODOT for a grant to remove a power pole at Hodgson & Lost Nation Road and some additional trees in our RPZ. Mrs. Fulop let the board know that FAA will be approving development around the airport using the “Part 77 surfaces” going forward instead of the more stringent “departure surfaces” previously used. That will open up some development along Lost Nation Road and we will reevaluate the best use of the property. MIBEC got through the City of Willoughby’s planning commission and are working on permits to get construction underway. FAA will require a new land release for the Sport’s Park lease on the soccer field and we are putting that together now. Patty also played a new portion of our AWOS recording that alerts pilots to our voluntary noise abatement procedures.

Coastal Development – Deputy Director, Patrick Mohorcic reported that meetings have been taking place to get the project at Stanton Park closed out. The project is substantially complete, but there is some erosion on the west end to be worked out. At Fairport Harbor Marina, we got our most up to date design today and are expecting updated cost estimates. He discussed the break wall which will be extended out for more depth to accommodate the ODNR research vessel. We are looking at funding sources possibly a Coastal Management Assistance Grant (CMAG) or the US Economic Development Association (USEDA) which has travel and tourism funds for large scale construction projects. This may help to build our capital stack. We will evaluate once we know more. Auburn Career Center may also look to have firefighting training there that could also open up funds. With the Dredge Facility, we are meeting tomorrow with state legislators looking to get state ARPA funds. There is a resolution today for a change order for Kurtz Bros. It is a necessary change for more soil borings. His benefit/cost analysis shows that over a 20-year period this project could save \$ 20 million on dredging. Mr. Mohorcic updated the board on the Brownfield Assessment Grant. Guidance still has not been released; it may be December until we see that. In the meantime, he is attempting to have eligible projects around the county lined up and have as much information as available about those projects hoping one or more will align with the guidance. He is also working with Lakeland to develop a Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy or CEEDS plan (also through USED A) to help with funding efforts. He is in conversation with NOACA to put together a regional Coastal Development Plan with Lorain, Cuyahoga and Lake counties.

Mr. Anderson let the board know that Patrick Mohorcic, as busy as he has been, just completed his Masters of Public Administration Degree. The board and staff congratulated him.

**Other Economic Development Business:** None

**Resolutions and Motions:**

- a. **2021-31:** Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Lake County Ohio Port and Economic Development Authority (LCOPEDA) Ratifying and Approving a name change from Lake County Ohio Port and Economic Development Authority to Lake Development Authority. A motion was made by Mr. Siegel and seconded by Mr. Struna to approve resolution 2021-31. The resolution was approved as presented with a 9-0 vote.
  
- b. **2021-32:** Resolution of the Board of Directors of the Lake County Ohio Port and Economic Development Authority (LCOPEDA) Authorizing a Change Order and Amendment to Agreements with Kurtz Bros., Inc. for Additional Testing and Services Related to the Dredge Facility Project. A motion was made by Mr. Siegel and seconded by Mr. Struna to approve resolution 2021-32. The resolution was approved as presented with a 9-0 vote.

**New Business:** None

**Board Remarks:** Mr. Rampe commented that he was not enthusiastic about spending money on a rebranding project, but the end result is impressive and he would like to see our strategic plan brought in line with it. Mr. Anderson gave kudos to Debbie, Patrick and Biljana for bringing it all together. Patrick encouraged the board to fool around with the new website and let us know if they see anything that still needs fixing. Tim Cahill reminded the board we are having our first (since the pandemic) economic development quarterly luncheon tomorrow where Mr. Anderson will be sharing our rebranding presentation with local economic development officials from around the county.

**Adjournment:** A motion was made by Mr. Siegel and seconded by Mr. Struna to adjourn the public meeting at 3:55 pm. The meeting was adjourned by consensus.