

AGENDA
June 9, 2004

- I. Call to Order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Consider May 12, 2004 Regular Meeting Minutes for approval
- V. Executive Director's Report
 - A. **Northern Expansion Update**
 - a. Construction status:
 - i. Slip A, Bulkhead – John Plaisance
 - ii. Slip B, West Bulkhead – Joe Picciola
 - B. **Airport Update**
 - a. Project status:
 - i. Hangar Construction
 - ii. Environmental Assessment
 - iii. DBE Program
 - C. **FEMA Update**
 - a. Debris Fence Project
 - b. Emergency Boat Launch
 - D. **Port Security**
 - a. Harbor Patrol Vessel
 - b. Security Camera System
 - c. New application
 - E. **Highway Improvements**
 - F. **In House Legal Counsel**
 - G. **Golden Meadow – Fourchon International Tarpon Rodeo**
 - H. **Strategic Planning**
- VI. Committee Reports
 - A. **Executive Committee**
 - a. Consider amending Lot 14, LLC surface lease
 - b. Consider approving updated By-Laws
 - c. Consider adopting resolution to DOTD for 10% share of the Airport Runway Extension from 5,000' to 6,500'
 - d. Consider adopting resolution for District Attorney's approval of hiring Attorney Loulan Pitre with Gordon, Arata, McCollam, Duplantis, & Eagan LLP for special council
 - e. Consider changing Galliano Committee Meeting time to 6:00PM on the Monday night before the second Wednesday of the month
 - B. **Permits & Waterways Committee**
 - a. Public Notices:
 1. Guy Chiasson
 2. Greater Lafourche Port Commission
 3. Lynn Melancon
 4. Donald Vizier
 - C. **Construction and Development Committee**
 - a. Consider accepting Change Order No. 1 for Mike Hooks dredging of Slip B
 - b. Consider accepting Change Order No. 2 for N. Doucet Drive Extension
 - c. Consider approving Substantial Completion for N. Doucet Drive Extension
 - c. Consider accepting Change Orders for the Camera System
 - d. Consider awarding contract of the Wireless Backbone for the Camera System
 - D. **Finance Committee**
 - a. Consider payment of invoices and recognize Expenditures over \$10,000
- VII. Public Comment
- VIII. Any other business
- IX. Adjournment

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE GREATER LAFOURCHE PORT COMMISSION

June 9, 2004

The Board of Commissioners of the Greater Lafourche Port Commission met in regular session on Wednesday, June 9, 2004 at 10:30 AM.

President Vizier called the meeting to order, and Secretary Cheramie called the roll.

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

ABSENT: None

Upon motion by Ervin Bruce and second by Wilbert Collins, the minutes of the May 12, 2004, regular meeting were unanimously approved.

Executive Director's Report

Northern Expansion – Engineer John Plaisance reported that soil borings for Slip A have been completed and Lanier Engineers are reviewing the results. He reported that the raw data is not significantly different from the previous test done by Eustis Engineers. Engineer Joe Picciola reported that the geotechnical reports from Eustis Engineers were received this week for Slip B Bulkhead design. He stated that the numbers are not significantly different from the previous numbers the preliminary design plans were based on. He also stated that a meeting to review the final design plan is scheduled for today and will be submitted to DOTD within the next couple of weeks for approval.

Airport – Director of Operations, Davie Breaux reported that the remainder of the punch list items are complete and the retainage amount held of \$2,400 to Lamar Contractors will be released. He reported that all the work is completed along with Fire Marshal approval and the Hangar building is ready to be utilized by interested companies to store planes. Director Falgout reported that the preliminary EA had a number of wetlands identified in the extended runway project. He stated that by meeting with the Corps and reviewing their assessment of the wetlands at the Airport, the final result is that there are no wetlands identified in the project area. He stated that this results in a savings of several hundred thousand dollars in wetland mitigation. Director of Business Development, Addie Callais reported that we are in the final stages of this project. She reported that the draft EA has been submitted to the FAA to receive comments and the next step is to issue a notice of environmental assessment to the public. The notice may or may not result in a public hearing and after these results are received the EA can be finalized and officially approved and accepted by the FAA. Director Falgout reported that since this project is funded by federal grants it involves the Disadvantage Business Enterprise program. This program established a goal of 4.19% of the work that needs to be done by Disadvantage Businesses, which are minority owned businesses.

