

AGENDA  
February 9, 2011 at 10:30 AM  
*(Revised 2/8/2011 at 9:40 AM)*

- I. Call to Order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Consider approval of minutes for January 12, 2011 regular meeting and January 26, 2011 special meeting
- V. Executive Director's Report
  - A. Northern Expansion**
    - 1) Slip B 1100 LF Dredging & Flotation Canal (Angelette-Picciola)
    - 2) Slip C Bucket Dredge (Angelette-Picciola)
    - 3) Slip B Adam "Ted" Gisclair Roadway, Phase I(Picciola & Associates)
    - 4) Slip B 1871 LF Bulkhead (Picciola & Associates)
  - B. Airport Projects**
    - 1) Perimeter Fencing
    - 2) Taxilane Connector
  - C. FEMA Projects – Flotation Canal Shoreline Protection**
  - D. Port Security and Grant Projects**
    - 1) 400' Communications Tower and Foundation
    - 2) Telecommunication Infrastructure Project
    - 3) Multi-Agency Emergency Response & Operations Center
    - 4) Phase II MDA – Camera networking improvements
  - E. Other Port Projects**
    - 1) Martin Terminal Slip #1 Repairs
    - 2) N.J. Theriot Road Culvert Replacement
    - 3) Boat lift Extensions
    - 4) Nerby Collins Marina Steel Bulkhead Repair
  - F. LA 1 Highway Improvements**
  - G. Coastal Issues**
  - H. Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill**
- VI. Committee Reports
  - A. Executive Committee**
    - 1) Consider approving the request from RCS regarding improvement rentals
    - 2) Consider approving the request from Tiger Offshore regarding Site GLF611
    - 3) Consider requesting an Attorney General Opinion for the Port to take ownership of the double-axle trailer found on 299 Flotation Canal Road in Port Fourchon
    - 4) Consider adopting a resolution in support of a Coastal Congressional District in Louisiana
  - B. Permits & Waterways Committee**
    - 1) Review permit applications from Greater Lafourche Port Commission, Apache Corporation
  - C. Construction & Development Committee**
    - 1) Consider awarding the lowest responsive bid for Flotation Canal Shoreline Protection
    - 2) Consider awarding the lowest responsive bid for Nerby Collins Steel Bulkhead Replacement
  - D. Finance Committee**
    - 1) Consider payment of January invoices and recognize expenditures over \$10,000
    - 2) Discuss Shell donation
- VII. Any other business
- VIII. Public Comment
- IX. Adjournment

# OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE GREATER LAFOURCHE PORT COMMISSION

February 9, 2011

The Board of Commissioners of the Greater Lafourche Port Commission met in regular session on Wednesday, February 9, 2011 at 10:30AM.

President Griffin called the meeting to order and Vizier called roll.

**ATTENDED:** Perry Gisclair, Jimmy Lafont, Donald Vizier, Larry Griffin, John Melancon Jr., Jimmy Guidry, and Ervin Bruce

**ABSENT:** Chuckie Cheramie and Wilbert Collins

Upon motion by Perry Gisclair and second by John Melancon Jr., the board unanimously approved the minutes for January 12, 2011 regular meeting and January 26, 2011 special meeting.

## **Executive Director's Report**

Northern Expansion – Engineer Larry Picciola reported that the Slip B 1100 LF Dredging & Flotation Canal project is complete. He received the preliminary after dredge cross sections to review, and if okay the contractor will start removing equipment. They are doing final cross sections today. The substantial completion will be ready for the next meeting with any adjustment of quantities. Gisclair questioned if he could tell if the elevations were met; which Picciola replied that in the spring he will go on the mitigation area with an airboat to do cross sections of the whole area where spoil was placed. He stated that the lease development site will probably be done before the spring. Picciola feels the contractor achieved good elevations especially on the lease development area with all the shells, which Mr. Breaux agreed.

