

AGENDA  
MARCH 13, 2002

- I. Call to Order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Consider February 20, 2002 Regular Meeting Minutes for approval  
Consider February 27, 2002 Special Meeting Minutes for approval  
Consider March 4, 2002 Public Hearing Minutes for approval
- V. Executive Director's Report
  - A. Northern Expansion Update
    - a. Construction status:
      - i. West Bulkhead – John Plaisance
      - ii. East Bulkhead – John Plaisance
      - iii. Hydraulic Dredging – John Plaisance
      - iv. Bucket Dredging – Larry Picciola
      - v. Clovelly Road – Joe Picciola
  - B. Highway Improvements
  - C. Millennium Port Update
  - D. Airport Update
- VI. Committee Reports
  - A. Executive Committee
    - a. Adopt ad valorem tax millage for 2002
    - b. Public Boat Dock
  - B. Permits & Waterways Committee
    - a. Letters of No Objection
      - i. Luke Guidry
  - C. Construction and Development Committee
    - a. Consider awarding leases for East Golden Meadow Farm
    - b. Consider approving Latelco's lease of property
    - c. Consider granting time extension to Martin Terminal for repairs made to bulkhead on Lot 15
  - D. Finance Committee
    - a. Consider payment of invoices and recognize Expenditures over \$10,000
    - b. Consider February 2002 Financial Statement for approval
    - c. Consider approving all 2001 Financial Statements for submission to the Legislative Auditor's Office
    - d. Consider approving 2001 Budget Revision
- VII. Public Comment
- VIII. Any other business
- IX. Adjournment

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE GREATER LAFOURCHE PORT COMMISSION  
March 13, 2002

The Board of Commissioners of the Greater Lafourche Port Commission met in regular session on Wednesday, March 13, 2002 at 10:30 AM.

President Melancon called the meeting to order, and Secretary Collins called the roll.

**PRESENT:** Johnny Melancon, Donald Vizier, Wilbert Collins, Larry Griffin, Ervin Bruce, Harry Cheramie, Chuckie Cheramie, Beau Martin, and Jimmy Lafont

**ABSENT:** None

Upon motion by Larry Griffin and second by Ervin Bruce, the minutes of the February 20, 2002, regular meeting were unanimously approved.

Upon motion by Harry Cheramie and second by Wilbert Collins, the minutes of the February 27, 2002, special meeting were unanimously approved.

Upon motion by Chuckie Cheramie and second by Wilbert Collins, the minutes of the March 4, 2002 Public Hearing were unanimously approved.

President Melancon diverted from the Agenda to recognize some audience members. He first called upon Mr. Walt Lanier, who is running for District Judge in the April 6<sup>th</sup> election. Mr. Lanier addressed the Commission and the audience, requesting their vote and urging them to go to the poles on Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. He then called upon Port Attorney Loulan Pitre who spoke about the transition recently undergone by his firm and introduced his partners-Mr. Edmond Deramee, Mr. Shawn Richard, and Mr. Johnny Allemand.

Executive Director's Report

Northern Expansion – Project Engineer John Plaisance reported that the prime contractor on the West Bulkhead project has completed all his work, but a local subcontractor still has to install stone on the road and install the concrete revetment mats. He reported that LowLand Construction has been issued a Notice of Procurement to allow the contractor to begin ordering steel sheet piles so as to avoid higher prices threatened by President Bush's proposed steel tariff. Lowland will have 45 days to procure materials, and then a Notice to proceed will be issued, giving the contractor 365 days to complete the project. He reported that DOTD has approved the award of the contract to Mike Hooks for the Hydraulic Dredging of Slip A. Project Engineer Larry Picciola reported that a Notice to Proceed was issued on Monday for the Bucket Dredging of Slip B, and the contractor should be onsite by the end of March or the first of April.

Director Falgout asked Engineer Joe Picciola to update the Commission on the Clovelly Road Project. Mr. Picciola reported that all the survey work is complete, and rights of way have been plotted out. A meeting is scheduled with Port Officials, and

plans should be prepared soon to go out for bid. He also updated the Commission on the status of the Airport Road Project. He reported that the parish approved the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement, and the Contractor is ready to start work on the road next week.

Jet Cinema Demolition – Roy Gisclair reported that the inside of the Cinema has been completely gutted. The workers currently are washing the outside of the building. The total cost of preparing the building for construction will be less than \$10,000.

