

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE GREATER LAFOURCHE PORT COMMISSION
AUGUST 7, 1961

The regular monthly meeting of the Greater Lafourche Port Commission was held at the domicile of said Commission at Galliano, Louisiana, on August 7, 1961, at 2:00 o'clock P. M., pursuant to written notice to all members. President Rappelet presided. The roll was called. The following members were present:

A. O. Rappelet
Leo Theriot
Clerville Kief
J. A. Egle'
Dudley Bernard
Luke Charpentier
Harrison Cheramie
Euzebe "Neb" Chouest

Members absent were:

Joseph Defelice

Also present at the meeting were: John Cox, bonding attorney; and Edward T. Diaz, legal counsel.

It was moved, seconded and unanimously carried that the reading of the minutes of the previous meeting be dispensed with. The members who were absent from the previous meeting stated that they would read the minutes following the meeting.

The President gave a report of the trip to Belle Pass with the U. S. Corps of Engineers, Department of Public Works, members of the Board, and representatives of the California Company. This trip was an inspection tour and preliminary survey to relieve shallow condition of Belle Pass as it is today. The President stated that letters of appreciation would be sent to the Corps of Engineers, and all others who accompanied the Board members on this trip for their assistance and co-operation. He stated that the trip was very successful from a good will standpoint.

The President stated that he had called Bob Hunter, Russell Long's Secretary, and gave him a report of the findings of the trip. He stated that Senators Long and Ellender will come back before the Senate Appropriations Committee and ask for \$100,000.00 toward construction work at Belle Pass.

The President called the Governor's office to expedite the approval of the State Board of Liquidation to borrow \$25,000.00 from bank. He was advised that a meeting of the Board would be held the following day.

The President stated that he had received from Russell Long's office nine copies of H. R. 4569 "Area Re-development Act", dated February 20, 1961, by Mr. Spence, so he had called Bob Hunter, Senator Long's Secretary, and asked him for details about this bill. He stated that he would look into this bill and advise the Board.

President Rappolet referred to an article in the Times-Picayune which stated that a preliminary meeting was set for re-development areas. Henry Davis, Director of Commerce and Industry, is head of this project. There was some discussion as to whether or not our area could be declared a re-development area. The President contacted Mr. Davis and was referred to Mr. Horan. He set up a special meeting for 2:00 o'clock P. M., on August 14, 1961, which Mr. Horan will attend and possibly bring a federal man with him. Mr. Horan stated on the telephone that a feasibility survey should be made, showing statistics of the shrimp industry, the trapping industry, and the fishing industry, all of which are seasonal, the cost of the survey will have to be borne by the Port Commission as the Federal Government will not pay for same.

At this point, Mr. Cox stated that a feasibility plan would have to be made at earliest possible date, as the government would not want to support any community which will not develop.

The President read with regret a letter of resignation of Joseph Defelice, and on motion of Leo Theriot, seconded by Luke Charpentier, and unanimously carried, Clerville Kief was appointed Acting Secretary for this meeting.

The President read a request for a dredging permit from Tennessee Gas and stated that it would be placed on the agenda of a future meeting whereat a Permit Committee would be appointed to pass on permits for dredging, etc.

It was moved by Dudley Bernard, seconded by Clerville Kief, and unanimously carried, that Tennessee Gas Company be notified not to proceed with proposed pipeline until a survey is made by engineers, giving an outline of channel route and extension into Gulf of Mexico.

There was considerable discussion as to whether or not the Board should hire an engineer. The President stated that we are getting free engineering advice from the Dept. of Public Works at the present time. Rules and regulations for the Commission will be set up in the near future.

It was moved by Euzebe Chouest, seconded by Harrison Cheramie that the By-Laws of the Commission be changed to add two new members, and that Article VI, Section 1, be changed to read Five instead of Four.

The President then requested John Cox to give a report on the sale of bonds. Mr. Cox reported that due to the wording of the Act, he was not able to sell the bonds as the Act stated that the full faith and credit of the Parish of Lafourche shall be pledged and no political subdivision can legally pledge the credit of a Parish for the benefit of one organization. He stated that the Board had several alternatives... they could go into Court and get a ruling, but might have some interference, or the wording of the Act could be changed in a session of the Legislature. The Board deferred action on the sale of bonds and put it in the hands of the Bonding Attorney.

Upon motion of Harrison Cheramie, seconded by Euzebe Chouest, and unanimously carried, it was;

8 RESOLVED, that the Greater Lafourche Port Commission does hereby petition the Honorable Jimmy H. Davis, Governor of the State of Louisiana, to place on his agenda, in the event a special call for a session of the legislature is called, the notice that it is critical that a bill to amend the laws pertaining to the Greater Lafourche Port Commission, which are presently in existence, be placed in the official call for said special session.

On motion of Luke Charpentier, seconded by Harrison Cheramie, and unanimously carried, it was:

9 RESOLVED, that the Dept. of Public Works be requested to draw plans and specifications for the damming of the east branch of Bayou Lafourche emptying into the Gulf of Mexico known as Old Fouchon, and the damming of Evans Canal which empties into Bayou Lafourche and the narrowing of Fisherman's Canal at its mouth at Bayou Lafourche by installing a baffle type bulkhead on the North West corner of the Havoline Canal, formerly known as Backamo Canal, at its entrance into Bayou Lafourche and any other streams which may tend to divert water of Bayou Lafourche from going into Belle Pass other than navigable streams below Leeville.

On motion of Dudley Bernard, seconded by Euzebe Chouest, and unanimously carried, it was:

10 WHEREAS, the Lafourche Seaway Project, undertaken by the Greater Lafourche Port Commission, will be conducted jointly with the Lafourche Jump Waterway Project, presently under implementation by the U. S. Corps of Engineers, pursuant to studies already made by the U. S. Corps of Engineers, which studies reveal the necessity for immediate relief to the waterway traffic in the areas encompassed by said joint projects

WHEREAS, the Area Re-Development studies presently underway by the Federal Government indicate that certain areas of the U. S. may be designated as being eligible for re-development projects;


WHEREAS, the tenth ward of the Parish of Lafourche, which is the area served by the Greater Lafourche Port Commission, has as one of its primary industries the seasonal shrimp and trapping industries, which shrimp and trapping industry, because of its seasonal nature, causes periodic unemployment, and in view of the recent successive very poor shrimp seasons, the economy of the tenth ward, the Parish of Lafourche, is undergoing a serious economic depressed situation

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Greater Lafourche Port Commission, that the Honorable Senator Allen J. Ellender, the Honorable Russell Long, and the Honorable Congressman Edwin E. Willis, meet and they are hereby petitioned to assist the Greater Lafourche Port Commission in any manner that they may see fit to have the Tenth Ward, Parish of Lafourche, declared to be an Area entitled to participate in the Area Re-Development program presently under study by the Federal Government, in order that the Greater Lafourche Port Commission may have the benefits of immediate participation in that program which will facilitate the development of the Port Commission area as a port and

harbor facility with deep water navigation channels so that the industrial potential of the area may be developed to such an extent that the area will provide year round employment and alleviate the yearly fluctuation of the economy.

There being no further business, it was moved, seconded and unanimously carried that the meeting be adjourned.

ATTEST:



President

Acting Secretary