Engineer Larry Picciola reported that Slip C Bucket Dredge project is being advertised with bid opening on March 7<sup>th</sup> at 2PM. Engineer Joe Picciola reported that the contractor completed the installation of the culverts and waterline for Slip B Adam “Ted” Gisclair Roadway, Phase I. He stated that yesterday the contractor brought in aggregate surface course from GOL north. More aggregate is scheduled to be in today and by this afternoon sand will be placed. This will allow access for the upcoming bulkhead project. Engineer Picciola reported that they had the pre-construction meeting with the contractor for Slip B 1871 LF Bulkhead project. The contractor was issued a partial notice to proceed for February 14<sup>th</sup> to start the assembly period to order equipment and material.

Airport Projects – Airport Manager, Joe Wheeler reported that he spoke with the contractor for the Perimeter Fencing project this morning and they should be in by the end of this week to start working on the punch list items and hook up the gate near the Terminal Building. He stated that the contractor for the Taxilane Connector plans on coming in next week for seeding and striping. They hope to be done by February 21<sup>st</sup> weather permitting.

FEMA Projects – Engineer Larry Picciola reported that the apparent low bidder is Great Southern Dredge for the Flotation Canal Shoreline Protection in the amount of \$1.633 million. He recommends approval which is later on the agenda.

Port Security and Grant Projects – Engineer Shawn Keller reported that the formal inspection report for the 400' Communications Tower was complete. There were 15 findings in the report which we recommend the contractor rectify these discrepancies immediately. Mr. Breaux stated that these discrepancies need to be corrected prior acceptance, which Ms. Keller replied that the tower inspector could not give us a certified stamp of approval that the tower is structurally sound and ready for loads until these discrepancies are corrected. Lafont questioned if the discrepancies are serious, which Ms. Keller replied there are issues with loose bolts, broken bolts, bent members which need to be corrected before placing any loads on the tower. She stated that all the submittals have been received and approved for the Telecommunication Infrastructure Project. We are only waiting the contractor's time schedule for

the delivery of materials. Ms. Danos reported that the Port received a draft assessment from the architect last week for the Multi-Agency Emergency Response & Operations Center. The staff will review the report and make a recommendation to the board. Concerning the Phase II MDA – Camera networking improvements, we issued the notice to proceed and finalized the contract with one of the vendors and equipment is being ordered.

Other Port Projects – Engineer Larry Picciola reported that the contracts are being signed for the Martin Terminal Slip #1 Bulkhead Repairs. He will be scheduling a pre-construction meeting early next week. Picciola stated that for the N.J. Theriot Road Culvert Replacement the contractor Byron Talbot has decided to use another contractor to come in next week depending on the weather to mill the roadway. Engineer John Plaisance reported that the contract time started on Monday for the Boat lift Extensions project. The contractor is gathering materials and should be on site next week. Engineer Plaisance reported that bids were received on January 27<sup>th</sup> for the Nerby Collins Marina Steel Bulkhead Repair project. The low bidder LL&G for \$294,500 failed to turn in the required Attestation Clause; the second low bidder Dolphin Services for \$309,130 had the incorrect person sign the bid bond, which leaves the third low bidder Kostmayer for \$325,000 as the lowest responsive bidder. This is later on the agenda to award or reject the bids.