FEMA – Mr. Breaux reported that the Debris Fence permits have been received and drawings have been submitted to DOTD for approval. He reported that there were a few concerns which have been addressed regarding the placement of the fence near the water tower for washout and also the future overpass tie-ins along LA Hwy 1. Mr. Breaux reported that Engineer Joe Picciola received a verbal approval by FEMA for the Emergency Boat Launch plans. He stated that we will be advertising for bids for construction to commence as early as the end of July.

Port Security – Director Falgout reported that there has been a substantial amount of cocaine found on the coast in the region between Terrebonne, Lafourche, and Jefferson Parishes. He stated that the Harbor Police has been searching along the beach with the Lafourche Parish Sheriff's office and US Customs which caused the beach to be closed on Friday but reopened on Saturday. He reported that to date there has been 481 kilos recovered at an estimated street value of under \$9 million of which 6 were found on Fourchon Beach. Director Falgout reported that the Port Security Patrol Vessel is nearing completion and expects delivery in the next couple of weeks. He reported that the Security Camera System is moving along with change orders for approval today. Director Falgout reported that we are applying for a new Port Security application which is for state of the art communication equipment which will allow the Harbor Police and other local enforcement agencies to better communicate during storms and times of emergency. This communication system is being developed at Tulane University.

Highway Improvements – Director Falgout reported that test pile driving work is being done near the Leeville Bridge and DOTD is placing riprap on the bayou floor along the western pier to stabilize it against the challenging currents. He stated that erosion is even worse than DOTD had anticipated. He also reported that the fendering system has been repaired. Director Falgout reported that he along with Roy Francis of the LA 1 Coalition went to Washington, DC to answer questions regarding the Port and the growth relating to traffic and tolls for the elevated 4 lane highway. The information given was very well received. He stated that there is a poor history of traffic counts by DOTD, but since November 2003 there has been a full time traffic counter south of the Leeville Bridge. He reported that it was projected at 7,200 vehicles per day; however, the counts have fluctuated from 5,000 vehicles per day to 9,000 vehicles per day from November 2003 to May 2004. Director Falgout stated that last week's counts were at 8,000 per day and if it continues between 8,000 and 8,500 vehicles per day through August and September we will be right at the projected amounts given. Mr. Roy Francis reported that the permit application for the whole length of the 17-mile highway is off of notice and we received a number of comments from various agencies for which responses will be sent out this week. He stated they are currently working on a draft plan for mitigation that should be finalized in the next 4 weeks. Mr. Francis stated that they are also working on land right issues with the landowners to finalize documents needed to complete the permit. Commissioner Chuckie Cheramie questioned when the road will be fixed on LA 3090 because traffic has been passing on the shoulders to avoid the holes on the hwy. Director Breaux stated that he spoke with Stan with DOTD who stated that the overlay of LA 3090 will be done as soon as they catch up with their grass cutting in the area. Commissioner Beau Martin recommended that we contact our State Representative to push for the prompt repair of LA 3090.

In-House Legal Counsel - Director Falgout reported that the In-House Legal Counsel position will be advertised within the next few weeks with a target hire date of September.

Golden Meadow – Port Fourchon Tarpon Rodeo - Director Falgout reported that the rodeo will be held at the Public Boat Launch on July 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. He stated that Director Breaux is working with the group to accommodate an additional tent that they requested.

Strategic Planning - Director Falgout reported that we are moving forward with our effort to implement a strategic plan in our organization. The plan is being done internally which will in turn save us thousands of dollars. However, the final result will require a personal facilitator to finalize the plan, which will cost less than \$10,000 to accomplish.

Committee Reports

Executive – Chairman Donald Vizier reported that the committee met on May 26, 2004 at the Operations Building in Port Fourchon. Present were Donald Vizier, Jimmy Lafont, John Melancon, and Harry Cheramie; no member was absent. They also met on June 7, 2004 at the

Administration Building in Galliano. All members were present. The Commission then discussed items that were discussed at the Committee meetings.

