



VANDEWALLE & ASSOCIATES INC.

To: Common Council, City of Wisconsin Rapids
Plan Commission, City of Wisconsin Rapids
Recovery and Reuse Project Steering Committee

From: Scott Harrington, AICP, Principal Planner
Sonja Kruesel, AICP, Associate Planner

Date: February 24, 2022

Re: Recovery and Reuse Plan Progress Report

Vandewalle & Associates and a sub-consultant team have contracted with the City of Wisconsin Rapids to develop a Recovery and Reuse Plan and Implementation Strategy in response to the idling of the Verso Papermill. This memo provides a status update as project work continues to progress. Previous reports were provided in December 2021 and January 2022.

Current Tasks in Progress

- “Forest Industries of the Future” industry symposium targeted for mid-April. Together with sub-consultant Eric Singaas, detailed planning of invitees, symposium format, and coordination of industry speakers is in progress. An earlier date was initially targeted for this event. However, after discussions regarding other regional efforts occurring through March, specifically the EDA Grant application lead by the Wisconsin Paper Council related to forest industry products, we determined a later date was best suited to avoid any scheduling conflicts between symposium participants and grant writing participants, or confusion of efforts.
- Coordinating a meeting with local and regional economic development professionals.
- Coordinating public input visioning session.
- Coordinating common council work session.
- Completed Steering Committee meeting.
- Completing detailed inventory of structures on the Rapids site and analyzing reuse potential.
- Completed initial report on workforce data and supply chain analysis and impacts. Findings from these reports will be summarized in the upcoming events and public work sessions listed above.
- Additional outreach efforts including meetings with the stakeholders listed below. In these conversations, we have learned more about significant efforts by other agencies and will continue to analyze how best to coordinate this work with the Rapids project.
 - Wisconsin Paper Council Leadership, Scott Suder and Stacey Johnson
 - Wisconsin Institute of Sustainable Technology (WIST)
 - Attended Central Wisconsin Days event at the State Capitol, including a presentation rolling-out a new regional workforce attraction marketing campaign lead by Centurgy.

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