LA 1 Highway Improvements – Mr. Breaux reported that Henri Boulet is in Washington meeting with the US Department of Transportation, Energy Committee Staffers, and our federal delegation. The LA 1 Project update for Phase 1A of the project, between Port Fourchon and Leeville was 80% complete as of January 31<sup>st</sup>, with 82% of the time elapsed. Concerning operating complications with the Open Road Tolling System, the Louisiana Transportation Authority (“LTA”) has engaged the firm HNTB to help compose an in depth Request for Proposals aimed at national companies who operate large toll systems. The RFP will seek competitive bids to operate the LA 1 Toll System, which includes “with or without” options of using the existing toll cameras. The RFP should go out sometime in March or April, and will include performance measures for the successful bidder, as well as requirements such as required operating hours of the Customer Service Center. The LTA has engaged a firm to complete a new toll revenue forecast, with that forecast due back in April. The LTA is looking into filing a claim with BP loss for traffic revenues associated with the spill. Concerning Phase II’s Geometry and Alignment, progress continues on geometric revisions at the North Connector and the relocated Bollinger Canal. Some remaining Pipeline Identification work is needed, but tapping of some pipelines is postponed due to extreme low water conditions. Concerning needed Construction Access Canal Plans, a revised alignment is now set. No more R/O/W properties have been purchased. Negotiations with the three southern most property owners remain on hold pending R/O/W map revisions. Finally, a meeting with DOTD to look at segmenting the Phase II Project’s construction so that portions of the \$300 million project could be built as funding becomes available is set for next week. Updates on other significant bridge projects in the area as of January 31<sup>st</sup>, the new Bayou Lafourche Lift-Span Bridge in Larose was 40 % complete, and Houma’s new Prospect Street Lift-Span Bridge was 27% complete.

Coastal Issues – Simone Maloz with Restore or Retreat (“ROR”) updated the board on projects that ROR is working on at this time. ROR is working on a master restoration list with both Lafourche and Terrebonne Parish to come up with a list of priority projects for both the Terrebonne and Barataria Basins to bring to the State for projects that may be eligible for oil spill funds. Davis Pond is currently running low with the low river not able to provide the water needed now between 1,000 to 3,000 cfs. The salinity levels are mostly high which is good for oysters. The state has an Advisory Task Force created specifically to deal with oyster issues in response to the oil spill. There is also a public meeting at the ULL Light Center on freshwater diversions and impacts following the oil spill. Dwayne Bougeous with the North Lafourche Levee District and board members were in Washington last week and on Monday Parish President Randolph and Windell Curole traveled to DC to meet about the de-firm maps. Ms. Maloz is the Governmental Affairs Chair for the Lafourche Chamber and regarding the redistricting issues she is aware of a few upcoming meetings; Director Chiasson is invited to a strategy meeting on February 14<sup>th</sup> to discuss how to deal and react to the redistricting issue; February 21<sup>st</sup> is the public meeting held at the Houma Civic Center where both the House and Senate Committees will hear public

comments regarding redistricting; and finally on February 23<sup>rd</sup> the Chamber of Commerce is having a luncheon in Raceland with a panel of local delegation to discuss redistricting.

Mr. Breaux stated that the Gulf Economic Survival Team met again in Washington last week to meet with BOEMRE Director and other oil companies to streamline the issues in the Gulf. The Bayou Group is heading to DC today which includes Mayor Camardelle, Mayor Bouziga, Director Chiasson, Commissioner Chuckie Cheramie, and Commissioner Wilbert Collins along with other local companies to meet with Ken Salazar to discuss the affects of the oil spill on local businesses in the area.

Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill – Mr. Breaux stated that the BP contractor is reporting that 90% of the beach is clean however we are not sure how accurate that is. There are currently 226 people on the beach, 52 people water ops, and 211 hot zone workers. Waste recovered is 18 cubic yards from the beach and 8.8 cubic yards from hot zone areas. The contractor has removed 144 Hesco baskets from the beach as of yesterday which brings the total removed to 427. We continue to submit and receive reimbursements from BP in a timely manner. We have not received funds for the loss revenues however the 90 day deadline is approaching at the end of this month. At that time we will know if they accepted or rejected our claim.

Cathy Norman with Wisner addressed the board. She stated that she also doesn't agree with the report that 90% of the beach is clean. With the removal of the Hesco baskets, they are still finding oil and we are still seeing tar balls. Wisner is actively working on the beach activities with the BP Incident Command to identify additional contaminated areas. Wisner has hired their own experts to take core samples since it had not been done. We are generally seeing that due to rapid erosion over the last few years there are relic marshes in the near offshore area and in those areas they are finding extensive oil mats. When they remove the oil they don't want to disturb the relic marsh areas too much. Also on the west side of the beach they had buried snares and boom which was put prior to hurricane events last summer and in the attempt to dig up, they created ruts in the beach therefore erosion is accelerated in those areas. Wisner continues to collect data to have this cleaned up. One statistic is that about 80% of the oil collected has been from this beach. There have been extensive archeological sites on the beach with bones being recovered and the tribes keeping areas identified for artifacts. We are going forward with the bird nesting period in late April. The nesting areas have been identified which was why there was a rush for the Hesco baskets to be removed to accommodate the birds that need to nest in those areas.

