

SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

October 10, 2005

5:00 PM

- I. Call to Order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Discuss Hurricane Plan
- V. Public Comment
- VI. Adjournment

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE GREATER LAFOURCHE PORT COMMISSION
October 10, 2005

The Board of Commissioners of the Greater Lafourche Port Commission met in special session on Monday, October 10, 2005 at 5:00 PM.

President Vizier called the meeting to order, and Vice President Lafont called the roll.

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

ABSENT: None

President Vizier present to the board to discuss the hurricane plan. Mr. Breaux reported on the original plan stating that he contacts the companies in the Port to locate staging equipment. He locates stockpile materials for breach roads and damaged shoulders. He stated that the Harbor Police Chief assesses the condition of the roadway when it is safe to start clearing the road. Mr. Breaux also assesses the Airport to start the pumps. The decision is then made to determine if we start clearing the roads or wait for DOTD to arrive. Commissioner Lafont questioned what is wrong with the plan that we have because we cleared the roads to the Port in 4 hours, and the plan worked. Mr. Breaux stated that it was never part of our plan to clear LA 1, but it was mentioned by the Commission to clear the roadway once it is safe. Director Falgout stated that we have a hurricane guide which states what each department will be doing for each level of the storm. He stated that it was never our responsibility or plan to clean LA 1 and if it is going to be in our plan we need to plan accordingly because there are risks involved. It became evident that we needed more machinery staged prior to the storm, which was done for Hurricane Rita. Our plan is that DOTD cleans the highway, which they have responded faster in the last few years. In a small storm, DOTD usually keeps the machinery at the floodgates, but at the Category 5 storm level they kept their equipment in Terrebonne Parish. He stated that there was no communication and we were not sure where DOTD was located so that is when the decision was made for the Port to start cleaning the road. Commissioner Melancon stated that he doesn't see any flaw in the current plan. President Vizier stated that they did a great job but he thinks it could have been done faster. Director Falgout stated that every storm is different to clean up. It is a great idea to stage equipment to assist with cleanup, but if it becomes our plan to clean the road we need to have trained people to handle this situation. Commissioner H. Cheramie questioned the communication during the storms, which Commissioner Martin stated that the best thing that worked in the last storms were the 2-way radios. Commissioner C. Cheramie stated that Mr. Breaux did a great job for Hurricane Rita with the extra machinery that was available. He feels that it is our responsibility to get to the Port as soon as possible to assess damages and reopen to companies. We should take some responsibility of cleaning up the roads since we support LA 1 Coalition and the building of the new highway system. We should not just wait on DOTD because we are unsure of when they will arrive and Entergy should provide someone to assist us in clearing the roads for down power lines. Commissioner Martin stated that our hurricane guide is not a plan but only some instructions. He stated that every storm creates different scenarios and the plan needs to be flexible for each hurricane category. He stated that for Hurricane Katrina we were not ready to respond to clean LA 1, which Director Falgout stated that we are a partner in cleaning the road but not the leader which is DOTD. Commissioner Martin stated that we need a plan in writing for the different scenarios that a storm could bring. A written plan needs to

be in place in the event that Mr. Breaux or Harbor Police Chief is unavailable and others could take charge and complete the clean up process. Commissioner Melancon stated that the plan that we have has been working for 40 yrs. and every storm is different and it is hard to prepare for Mother Nature in every stage. Commissioner Griffin stated his concern is the boats tied up near the floodgates and breaking loose damaging or breaking the floodgates which will cause a disaster. Commissioner Collins stated that he stays for all the storms and sees the employees working and ready to respond. Director Falgout stated that once you start reducing the plan in detail like the Coast Guard or FEMA it takes away the judgment our people. Commissioner Martin stated that he wants to take care of our people first and have a re-entry plan by coordinating it with DOTD to evaluate the conditions. Mr. Callais reported that we have a hurricane guide that can be edited and it gives each department the flexibility to make decisions for each storm. He stated that FEMA is purchasing a 700 MHZ communication system state wide to communicate with State Police and DOTD. Mr. Rome questioned if the board wants this Commission to coordinate with DOTD and Energy what needs to be done after a storm or do we actually do what needs to be done. The board stated that in the event that the said agency is not available that the Port takes care of what needs to be done. Commissioner Martin stated that we need to take care of our employees first, coordinate with the Parish President to call for an evacuation of Fourchon within 36 - 48 hours when within the strike zone and staging equipment for cleanup.

President Vizier recognized Joey Bouziga with Martin Terminal to address the board. He stated that he was concerned with the evacuation of the Port. He stated that we depend on the parish to declare a mandatory evacuation which is normally south of floodgates, but feels that the Port should be on its own to evacuate. Some employers want to stay in Port at base to return offshore which is dangerous and puts lives in jeopardy. He also stated that he agrees with clearing the road as soon as possible and not waiting on DOTD to arrive. Commissioner Martin stated that our role as the Port effects the oil and gas industry and we need to make sure that the people are evacuated in a timely manner. Mr. Breaux stated that we can clear the road but the State Police and DOTD actually makes the determination to open to roadway. Commissioner Melancon requested that Mr. Bouziga work with our employees to put together a timeline to determine an evacuation time to be present to the Parish President. Mr. Bouziga stated that most companies in the Port will stay until a mandatory evacuation is called and with the 500-600 employees working in the Port sometimes it is called to late.

Director Falgout stated that we need to determine when to evacuate the Port and work with the Parish President, we need to protect our people in an evacuation, and we need to develop a plan for an evacuation center outside this area. He presented a proposal from 911 for alternate sites in Raceland and Thibodaux. He stated that we facilitated every aspect of the recovery and coming back to the Port by coordinating with Entergy and working with DOTD and other organizations. Commissioner Lafont stated that having staged equipment is a good idea but you also need operators to run the equipment and it depends on the intensity of the storm if people will stay. Commissioner H. Cheramie stated that every situation is addressed differently and agrees with staging equipment and working with DOTD and Entergy to coordinate the cleanup. Commissioner Melancon agrees that we need to designate a secondary site for the employees to return to the Port. Commissioner Collins also agreed to find a secondary location. Commissioner C. Cheramie requested that the Commissioners be notified for the Office of Emergency Preparedness meetings. He also thanked Grand Isle Shipyard for keeping their equipment for our use after the storm.

Commissioner Griffin requested that the board have a special meeting to determine a mandatory evacuation to be safe rather than loose lives. Commissioner Martin stated the need to show leadership and request mandatory evacuations for the Port. We need to develop a time line for evacuating and how we fit into the mix with the offshore companies. The State has a suggested time

line for coastal areas to evacuate between 36 and 48 hours which we should follow. He agrees with an alternate command post that will have hotel and communications accessibility and recommended a location in Alexandria. He reported on the dangers that exist to our roads and infrastructure in the area which are the trawl boats near the bridge and the jack-up boats along the highway in Leeville. We need to recognize the potential hazards within our area. He stated that the last thing is a re-entry plan for employees to be in a safe place to be able to come back and be notified by having a call in number. We need to continue taking a helicopter overview of the damages and coordinating the cleanup efforts with DOTD and Entergy. He would like to see all the contact information for Energy, DOTD, Coast Guard, etc. available in this plan for the flow to happen no matter who is in charge. Director Falgout stated that the comprehensive evaluation that is suggested will require hiring a consultant to prepare. President Vizier recommended that Director Falgout report back to the board once a determination is made on how to move forward with creating a plan.

Upon motion by Larry Griffin and second by Chuckie Cherie, the board adjourned the meeting.

ATTEST:


Donald Vizier, President


Harry Cherie, Secretary