

AGENDA
March 14, 2012 at 10:30 AM
(Revised 3/13/2012 at 9:30 AM)

- I. Call to Order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Consider approval of minutes for February 15, 2012 regular meeting
- V. Executive Director's Report
 - A. Presentation by NOAA/National Weather Service**
 - B. Northern Expansion**
 - 1. Slip B 1871 LF Dredge & Slip C Dredge (Picciola & Associates)
 - C. Airport Projects**
 - 1. Parallel Taxiway "A" South Paving (LPA Group)
 - 2. PAPI System
 - 3. Hangar & Foundation (Picciola & Associates)
 - D. FEMA Projects**
 - 1. Bathhouse (Picciola & Associates)
 - 2. Beach Repair Project – **Social Investment Partnership with Shell**
 - E. Port Security and Grant Projects**
 - 1. Camera Networking Improvements (2008)
 - 2. Multi-Agency Emergency Response/Operations Building (2009)
 - 3. Waterside Radar Video Surveillance (2009)
 - F. Other Port Projects**
 - 1. Martin Slip #1 Bulkhead Repairs (Angelette-Picciola)
 - 2. Airport Maintenance Shop (Picciola & Associates)
 - G. LA 1 Highway Improvements Report**
 - H. Gulf of Mexico Updates**
- VI. Committee Reports
 - A. Executive Committee
 - 1. Consider approving the Right of First Refusal request from Dolphin Energy Equipment for property along LA 3090 (GLF199)
 - 2. Consider approving the request from Baker Marine Solutions to lease property along LA 3090 (GLF199)
 - 3. Consider approving the request from Deepwater Port Services to sublease to Superior Shipyard
 - 4. Consider approving the request from Modern Group/Tiger Tanks to amend their lease GLF611
 - 5. Consider approving the request from Modern Group/ Tiger Tanks to sublease to Allport Services
 - 6. Consider approving the advertising for summer workers
 - B. Permits & Waterways Committee
 - 1. Review permit applications from the Louisiana Delta Farms Partnership; Entergy Louisiana, LLC; Apache Corporation; and Square Mile Energy, LLC
 - C. Construction & Development Committee
 - 1. Consider adopting the DOTD resolution to advertise for additional dredging in Slip C
 - 2. Consider approving the DOTD Sponsorship Agreement for the Airport Master Plan Update
 - 3. Consider approving the DOTD Sponsorship Agreement for the Omni-Directional Approach Lighting System
 - 4. Consider accepting the low bid for the Bathhouse project
 - D. Finance Committee
 - 1. Consider approving payment of February invoices and recognize expenditures over \$10,000
 - 2. Consider approving the out of state travel request
- VII. Any other business
- VIII. Public Comment
- IX. Adjournment

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE GREATER LAFOURCHE PORT COMMISSION
March 14, 2012

The Board of Commissioners of the Greater Lafourche Port Commission met in regular session on Wednesday, March 14, 2012 at 10:30 AM.

President Griffin called the meeting to order and Secretary Collins called roll.

ATTENDED: Chuckie Cheramie, Perry Gisclair, Jimmy Lafont, Donald Vizier, Wilbert Collins, Larry Griffin, John Melancon Jr., Jimmy Guidry, and Ervin Bruce

ABSENT: None

Upon motion by John Melancon and second by Wilbert Collins, the board unanimously approved the minutes for February 15, 2012 regular meeting.

Executive Director's Report

Presentation by NOAA/National Weather Service – Tim Osborn with NOAA addressed the board. He reported that the National Weather Service (“NWS”) has really stepped up a lot not only realizing how weather conditions and storms affect our coast year round but by realizing the need for providing more accurate and more real time information to maintain the Port operations here and along the coast. They have developed a new pilot program called incident meteorology which is essentially a team of meteorologist that are there specifically to respond to incidents or cases of severe weather which they would actually if needed come down and station at the command center to provide the necessary information needed in terms of weather and forecast to reopen Port Fourchon. From the announcement of new program to today, they already responded to many incidents such as a spill on the Mississippi River, the parade schedules in New Orleans, a collision between a service vessel and a well head, and a number of other cases. He then commended their efforts to be here and to serve this program as another resource for the Port. There will be a mobile incident response vehicle in the parking lot after the meeting for everyone to tour. It is actually a mobile weather service office staffed by meteorologist fully functional. He stated that Matt Moreland and Tim Erickson are here with the NWS.