Gisclair stated that she mentioned the ruts in the beach and erosion. The work that was done to fill the breaches during the oil spill he understands that will all be removed. The beach has built up in front and behind the breaches and he doesn't understand why it needs to be removed. Ms. Norman replied that several experts have said that more damage has been done to the property by these structures than the oil itself. On two of the breaches, the sheet piling structure has constant erosion going around it eroding our property. The property behind the structure will end of subsiding. These breaches have opened and closed over the years as a natural process. We have requested that they put sand fencing near Bay Champagne when they removed the Hesco baskets, which was not done. Gisclair stated that the future Caminada Headland project is supposed to connect everything and close all these breaches. Ms. Norman stated that these are all good questions. The main issue is that when we address BP with beach restoration everyone needs to come together to decide the best course of action. The structures will not be removed anytime soon.

### **Committee Reports**

Executive Committee - The committee met on January 26, 2011 at the Operations Building in Fourchon. Present was Jimmy Lafont, Wilbert Collins, Perry Gisclair, and Larry Griffin. The committee also met on February 7, 2011 at the Administration Building in Galliano with Collins absent.

Upon motion by John Melancon, Jr. and second by Perry Gisclair, the board unanimously approved the request from RCS, LLC for a deferral of improvement rentals for a period of 6 months (March to August 2011). The improvement rent will then commence again in September and will be re-amortized to include the deferred amount over the remaining primary term.

Upon motion by Jimmy Lafont and second by Jimmy Guidry, the board unanimously approved the request from Tiger Offshore regarding Site GLF611 for a deferral of improvement rentals for a period of 6 months (March to August 2011). The improvement rent will then commence again in September and will be re-amortized to include the deferred amount over the remaining primary term. Gisclair stated that Tiger Offshore has 4 other leases and this will only affect one of them, which Mr. Autin replied yes.

President Griffin presented for the board's consideration requesting an Attorney General Opinion for the Port to take ownership of the double-axle trailer found on 299 Flotation Canal Road in Port Fourchon. Mr. Autin stated that this abandoned trailer was found on the old Fourchon Seafood site. By statute the Port tried to contact owner without success, we then advertised the trailer for 150 days. With no response from the advertisement, the item can then be sold at public auction however our maintenance department would like to keep it since it is in good condition. The Attorney General's opinion policy requires a board resolution to request an opinion. Upon motion by Ervin Bruce and second by Jimmy Guidry, the board unanimously adopted a resolution to request the Attorney General's opinion on taking ownership of the abandoned trailer.

President Griffin presented for the board's consideration to adopt a resolution in support of a Coastal Congressional District in Louisiana. Mr. Autin stated that the board discussed the request on Monday night and there is a copy of the resolution in your folders if the board wishes to discuss further the appropriate action would be a motion. Upon motion by Jimmy Lafont and second by John Melancon, Jr. the board opened the floor for discussion. Griffin motioned to amend the original motion to include the language that the Port is in support of all Lafourche Parish and Terrebonne Parish staying together, which was seconded by Jimmy Lafont, and open for discussion. Gisclair recognized Senator Norby Chabert to address the board.