Highway Improvements – Director Falgout reported that he met with Secretary Movassaghi of DOTD on several occasions in the past month and that there are some exciting things going on at the state level. Representative Pitre reported that the Statewide Transportation Plan is currently being updated. The final decision on this plan will be made by the LIIEP Commission. Rep. Pitre reported that he has held a series of meetings with people in the Department, and from those meetings, they have penned plans for the elevated highway and the Leeville Overpass. The Secretary committed to move forward with the design of the Leeville Overpass and to acquire rights of way for the elevated highway. Rep. Pitre reported that the department will commission a subsequent toll revenue study. In 1999, the Port Commission did a preliminary toll revenue study, but there are three studies that must be done before bonds can be sold on Wall Street. The Environmental Study on the highway is still expected to be completed this summer. The State DOTD, in its request for federal appropriations this year, will ask for \$7 million to upgrade and resurface the existing highway from Golden Meadow to Grand Isle. He also reported that the extension of Highway 3235 to Highway 24 is still expected to be complete and open to traffic in June 2002. He also reported that the overlay of Highway 308 from Rita all the way to Cut Off should be let out for bids this month. Director Falgout reported that he will be in Washington next week and has meetings with key individuals, including people with the TIFIA program, which is a part of the federal highway program that allows for financing of projects over \$100 million. He also reported that he will meet with MMS to reorient the new, upper level administrators to the significance of Fourchon.

Millennium Port – Director Falgout reported that the Corps study is progressing. He also reported that the Governor may include some Millennium Port legislation in this Special Session, but until the call is issued, we will not know exactly what the Governor is going to propose.

Airport – Director Falgout reported that we have continued our efforts to clean up the site. The maintenance crew is to be commended for the progress made there. There has been a renewed interest from industry professionals in locating at the Airport. He also reported that proposals have been received for the master plan from Hartman Engineering and gcr & associates. After review by the Consultant Selection Committee, gcr & associates was named the consultant of record for the airport. The Master Plan should be underway in about a month, and a completed Master Plan is expected before the end of the year.

#### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive – Chairman Johnny Melancon reported that the committee met on February 27, 2002, at the Operations Center in Fourchon. Present at this meeting was Johnny Melancon, Larry Griffin, and Wilbert Collins, and Donald Vizier was absent. The Commission also met on March 12, 2002, at the administration building in Galliano. Present at this meeting was Donald Vizier, Larry Griffin, Wilbert Collins, and Johnny

Melancon, and no member was absent. The Commission then discussed items that were discussed at the Committee meetings.

President Melancon presented for the board's consideration the need to adopt the ad valorem tax millage for 2002. Commissioner Larry Griffin moved to reduce the tax to 6.0 mills. Commissioner Harry Cheramie seconded that motion, and President Melancon opened the floor for discussion. Commissioner Vizier asked Attorney Pitre whether the bonds owed by the Commission list these taxes as collateral for the bonds. Attorney Pitre answered that such is not the case. Commissioner Harry Cheramie added that lowering the tax by 0.94 mills, the Commission will still receive \$1,119,942.00, which is about the same amount the Commission was receiving two years ago at 7.25 mills. He believes that since the Port is on its feet, reducing the millage will not detrimentally affect the Port's operations. He also said that if it is determined that the progress of the port is affected by the reduction, then the tax can be raised again later. Commissioner Vizier said that he is not for taxes, but as a business decision, he does not think that the millage should be lowered. He said that big business will benefit most from this tax cut, and he is not in favor of giving a tax break to big business. President Melancon called for a vote, and the motion passed with 7 yeas and 2 abstentions.

President Melancon presented for the board's discussion the public boat dock. Director Falgout explained that the dock currently is overcrowded, and there has been some interest expressed in establishing a loading and unloading zone 50' wide by the length of the bulkhead. There should be a 1 hour time limit imposed on that loading zone. Upon motion by Larry Griffin and second by Ervin Bruce, the board unanimously agreed to establish a loading zone with a 1 hour time limit at the Public Boat dock.

Commissioner Martin departed the meeting.

Permits & Waterways – Chairman Jimmy Lafont reported that the committee met on February 27, 2002, at the Operations Center in Fourchon and on March 12, 2002, at the administration building in Galliano. Present at these meetings were Jimmy Lafont, Beau Martin, and Wilbert Collins, and no member was absent. The Commission then discussed items that were discussed at the Committee meetings.

Chairman Lafont presented for the board's consideration a request for a letter of no objection from Luke Guidry. Upon motion by Jimmy Lafont and second by Chuckie Cheramie, the board approved issuing a letter of no objection to Luke Guidry.

