



MILWAUKEE COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Supervisor Sheldon A. Wasserman - District 3

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Supervisor Wasserman Announces Removal of Abandoned Boat from Milwaukee County Shoreline

MILWAUKEE – After more than six months stranded between McKinley and Bradford Beaches, the 33-foot vessel known locally as “The S.S. Minnow” has been removed from Milwaukee County’s shoreline. Supervisor Sheldon A. Wasserman, Chair of the Committee on Parks and Culture, announced today that removal efforts were a success.

“This boat has been an eyesore and a hazard for far too long,” said Supervisor Wasserman. “The County is taking action per the advice of Corporation Counsel, and because we can’t wait any longer. In addition to action taking place on the beach, we are pursuing every legal avenue to ensure taxpayers aren’t left footing the bill for someone else’s negligence.”

Following guidance from Milwaukee County Corporation Counsel, the County is solely responsible for the vessel’s removal because the boat is embedded in the bedrock. Neither the U.S. Coast Guard nor the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources has jurisdiction in the matter.

The Parks Department has hired a contractor to remove and salvage the vessel at an estimated cost of up to \$55,000.

Wasserman emphasized that the County continues to investigate the boat’s ownership and is seeking reimbursement from those legally responsible.

“There are ongoing questions about who holds the title, and if the transfer was never properly completed, the original owners may still be liable,” said Wasserman. “Either way, Milwaukee County residents shouldn’t be forced to cover the cost of cleaning up after out-of-state tourists who abandoned their boat and their responsibility.”

A previously mentioned anonymous donor, who had expressed interest in helping cover removal costs, has not contacted the County, and no formal offer has been received.

The vessel was originally abandoned in October 2024 by a couple from Mississippi who reportedly ran out of fuel during a storm. They have since returned home without recovering the boat.

“We’re restoring our shoreline,” added Wasserman. “And we’ll do everything possible to hold the right parties accountable.”

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