

Analysis

On June 6, 2017, a towboat named James H. Hunter, owned and operated by Hunter Marine Transport, Inc, was navigating the Cumberland River in Nashville. The pilot of the vessel turned the vessel too sharply causing a barge in tow to break loose and collide with a floating dock owned and operated by the Metropolitan Government. In January 2018, Hunter Marine Transport, Inc, and the James H. Hunter towboat were purchased by Hines Furlong Line, Inc.

The floating dock, which is managed by the Metro Department of Parks and Recreation, was severely damaged due to the collision. At least six concrete modules were damaged beyond repair and cables holding the modules were also damaged. The steel gangway ramp was damaged beyond repair and the steel stiff arms holding the dock to the shore also suffered extensive damage. In addition to the damage, Parks and Recreation lost moorage fees estimated to be approximately \$33,000.

The Department of Law recommends settling Metro's claim for \$285,000. This proposed settlement amount represents the midpoint between the parties' disagreement regarding replacement costs and the depreciation of the dock. This midpoint would be a replacement cost valuation of \$263,000 for the dock plus \$22,000 for the moorage fees.

Fiscal Note: Metro will receive a settlement in the amount of \$285,000 to be paid to the General Fund.