Matt Moreland then addressed the board to discuss the new program which began on December 20th. He stated the purpose of the new program is a series of pilot projects of NWS to provide on-site weather decision support for federal, state, and local government agencies. The pilot program discussed today focuses on decision support in a marine environment which originated from the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. Basically they provide weather support during planned or unplanned events including radar analysis, plume modeling, briefings, and water level forecasts. Some examples of deployed activities are natural/man-made events such as oil spills, tropical cyclone, flooding. The examples of large planned events include the Super Bowl 2013, NCAA Final Four, and Jazz Fest. The first official deployment was on February 18th in New Orleans EOC as weather support to local government partners to promote public safety during the Endymion parade. Some goals for 2012 are plume modeling, plume forecast, mile marker forecast on the Mississippi River, expand on marine coordination group conference calls, improved storm surge forecasts and briefings during tropical events, and providing weather data and briefings from tablet computers. They are looking for emergency and software training as well as tailoring new graphics and products for customers and getting feedback.

The Mississippi River Weather Forecast System will be a web-based system with goals to increase safety and promote economic savings. The emphasis will be on short term forecast (first 12-24 hours). The two interfaces will be a zoomed in map of the river and the other is a map of the river with fixed points. The weather threats will be outlined and there will be a color coded table for threats per time period.

The SWERV Mobile Unit that is parked outside provides focused coordination at any incident command center where all responders could hear and see the information being presented at one time in one location. There is a generator for backup power, satellite linkage to emergency management, and equipped with iPhones, satellite phones, and computers.

The final topic is storm surge obviously a major concern in this area. One of their goals is improved ways of displaying storm surge information. The SLOSH model (Sea, Lake and Overland Surges from Hurricanes) is a computerized model run by the National Hurricane Center (NHC) to estimate storm surge heights and winds. He then presented images for a Category 1 storm with the SLOSH model then showed same area using the new software that shows the surge with higher resolution along with more details of highway and city information. The purpose of them being here is to make them apart of the Port's incident command plans to provide direct on site weather support during major storm events.

Executive Director Chett Chiasson questioned if this is the only unit like it or if there are others, which Mr. Moreland replied that there are 6 units with only 2 on the gulf coast being ours working from Slidell and the other one is in Tampa, Florida. There is 1 unit in Fort Worth, 1 working in urban areas, and 2 in Washington, DC. Chiasson questioned if there is a plan to add points along the gulf coast to the Mississippi map previously shown, which Moreland replied that is certainly something to look into. The original request was to develop the Mississippi River software but once that is all set up it will be easy to add coastal regions.

Collins questioned if the unit will be set up in Fourchon, which Moreland replied that with the new tidal surge software they will have the ability to zoom in on that area and run a model to predict what the water level will be above ground. Chiasson stated that it is not necessarily that they will be stationed here or in Fourchon. If we need them to be here to help us come back, they will be here. If we need them to run models for us, they will do that which they do already. Chiasson is always in contact with NOAA before and during a storm.

Tim Osborn stated that it is not obvious but Chett and Jon get information from us when major storms come toward this area. They are on the emails regarding the weather conditions, when it is expected and if real severe when it is expected to hit land. The NWS is a 24 hour a day operation and constantly doing conference calls. This program provides a further service to the Port as they are doing with the Mississippi River spot forecasting for the Port when storms come in. The mobile unit will be used if necessary when there is an oil spill, collision offshore, or severe weather and there is no room in the command center. This will give you the chance to have us first hand at your side helping to get the Port open.

Tim Erickson stated that in the mobile unit there will be a much more zoomed in image of the area that will go through Category 1 to 5 storms to show what height of tidal surge would overtake the levees in South Lafourche. The models used are from the 2011 hurricane season. It will also show how deep the water levels would be from LA 1 to Grand Isle.