Chairman Vizier presented for the board's consideration authorizing President Vizier to execute an amendment to surface lease for Lot 14, LLC to adjust the south property line to match the existing fence line. Upon motion by Harry Cheramie and second by Wilbert Collins, the amended lease was unanimously approved, and President Vizier was authorized to sign it.

President Vizier presented for the board's approval the updated By-Laws. Upon motion by John Melancon and second by Ervin Bruce, the By-Laws were unanimously approved.

President Vizier presented for the board's consideration a resolution for DOTD's 10% share of the Airport Runway Extension from 5,000' to 6,500'. Director Falgout reported that this represents the commitment of the Commission to fund the runway extension from 5,000' to 6,500' with DOTD's 10% match of our contribution, which is estimated at \$1,930,000. Director Falgout stated that there are not many opportunities for other outside grant funding for this project; however, this could be a great economic incentive for this area. Commissioner Beau Martin stated that the added extension to 6,500' is based on the fact that Edison Chouest is committed to building a \$2 million facility at the South Lafourche Airport. He stated that this is key to raising the overall value of the Airport and he would otherwise have a hard time accepting this resolution without a commitment from Chouest. Director Falgout stated that from his discussion with Roger White of ECO, Roger reiterated Chouest's commitment to move their aviation operations to the Airport and construct hangar improvements. Director Callais stated that we do have several letters on file from Edison Chouest in support of their move to the Airport, which was valid for FAA's investment. She also stated that there is a draft lease under negotiation with ECO which includes an option to cancel if the runway is not extended to 6,500'. Commissioner Wilbert Collins stated that he is voting on this project for the future of the Airport development and not on one company's commitment. Commissioner Chuckie Cheramie requested that updated Airport information be sent to the recreational market and contact the charter and guide fishermen to advertise our Airport. Director Breaux stated that the Airport Manager will be contacting local guide fishermen to attract the recreational business to the Airport. Mr. Breaux stated that we do have an Enterprise Corporate Account for rent-a-car service at the Airport which allows for discounted rates for companies that reference this Commission. Commissioner Chuckie Cheramie questioned the load limit on the runway, which was answered by Director Falgout to be a 78,000 lbs. limit. Upon motion by Harry Cheramie, second by Wilbert Collins, and unanimous approval, the resolution was adopted for DOTD's 10% share of the extended runway.

President Vizier presented for the board's consideration a resolution requesting the District Attorney's approval of hiring Attorney Loulan Pitre with Gordon, Arata, McCollam, Duplantis, & Eagan LLP. Director Falgout reported that Attorney Loulan Pitre is changing firms and this resolution needs approval to continue using his services. Upon motion by Jimmy Lafont, second by John Melancon, and unanimous approval, this resolution was adopted.

Upon motion by John Melancon, and second by Wilbert Collins, the board unanimously approved to change the committee meeting time from 6:30 pm to 6:00 pm on the Monday night before the second Wednesday of the month.

Permits & Waterways – Chairman Chuckie Cheramie reported that the committee met on May 26, 2004 at the Operations Building in Port Fourchon; present were Chuckie Cheramie, Jimmy Lafont, Beau Martin, and Donald Vizier; no member was absent. The committee also met on June 7, 2004 at the Administration Building in Galliano; all members were present. The Commission then discussed items that were discussed at the committee meetings.

Chairman Cheramie presented to the board the public notice received from Guy Chiasson, Greater Lafourche Port Commission, Lynn Melancon, and Donald Vizier. There are no concerns with these permits therefore no action needs to be taken.

Chairman Cheramie requested the Harbor Police to patrol the Bayou Lafourche area from the Town of Golden Meadow south to the Leon Theriot Floodgates to observe the vessel traffic and prevent suction waves and wakes from occurring.

Construction & Development – Chairman Ervin Bruce reported that the committee met on May 26, 2004 at the Operations Building in Port Fourchon; Present were Ervin Bruce, Larry Griffin, Wilbert Collins, and Donald Vizier; all members were present. The Commission also met on June 7, 2004 at the Administration Building in Galliano; all members were present. The Commission then discussed items that were discussed at the committee meetings.