Senator Chabert stated that he serves on the Governmental Affairs Committee which is in charge of drawing the lines for this redistricting process. He has been involved in this on every level. There will be some change in the regionalization. The effort on the Senate side is to try to consolidate those 2 districts in one northern Terrebonne and Lafourche district. We are trying to strengthen our voting ability in the Senate so that Terrebonne and Lafourche always have 2 votes. He stated that on the House side there are 2 local representatives with Richard and Gisclair. With the issue at hand, he was elected in office to do the redistricting; however, we have a situation that we are losing a Congressman. There are certain issues that need to be addressed before we can even think about what to do along the coast. There is a law in the books about a minority majority district which means if the state has a minority district which we have in New Orleans, by law we have to draw district lines in which the minority population can elect a minority candidate. There is a lot of discussion of where this will be may remain in New Orleans; however new census data released last week shows only a 7,000 person difference of African American population between New Orleans and Baton Rouge. We are not sure of how this will change the minority district. The coastal district is a philosophy change that we deal with of what is better one voice for the coast or multiple voices for the coast. In discussions with the legislative delegation, he stated that just about all are not in favor of this plan. At one time, we had one of the most powerful members of Congress from Lafourche Parish, Tauzin, but how much was done for coastal restoration because it is tough for one man out of 435 to change things. Committee assignments are important and for 1 congressman as the voice for Cameron to St. Bernard with all the different industries from refining, sugar cane, to oil industry one voice for all that area. If there are 2 congressmen or even 3 congressmen in that area the more committee assignments are given and the more chance to advance funding for coastal restoration or even the Port. Chabert along with other members don't believe this is the right thing to do by endorsing this plan. He stated that this is his job and this plan does not have support in neither the House nor the Senate. He suggested that the board be reserved in this resolution because when the Port Commission puts its stamp on something people will look at it to see what Fourchon wants which in turn hinders his job.

Mrs. Gwen Theriot then addressed the board. She differs in Senator Chabert's view about the voice. She stated that the support will follow when the people speak. She agreed they are in charge of drawing the lines and making the final decision, but don't we as a people have a voice of how we want to be represented. As far as the district being represented by more than one, we have seen issues when we are

not heard and whoever represents us as our congressman they will know us. She realizes that this is a burden to the Senate and House to do this but at least we can have a voice to say how we want to be represented. Senator Vitter sent out a letter yesterday asking the people to ask for Lafourche Parish and Terrebonne Parish to be kept together in a district. Waiting puts us behind the game and it is important to speak up now. Whatever the Senate and the legislative delegation decide is what we have to live with. They speak of 2 or 3 congressmen but we will only have one representing us. It is all how you look at it. Our voice needs to be heard because we have one shot to get the whole delegation's attention at the hearing on Feb 21<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Autin stated that on the floor now is a motion to amend the resolution adding language to keep Lafourche and Terrebonne together in a single district. Melancon questioned what the Lafourche Parish Council voted on last night, which Mr. Autin stated that the Parish didn't take anything out of the resolution but added to the resolution that they do not support anything that did not have all of Lafourche and Terrebonne included together in the same congressional district, which is basically the same thing offered in this amendment. The board then voted on the amended motion which resulted in 6 yeas and 2 absent.

Mr. Autin stated that now on the floor is the main motion adopting the resolution with the inclusion of creating one congressional district to keep all of Lafourche and Terrebonne Parish together. Gisclair questioned Senator Chabert that if we put this wording in the resolution if it would change the legislative delegations' feelings, which Chabert replied that the inclusion of Lafourche and Terrebonne doesn't change anything. It is his full commitment to not see them separated. He stated that the plan that is now in the newspaper does not include the correct population data. The updated numbers change everything. The plan proposed by Representative Harrison which is this coastal plan is now being redone and besides that it is just one plan. There will be many plans to decide from. In reality you are voting on a plan that is not even a plan.

Mr. Breaux stated that the board is voting on a concept of having a coastal congressional district keeping Lafourche and Terrebonne Parish together and they are not voting on a plan since there are no lines drawn yet. Senator Chabert replied that there is a plan and lines are drawn and if this resolution supports a conceptual coastal district it is fine. If we will speak in the abstract what do you prefer one voice or more than one voice for the entire coast of Louisiana. He stated that every legislative member that represents Lafourche Parish is against this plan.