Tim Osborne stated that in June/July he plans to bring a navigational response team to re-survey all the areas in Port including E-Slip, Northern Expansion, Belle Pass, and Bayou Lafourche north to Leeville. The data collected will update charts to provide to the Port Commission. Chiasson thanked Tim for all the assistance NOAA and the NWS provides to us during storms and on a day to day basis.

Northern Expansion – Engineer Joe Picciola stated that the contractor Pine Bluff completed dredging in Slip B and is now dredging in Slip C area pumping material in the spoil areas. The project is moving along and they expect completion by the end of April.

Airport Projects – Joe Wheeler reported that the contractor for the Parallel Taxiway “A” South Paving project is beginning to install aggregate. The PAPI System is complete however the flight check has been delayed until next week. The contractor for the Hangar & Foundation project is moving along forming up the footings and foundation for the hangar and ramp area. Wheeler stated that there were 1,064 aircraft operations for February which is 298 fixed wing and 766 helicopters. Chiasson stated that the comparison from last year's figures for the past 6 months the numbers are considerably higher.

FEMA Projects – Engineer Joe Picciola reported that bids were opened last week for the Bathhouse. There were 3 bids submitted and the low bid recommendation is to Picciola Construction in the amount of \$294,000. Chiasson reported that we are continuing to work with the landowners to finalize the seawall servitude to do the Beach Repair project. We are close to signing the soil boring access agreements. Chiasson stated that the beach repair project is a FEMA funded project of \$4.2 million however the project is estimated to cost \$5.5 million. Fortunately, he has been successful working with Shell Partnership Group to help with the project and there are some members here today in the audience: Mary Grace Anderson, Eric Gilmore, Derek Newberry, and Ed Landgraf.

Mary Grace Anderson addressed the board. She is the Development Manager for Mars who is sponsoring this contribution. When they looked into their exploration and development programs they not only look at the business opportunities but also how to protect the environment and how we can work closely with communities. With Shell, we have a very long standing relationship with the gulf coast communities particularly with Port Fourchon. We are pleased to have this opportunity to work on this project. We recognize that with our large projects such as the Mars B project a large tension leg platform that will be in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico and there will be multiple projects in the future it is about building a long term relationship with the community. The platform will be serviced out of Fourchon and supposed to be there for 50 years therefore we are looking at this for the long haul. We all know the importance of this area and the gulf coast in terms of the energy supply for the U.S. We also look at this as a critical area to protect and it is a really good opportunity for us. Shell does have a long term relationship with Fourchon and a large portion of work (80%) goes thru Fourchon for Shell servicing deepwater activities in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico. We appreciate this opportunity for working with us to find opportunities to work together and bring forward the business and future projects. This project of protecting the beach fits in well with what we want to do with the Mars B project. She then presented the board with a \$500,000 check to go toward the beach repair project.

Chiasson stated that on behalf of the Port Commission, he thanked them for working with us and enjoy the long standing relationship we have with Shell. We will publicize this for the community to know Shell is invested here and the donation will go toward a good coastal restoration project to protect the billion dollars of infrastructure we have in the Port, all the jobs, and the importance to this nation.

Port Security and Grant Projects – April Danos reported that today in Fourchon there is a meeting with Port tenants at 2:00 PM to discuss the Port Security Grant Program. The radio system was installed last week on the 400' tower. This allows the Port to be on the State's interoperability network in Fourchon which will better radio communications in Port. In regards to the Camera Networking, we are currently installing video analytics. In regards to the Multi-Agency Emergency Operations Building, the staff had reviewed the drawings and returned comments to the architects. This will be presented to the board in the next few months. Danos stated that they are finalizing the RFP for the Waterside Radar Video Surveillance project which is expected to advertise in April. She stated that she will be working with NOAA to integrate the software mentioned in their presentation into our C-4 system as well.

Other Port Projects – Engineer Larry Picciola reported that Low Land Construction for the Martin Slip Bulkhead Repair project has completed all waler beams, bumper pipes, piles for the concrete deadman, mooring bollards, and the mooring dolphins are driven. There are 13 tie rods left to install and they have started bringing in lightweight aggregate. They expect to be complete by Easter and by the April meeting should have the substantial completion and change order. Engineer Joe Picciola reported that the contractor Capstone Builders is on site for the Airport Maintenance Shop. He stated that last week they formed up the footings for the columns and expected to pour the slab next week.