Chairman Lafont reported that the green buoy at Belle Pass has been lighted by Coast Guard out of Houma. Chief Terrebonne said that he is planning to go out in a vessel with Captain Ryan one night this week to examine the buoy and beacon situation. Director Falgout added that as a result of the Public Hearing, the Commission was made aware of many ways in which it can improve navigation and safety in the Port, and it is trying to address all of the concerns aired at this hearing.

Construction & Development - Chairman Ervin Bruce reported that the committee met on February 27, 2002, at the Operations Center in Fourchon. Present at this meeting was Ervin Bruce and Chuckie Cheramie, and Donald Vizier was absent. The committee also met on March 12, 2002, at the administration building in Galliano. Present at this meeting Donald Vizier and Chuckie Cheramie, and Vin Bruce was absent. The Commission then discussed items that were discussed at the Committee meetings.

Chairman Bruce presented for the board's consideration the need to consider awarding leases for the East Golden Meadow Farm. Director Falgout reported that

proposals were received March 1<sup>st</sup> for the 6 tracts surrounding the airport. There were 12 proposals submitted, and the committee recommended accepting the high bids from Glenn Gisclair, Rickey Guidry, and Russell Plaisance, which collectively will bring in \$51,229.25 per year in rental. Upon motion by Chuckie Cheramie and second by Harry Cheramie, the board unanimously accepted the proposals from Glenn Gisclair, Rickey Guidry, and Russell Plaisance and authorized Director Falgout to enter into negotiations with each of these individuals for the terms of a lease.

Chairman Bruce presented for the board's consideration a request from Latelco for a lease on a 20' x 50' piece of property near the Port Operations Center to set up a transfer station. Upon motion by Ervin Bruce and second by Donald Vizier, the board unanimously approved the request from Latelco for a lease of 1,000 square feet of property and authorized President Melancon to execute the lease on behalf of the Commission.

Chairman Bruce presented for the board's consideration a request from Martin Terminal for an extension of the time allotted for the completion of repairs to the bulkhead at Lot 15. Director Falgout reported that the Committee recommended approving a 30-day extension to Martin Terminal. Upon motion by Ervin Bruce and second by Wilbert Collins, the board unanimously approved granting a 30-day extension to Martin Terminal, effective March 13, 2002. Commissioner Chuckie Cheramie abstained from voting on this motion.

Director Falgout requested that Assistant Director Davie Breaux update the Commission on the status of the waterline being installed to supply Fourchon with additional water through another 18" line. Mr. Breaux reported that work currently is progressing on this project and that it will greatly increase the volume of water supplied to Fourchon once it is complete.

Finance – Chairman Larry Griffin reported that the committee met on February 27, 2002, at the Operations Center in Fourchon. Present was Larry Griffin and Harry Cheramie, and Donald Vizier was absent. The committee also met on March 12, 2002, at the administration building in Galliano. Present at this meeting was Larry Griffin, Harry Cheramie and Donald Vizier, and no member was absent. The Commission then discussed items that were discussed at the Committee meetings.

Chairman Griffin presented for the board's approval the invoices for the month and recognized the expenditures in excess of \$10,000. Upon motion by Chairman Griffin and second by Harry Cheramie, the board unanimously approved the invoices for the month.

Chairman Griffin presented for the board's approval the Financial Statement for February 2002. Upon motion by Chairman Griffin and second by Donald Vizier, the board unanimously approved the February 2002 Financial statement.

Chairman Griffin presented for the board's approval the 2001 Financial Statements for submission to the Legislative Auditor's Office. Upon motion by Chairman Griffin and second by Ervin Bruce, the board unanimously approved the 2001 Financial Statements.

Chairman Griffin presented for the board's approval the 2001 Budget Revision. Accountant Administrator Susan Martin reported that the revision is necessary because the contingency budget was not spent so it must be adjusted to \$0. The second revision was for the Corps' dredging project that took place in 2001 but was scheduled to occur

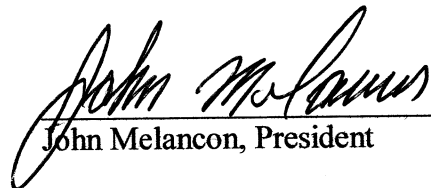
and budgeted for in 2000. Upon motion by Larry Griffin and second by Jimmy Lafont, the board unanimously approved the 2001 Budget Revision.

President Melancon called for Public Comment. Representative Pitre reported that Civil Service has now adopted a rule that allows employees on active duty to be put on Military Duty and be compensated by the employer for the difference between the salary at the agency and their salary in the military. There is one commission employee who fits this description.

Upon motion by Larry Griffin and second by Wilbert Collins, the board unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting.

ATTEST:

  
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Wilbert Collins, Secretary

  
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John Melancon, President