Lafont stated that this resolution was passed by Plaquemines, Terrebonne, and Lafourche and we are making a big issue when we don't have anything to do with drawing the lines and he is confused at why this is such a bad document if we are supporting to keep Lafourche and Terrebonne together. Senator Chabert replied that he is 100% in favor of that however Plaquemines didn't vote to keep Lafourche and Terrebonne together. He is glad the board said they want to be united with Terrebonne Parish. We haven't waivered from that issue. He stated that he will resign from the Senate if Lafourche and Terrebonne get split up. It will not happen. Never forget the president of the State Senate is from Lafourche Parish no one wants to see that happen. What this breaks down to is raw politics. When the newspapers print the support of this from different agencies this hinders his job. Yes he agrees the voice of the people needs to be heard but those people are included in the meetings. We are charged to do this job.

Vizier stated that he is elected to represent the people and if the majority wanted this shouldn't he back us up, Senator Chabert replied that if he believed the majority of the people wanted this he would.

Mr. Autin stated that on the floor is adopting the resolution with the inclusion of all of Lafourche Parish and Terrebonne Parish be kept together in one single congressional district. Melancon stated that this is a difficult situation. He understands the different positions but feels that we don't have enough information to vote on this resolution. He is for the coastal congressional district, Lafourche and Terrebonne staying together and possibly bringing in Grand Isle at some point but unsure about voting. The board then voted which resulted in 5 yeas; 2 nays by Gisclair and Griffin; and 2 absent by Collins and Cheramie.

Permits & Waterways Committee - The committee met on January 26, 2011 at the Operations Building in Fourchon. Present was Chairman Chuckie Cheramie, Jimmy Lafont, Perry Gisclair, and

Larry Griffin. The committee also met on February 7, 2011 at the Administration Building in Galliano with all members present.

Commissioner Gisclair presented for the board's review the permit applications from the Greater Lafourche Port Commission and Apache Corporation.

Construction & Development Committee - The committee met on January 26, 2011 at the Operations Building in Fourchon. Present was Chairman Ervin Bruce, Donald Vizier, John Melancon Jr. and Larry Griffin. The committee also met on February 7, 2011 at the Administration Building in Galliano with all members present.

Upon motion by Perry Gisclair and second by John Melancon, Jr., the board unanimously awarded the lowest responsive bid for the Flotation Canal Shoreline Protection to Great Southern Dredging in the amount of \$1,633,280.00.

Upon motion by John Melancon, Jr. to award the lowest responsive bid for the Nerby Collins Steel Bulkhead Replacement to Kostmayer in the amount of \$325,000, which was second by Perry Gisclair, the floor was open to discussion. Lafont stated that on Monday night we spoke in great length that the bid was over budget. He researched past bids and there was one time when we rejected the bids and re-advertised which resulted in a lower bid. Since it is a slow period now and this project will bring no revenue to the Port, he suggested that we reject all the bids and re-advertise. He stated that if the bids come in higher you can point the finger at me. Mr. Autin stated that the only issue of rejecting the bids is that it has to be done for just cause. One of the reasons discussed is being over budget. If the bids are rejected and they still do not come in below budget we can have issues if we still award the bid. One of the contractors from this bid can question why we didn't award the bids now. Lafont questioned if the bids would come in again over budget could we reject those as well, which Mr. Autin replied yes. Lafont stated that no one is being stopped of using the facility and it is not making any money. We can take the chance since we are not holding up any tenants however the only concern is if the bulkhead blows out in the meantime. Vizier questioned if we are sure about turning down the first two bids; which Mr. Autin replied yes. Vizier stated there is no chance for a lawsuit, which Mr. Autin replied there is always an argument the contractors can pursue. Mr. Autin stated that we are not supposed to waive any requirement in the bid documents. The low bidder LL&G did not submit the Attestation Clause within the required 48 hours of the bid opening. He stated that actually only two of the bidders sent the clause in. The second low bidder Dolphin Services the bid bond was not signed by the appropriate person. The third low bidder Kostmayer is the next lowest responsive bidder. If we award the bid to LL&G any other bidder can challenge that decision. The recommendation is to award to Kostmayer if the board awards the bid today. Vizier stated that we never had a bid come in lower once it was rejected and re-advertised. Lafont argued that we did rebid a dredge project and it did come in at a better price. Melancon stated that the downside of not doing the bulkhead is in the event of a storm it may give way. We are in a good position to repair the bulkhead before it is further damaged. He recommends we award the bid today. The board then voted which resulted in 6 yeas, 1 nay by Lafont and 2 absent by Cheramie and Collins.