Chiasson requested that the board add to the agenda the update on the Assumption of Maintenance Study. Upon motion by Wilbert Collins and second by John Melancon, the board unanimously added this to the agenda. Mr. William Evans with URS addressed the board and stated that they visited with 7 tenants last week in Port. All are in support of the study. We are basing the estimates on the economic benefits from offshore support vessels and offshore exploration platforms. They will continue to visit with tenants so far they have been very responsive.

LA 1 Highway Improvements Report – Henri Boulet with LA 1 Coalition reported that the speed study performed on the intersection at Port Fourchon has been reviewed by DOTD’s Chief Engineer. While the request to lower the speed limit coming off of the bridge has been initially denied, I have asked the DOTD Secretary to talk to the Chief Engineer about the intersection.

Concerning the implementation of the cash toll booth at the toll gantry, DOTD recently chose the Automated Toll Payment Machines (“ATPM”) as the solution of choice for collection of in-lane tolls at LA1. Boulet then showed an image of the proposed machines and explained that the ones placed here will have a cover to protect from weather conditions. Chiasson questioned if it will be automated, which Boulet replied yes there will be 2 machines mounted to provide redundancy for if one is out. The ATPM will offer LA1 toll customers several toll payment options (cash, credit, or debit) in the lane at significantly less operational costs when compared to the toll booth solution. Operating in parallel, two ATPM units are expected to provide a consistent customer experience to LA1 cash/credit card patrons for at least the next 10 years. Marketing and outreach efforts will support the public’s understanding of how to use the machine as well as promote the convenient and time saving GeauxPass sticker tag. The state estimates going live with the ATPM in early May. Motorist should expect to see the right lane under the toll gantry area closed sometime in early April for this equipment installation, and are asked to use caution driving through the area.

Concerning pre-construction work on Phase II, DOTD advertised the Request for Qualifications for engineering services for Phase 2 Design last Friday. This advertisement does not include a test pile program, so the estimated contract value is \$4 million. The bid closes on March 26th. A project review team will review and grade the bid qualifications, making a short list of 3 contractors for consideration to the Secretary. Upon awarding of the contract, it is estimated it will take 9 months to have preliminary plans, and an additional 9-12 months to complete final plans.

Also on Phase II pre-construction, appraisals are complete and negotiations are beginning for the right of way with the three southern-most property owners. Concerning construction funding for Phase II’s Segment A, we still do not have results from the Federal Highway Administration about our \$18 million of requested funding from the federal government for the \$45 million segment. On other highway projects in the area, the Caminada Bay Bridge had a formal opening ceremony with state officials last Friday. Demolishing of the old bridge is waiting relocation of communication lines off of the old bridge onto the new bridge. The new Bayou Lafourche Lift-Span Bridge at Larose remains scheduled to be complete in August. The new Bayou Terrebonne Prospect Street Lift Span Bridge is now 80% complete.

Gisclair stated that one problem with the toll booths was that we were losing money from the people that were passing and not paying. Then it was my opinion that we were moving toward having a person in the toll booth to stop all these out of state people from not paying. We are not pursuing any out of state violators. Boulet stated that they have made some advancement in collecting from out of state. They are getting ready to sign an agreement with the Texas DOTD that if someone runs our tolls and we capture their license plate, they will give us the address to pursue collections. He stated that this has never happened before each state has always withheld that information as private citizen information. States are now reaching mutual deals with each other. There are also talks with Mississippi. He stated that Texas and Mississippi are the two highest offenders. They are getting better at collecting from violators and hoping to be at national standards at collecting 99% within a year. They are confident that this system will help them achieve that. They have done a lot of research comparing staffed booths to these types of machines.

Gisclair stated that they talked about going up on the toll because of the percentage of collections were not there. The argument was that it is not because it is not there it is because the cameras were not picking up the plates and not getting violators from out of state. Boulet stated that he continues to make the case to DOTD and the Governor knows that is not fair to go up with the tolls because the system is not 100% complete. The Governor is pushing the secretary to operate at national standards within a year. The Governor has put up the extra that we needed for the bond.

