

February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020

The Des Moines County Board of Supervisors met in SPECIAL session at the Court House in Burlington at 9 AM on Thursday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020, with Chairman Tom Broeker, Vice-Chair Jim Cary and Member Bob Beck present.

Unless otherwise noted, all motions passed unanimously. The Pledge of Allegiance was conducted.

Douglas Aeilts, Mid America Port Commission Chair was present to discuss the Port Commission and Port Statistical Areas (PSA). Aeilts stated Mid America Port was established after the Flood of 1993. A need for a PSA is more of a marketing economic tool. He presented a resolution for Des Moines County to join Mid America Port Commission which includes the Illinois River and Mississippi River waterways in its boundary. Charles Fell, Executive Director for Mid America Port Commission was present. Fell discussed the tonnage of products being shipped on the rivers. 3,000,000 tonnage is being shipped between Des Moines County and Lee County. He stated a lot of tonnage is not being reported and referenced the Corp of Engineers, they believe 30% to 40% is not being reported due to the extensive reporting process. Aeilts and Fell encouraged the county to remain in Mid America Port Commission Statistical Area. Jeremy Hess, Director of Economic Development at Greater Burlington Partnership spoke. He feels creating the new PSA will give them more tools to encourage economic development. Ranking of ports can possibly assist in getting new monies and additional employment in the area. Broeker thanked everyone for attending. He stated being in another PSA does not affect Des Moines County's membership in Mid America Port Commission. Currently, Iowa does not have a federally recognized port. The creation of the new PSA will help the entire area and track statistics. It does not cost to join a PSA and the County can opt out at any time. Colonel Robert Sinkler had discussed the need for a Port Statistical Area at the Tri State Summit held in Quincy, Illinois last fall. Broeker recommended Colonel Sinkler's creation of the Mississippi River Ports of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois. Cary appreciated everything he heard today but agrees with Mr. Hess's comments on economic tools. Beck agreed to the new statistical area. Broeker read the resolution into record. Beck motioned to approve, and Cary seconded.

**DES MOINES COUNTY RESOLUTION #2020-006**

A resolution of and by Des Moines County, Iowa is supporting the creation of the statistical boundaries of the Mississippi River Ports of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois.

WHEREAS, the collection of waterborne commerce statistics pertaining to rivers, harbors, and waterways and the compilation and publication of such data by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are required by federal law; and

WHEREAS, creation of the statistical boundaries of the Mississippi River Ports of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois would more accurately reflect the local waterborne commerce activity and increase tonnage recorded by the Waterborne Commerce Statistics Center of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Navigation and Civil Works Decision Support Center, ranking the Port among the inland ports in the United States further supporting local economic development; and

WHEREAS, the proposed creation of the statistical boundaries will provide the opportunity for marketing and investment opportunities which could lead to job creation and economic growth for Des Moines County, Iowa; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Des Moines County, Iowa supports the port statistical boundary creation of the Mississippi River Ports of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois between Mississippi River mile 361.5 and river mile 583.0 to include the riverfront of Des Moines County from river mile 396 to river mile 425.5 on the Mississippi River. Said support extends for statistical purposes only and not to any waterways organization or further control of the Mississippi River nor does the port designation impact any existing or future public port, terminal, or economic development authorities.

PASSED AND APPROVED THIS 6<sup>th</sup> DAY OF February 2020.

Board of Supervisors Chair

Board of Supervisors Vice-Chair  
Board of Supervisors Member  
Attest

Meeting was adjourned at 9:53 AM.

This Board meeting is recorded and kept on file for two years. The meeting minutes and audio are posted on the county's website [www.dmcountry.com](http://www.dmcountry.com)

Approved February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020  
Tom Broeker, Chairman  
Attest: Terri Johnson, Auditor