Finance Committee - The committee met on January 26, 2011 at the Operations Building in Fourchon. Present was Chairman Jimmy Guidry, Wilbert Collins, John Melancon Jr. and Larry Griffin. The committee also met on February 7, 2011 at the Administration Building in Galliano with Guidry and Collins absent.

Upon motion by Jimmy Guidry and second by Perry Gisclair, the board unanimously approved payment of January invoices and recognized expenditures over \$10,000.

Mr. James Rome stated that the Shell Pipeline Corporation donated a check in the amount of \$500 which will be put into the Maritime Forest Ridge project. He then thanked Shell for this donation.

President Griffin opened the floor for any other business. Gisclair stated that with the upcoming legislative sessions he would like to recognize Senator Chabert to address the board. Chabert stated that the first session begins March 20<sup>th</sup> and will last three weeks. The topics that will be discussed are the redistricting and reapportionment. There is a strong possibility that the congressional reapportionment will be pushed back to next year or to the third session of this year. By law, we need to have Senate and House districts done by this fall and approved by Dept. of Justice. If all done and approved, we won't have to have a third session. If not, the third session will occur after the regular session in April.

We are facing a \$1.6 billion shortfall which will affect everything we do such as education and health care. Major points his committees will deal with is post oil spill response, ongoing problems with hazard mitigation, coastal restoration, hurricane protection, commerce, and future BP money and coordinating with OCPR. He stated that if there is anything that the board needs please let him know.

Gisclair stated that with the oil at \$100 a barrel it should do away with the State's deficit and questioned how that works, which Senator Chabert replied that he is charged with seeing areas with problems that need to be reformed or no longer apply. Those are the areas we need to cut. Unfortunately it could be better if we were allowed to cut in all areas of the State's budget but we are only allowed to cut in a small portion of the budget. There will be a capital outlay bill to build projects. The state will come out better at the end of this. The problem is not in severance taxes it is in sales tax revenue. Every indicator shows that after this fiscal year the State will be in better shape with better services.

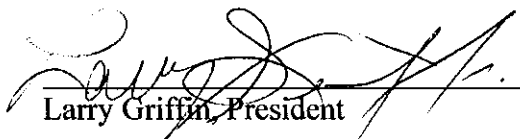
Vizier stated that on a television program they showed the waste in government with loss tractors and computers, which Senator Chabert replied that he was not sure of this specific program but the legislative auditor is responsible for that.

Gisclair wanted the Senator's opinion on what is happening with the fisherman since he represents the two bayous and the fishermen that are in dire straits, which Senator Chabert stated that he has attended all the meetings in his district with Fienberg. He understands everyone's frustration. They are making sure claims are filed correctly. We had a black eye with people not consuming our product, but he is happy to say that the money they recently received was given to LA Seafood Market & Promotion board to go forth with promoting our seafood industry to make it stronger than it has ever been.

President Griffin opened the floor for public comment. Mr. Breaux stated that in the Lafourche Gazette today there is an article with details regarding the Bayou Group heading to DC. He also reminded the public of the Special Election on April 2<sup>nd</sup> for the Port Commission Seat G.

Upon motion by Jimmy Lafont and second by John Melancon Jr., the board adjourned the regular meeting.

ATTEST:

  
Larry Griffin, President

  
Wilbert Collins, Secretary