Vizier questioned if a traffic jam is expected by putting this on the new road and why not put it 100 yards before you get to the new road so you have room to expand, which Boulet replied that they looked at different options. They looked at putting it on LA 1 before you make the curve but there were certain reasons why they elected not to do that one being the need to elevate the road. They decided to place it on the bridge and not have to elevate the road and not have to get new permits which would have taken a long time. Vizier stated that he hopes it doesn't cause traffic jams. Boulet stated that they know they have to be geared up for big events such as the Tarpon Rodeo. We need to have outreach in regional television to let them know of the new system and to get a GeauxPass online. Collins questioned if the machine will be on the driver's side of the vehicle, which Boulet replied yes. The left lane will be for GeauxPass users for them to drive thru and the right side lane will be for toll paying customers. There will be 2 machines on the right lane. Collins said there shouldn't be a traffic jam if you can go thru with the GeauxPass. Vizier questioned if there will be enough room, which Boulet replied that they will re-format the lanes to allow room for the machines to be mounted along with a cover over the right lane. Vizier questioned oversized loads, which Boulet replied that half will be able to make it thru the left lane and the other half will be lead by state police thru the north bound lane where they would stop traffic.

Gulf of Mexico Updates – Chiasson reported that there was a Gulf Coast Energy Summit on Monday in Mississippi which Parish President Randolph attended. She then addressed the board and stated that the summit was intended to introduce candidates for president and the importance of this area. The Governor nor DNR Secretary Angelle was able to attend the summit. She was asked to attend to address what the moratorium did to our area, what the permatorium is doing to us, and to educate them on the importance of Port Fourchon. She did meet with Newt Gingrich who has some people working on his team that were integral to the oil spill and they instructed him that a visit to Port Fourchon is important. This may be the opportunity to get us in the national discussion. Unfortunately, when it was her turn to speak most people had left but there were people there that did hear her message and she was happy to be a part of that.

Chiasson then mentioned that the Corps of Engineers is sending a dredge to do maintenance dredging in Belle Pass. He stated that from the conference call yesterday we discussed how that will transpire. He said that certainly there will be some inconvenience for the tenants. The Corps' previous plan was to shut down the Pass for 8 hours at a time but now they will work with us to have a Harbor Police vessel out there to maintain order and work with them so that traffic could pass as often as possible. There may be some closures but not for long extended periods of time. We are happy that they are coming in to get the needed dredging done in the Pass. Lafont questioned the issue of them placing spoil on the east side of the jetties, which Chiasson replied that they are not interested in doing that and will not pursue it.

Chiasson stated that we have been working with Coastal and Marine Operators (CAMO) group and recognized Ed Landgraf to give an update. Landgraf stated that the last time he was here they presented the safety awareness bags for mariners. This industry group concentrates on marine safety, environmental protection, and specifically targeting how to avoid damage to pipelines that carry more than 40% of the nation's energy through this coast. Over 1,000 mariners received this safety information kit which is a product of the Port Commission funded through the grant by PHMSA (Pipeline and Hazard Materials Safety Administration). This was also debuted 2 weeks ago in Las Vegas at the Common Ground Alliance and also presented in January to the Offshore Marine Service Association (OMSA). There has been a lot of good feedback from this project with one example from the Port of South Louisiana who has taken this product and is applying for a federal grant using the product from CAMO and the Port Commission as a model for them to do the same thing to help protect the Mississippi River and inland waterways. He then thanked Chiasson for all his hard work with CAMO and their endeavors to protect the environment and marine workers' safety. He then thanked the commissioners for their support as well. Chiasson stated that once again Port Commission is paving the way for partnerships and how we can all work together to better service our communities and ultimately our country. He also thanked Serena Bruce for her hard work and managing some of the paperwork for the grant.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee – The Committee met on February 29, 2012 at Operations Building in Fourchon. Present was Chairman Larry Griffin, Jimmy Lafont, and Wilbert Collins with Perry Gisclair absent. They also met on March 12, 2012 at the Administration Building in Galliano with all members present.