Chairman Bruce presented Change Order No. 1 for Mike Hooks Dredging of Slip B. Director Falgout reported that this additional dredging capitalizes on the low dredge price received and will accommodate the completion of the Maritime Forest Ridge project and allow for the placement of mooring dolphins along the north bank of Flotation Canal. He stated that the additional work totals \$80,319.65. Upon motion by Chuckie Cheramie, and second by Wilbert Collins, the Commission unanimously approved the Change Order No. 1.

Chairman Bruce presented the Change Order No. 2 for N. Doucet Drive Extension. Director Breaux reported that this includes extending the roadway, waterline, and including a fire hydrant which totals \$21,326.00. Director Falgout reported that the access road will be extended to 150' from the bulkhead which will be constructed from our yearly materials contract prices. Upon motion by Ervin Bruce, and second by Larry Griffin, the Commission unanimously approved Change Order No. 2.

Chairman Bruce presented a Certificate of Substantial Completion for the N. Doucet Drive Extension. Upon motion by Chuckie Cheramie, and second by Wilbert Collins, the Commission unanimously accepted the Certificate of Substantial Completion.

Chairman Bruce presented the Change Order No. 1 for Port Security Camera System. Communications Specialist, Jon Callais reported that this includes the change in placement of the camera at the Leeville Bridge, the purchase of 2, 4-day backup batteries located at the water tower and Nerby Collins Marina for power outages, and improvements to the camera lowering device. The total increase is \$8,047.67, which is covered by the Homeland Security Grant. Upon motion by Wilbert Collins, and second by Larry Griffin, the Commission unanimously approved Change Order No. 1.

Chairman Bruce recommended that the board award the wireless backbone contract to Harris Corporation. Director Falgout reported that this is the system that will allow transferring the images from the cameras located in the Port area to the Galliano office. The recommendation of the evaluation committee is Harris Corporation with a base bid of \$256,000 and labor cost of \$44,997.00. Upon motion by Harry Cheramie, and second by Jimmy Lafont, the Commission unanimously awarded Harris Corporation the contract for the wireless backbone system.

Finance – Chairman John Melancon reported that the committee met on May 26, 2004 at the Operations Building in Port Fourchon. Present were John Melancon, Larry Griffin, Wilbert Collins, and Donald Vizier; all members were present. The Committee also met on June 7, 2004 at the Administration Building in Galliano; all members were present. The Commission then discussed items that were discussed at the committee meetings.

Chairman John Melancon made a motion to approve the invoices for the month of May 2004, which was seconded by Larry Griffin, and the floor was opened for discussion. Discussion followed regarding some questions on invoices for approval. The board unanimously approved the invoices for May.

President Vizier called for public comment and recognized former Commissioner and current LA Oil Spill Coordinator, Mr. Roland Guidry. Mr. Guidry stated that he was very proud to be a member of this Commission. He commended the Commissioners on the new building and he stated that one of the finest things that the Port did was take over the Airport. He thanked the board for the use of the Operations building in Fourchon for their yearly oil spill class and introduced his wife to the board. President Vizier also recognized that Mr. Raleigh Galliano attended the meeting. Commissioner Jimmy Lafont stated that he and Commissioner Collins represented the Port at the Tri-Parish Hall of Fame which honored Senator A.O. Rappolet. He stated that the award was given to the family members but requested that we contact the organization to receive a duplicate of the award to display at the Port office building. President Vizier thanked the public for attending the meeting.

President Vizier called for any other business. Commissioner Beau questioned the introduction of the new Harbor Police Officer Paul Picou. Director Falgout stated that he hasn't been available as of yet to be introduced but arrangements will be made for the next meeting. He added that Paul is the son of Mack Picou who was our first Chief of Police and Paul has replaced Officer Ashley Pollard. Commissioner Chuckie Chermie would like to commend employee Wilson Picou for changing out the pearlins at the boat launch. Mr. Roland Guidry questioned the possible future accommodations for seaplanes to land at the Airport. Director Falgout stated that this issue has been discussed but because of the insufficient amount of seaplanes in use today this is not a demand at this time.

Upon motion by Larry Griffin, second by Wilbert Collins, and unanimous approval, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:


Donald Vizier, President


Harry Chermie, Secretary