President Griffin presented for the board's consideration the Right of First Refusal request from Dolphin Energy Equipment and the request to lease from Baker Marine Solutions for property along LA 3090 (GLF199). Chiasson stated that Baker Marine is the adjacent lessee and requesting to lease the property now compared to Dolphin Energy requesting a right of first refusal which is holding the property for one year. He recommended approving the request from Baker Marine to lease the property. Upon motion by Jimmy Lafont and second by Jimmy Guidry, the board unanimously approved the request to lease from Baker Marine and denied the request for a right of first refusal from Dolphin Energy for property along LA 3090.

Upon motion by Perry Gisclair and second by Chuckie Cheramie, the board unanimously approved the request from Deepwater Port Services to sublease to Superior Shipyard. Chiasson stated that Superior has been utilizing the facility for several months now and they are looking at doing improvements to the site.

Upon motion by Jimmy Guidry and second by Ervin Bruce, the board unanimously approved the request from Modern Group/Tiger Tanks to amend their lease on site GLF611 to include language that would allow a Sublessee to continue its sublease as a lease directly with the Port Commission should Modern Group terminate their lease prior to the expiration of the lease term.

Upon motion by Perry Gisclair and second by Jimmy Guidry, the board unanimously approved the request from Modern Group/ Tiger Tanks to sublease to Allport Services 400 LF of property on GLF611.

Upon motion by Ervin Bruce and second by Jimmy Guidry, the board unanimously approved advertising for summer workers. Chiasson stated that the Port will choose 6 workers and the applicants will be chosen at the May meeting.

Permits & Waterways Committee - The committee met on February 29, 2012 at the Operations Building in Fourchon. Present was Chairman Chuckie Cheramie, Jimmy Lafont, Larry Griffin with Perry Gisclair absent. They also met on March 12, 2012 at the Administration Building in Galliano with Chuckie Cheramie being absent.

Chairman Cheramie presented for the board's review the permit applications from the Louisiana Delta Farms Partnership; Entergy Louisiana, LLC; Apache Corporation; and Square Mile Energy, LLC. Lafont questioned if we received a letter from South Lafourche High School regarding the bridge curfew change, which Jon Callais replied that the letter has not been received yet. Once the letter is done, it will be sent to USCG to have public opinion before anything can be changed. Chiasson stated that he called Archie Chiasson with Lafourche Parish Coastal Zone Management regarding the concerns of the Louisiana Delta Farms permit. Archie Chiasson addressed the board and stated that CZM has reviewed the permit and the canal in question was a man made canal and will be dredged with the spoil used to build the marsh area surrounding it. CZM does not have any objections to this permit.

Construction & Development Committee – The committee met on February 29, 2012 at the Operations Building in Fourchon. Present was Donald Vizier, John Melancon, Ervin Bruce, and Larry Griffin. They also met on March 12, 2012 at the Administration Building in Galliano with all members present.

Upon motion by Wilbert Collins and second by Perry Gisclair, the board unanimously adopted the DOTD resolution to advertise for additional dredging in Slip C.

Upon motion by Wilbert Collins and second by Jimmy Guidry, the board unanimously approved the DOTD Sponsorship Agreement for the Airport Master Plan Update contributing \$250,000.

Upon motion by Perry Gisclair and second by Wilbert Collins, the board unanimously approved the DOTD Sponsorship Agreement for the Omni-Directional Approach Lighting System contributing \$180,000.

Upon motion by Ervin Bruce and second by Jimmy Guidry, the board unanimously awarded the Bathhouse Project to the low bidder Picciola Construction in the amount of \$294,000.

Finance Committee – The committee met on February 29, 2012 at the Operations Building in Fourchon. Present was Chairman Jimmy Guidry, John Melancon, Wilbert Collins, and Larry Griffin. They also met on March 12, 2012 at the Administration Building in Galliano with all members present.

Upon motion by Jimmy Guidry and second by Wilbert Collins, the board unanimously approved the payment of February invoices and recognized expenditures over \$10,000.

Upon motion by Jimmy Guidry and second by Wilbert Collins, the board unanimously approved the out of state travel request for Joe Wheeler to attend the Southeastern Conference for the American Association of Airport Executives in Georgia on May 20, 2012.

Upon motion by Jimmy Lafont and second by Ervin Bruce, the board unanimously adjourned the regular meeting.

ATTEST:


Larry Griffin, President


Wilbert Collins, Secretary