

# **Greater Lafourche Port Commission**

## **AGENDA**

**June 11, 2014 at 10:30 AM**

**Administration Building · 16829 East Main St · Galliano, LA**

(Revised: June 10, 2014 at 10:20 AM)

- I. Call to Order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Consider approval of minutes for May 14, 2014 regular meeting
- V. Executive Director's Report
  - A. Northern Expansion**
    - 1. Northern Expansion Slip C Bulkhead (J. Wayne Plaisance)
  - B. Airport Projects**
    - 1. Glide Slope (LPA/Baker)
    - 2. Taxiway Centerline Lighting
    - 3. Apron Expansion (LPA/Baker)
  - C. Port Security and Grant Projects**
    - 1. EOC Furniture & Equipment
    - 2. TWIC Implementation (2011)
    - 3. CCTV Additional Cameras (2012)
  - D. Other Port Projects**
    - 1. Beach Repair Project
    - 2. Assumption of Maintenance Study (URS)
    - 3. Storm Harbor Marina (J. Wayne Plaisance)
    - 4. N. J. Theriot Road Elevation & Improvements (Angelette-Picciola)
    - 5. Nerby Collins Commercial Marina Bulkhead
  - E. Update from South Louisiana Economic Council**
- VI. Committee Reports
  - A. Executive Committee**
    - 1. Consider approving the request from Newpark Environmental Services to assign lease sites GLF343 and GLF343-16 to Ecoserv, LLC
    - 2. Consider approving the request from Ecoserv for a landlord waiver and consent to leasehold mortgage for lease sites GLF343 and GLF343-16
    - 3. Consider approving the purchase of an excavator
    - 4. Consider advertising the sale of surplus equipment
  - B. Permits & Waterways Committee**
    - 1. Review permit applications by Chevron Environmental Management Company and TANA Exploration
  - C. Construction & Development Committee**
    - 1. Consider approving Change Order No. 4 from Johnson Bros for the Slip C Bulkhead project
  - D. Finance Committee**
    - 1. Consider approving payment of May invoices and recognize expenditures over \$10,000
    - 2. Consider approving January to May 2014 financial statements
    - 3. Consider approving the out of state travel requests
- VII. Any other business - None
- VIII. Public Comment - None
- IX. Adjournment

*Serena L. Bruce, Legal/Projects Assistant  
Greater Lafourche Port Commission  
P.O. Box 490 Galliano, LA 70354  
(985)632-6701*

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**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE GREATER LAFOURCHE PORT COMMISSION**  
**June 11, 2014**

The Board of Commissioners of the Greater Lafourche Port Commission met in regular session on Wednesday, June 11, 2014 at 10:30 AM at the Administration Building 16829 East Main Street, Galliano, LA.

President Gisclair called the meeting to order and Secretary Cheramie called roll.

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

ABSENT: None

Upon motion by Melancon and second by Collins, the board unanimously approved the minutes for May 14, 2014 regular meeting.

**Executive Director's Report**

Northern Expansion Projects - Davie Breaux reported that all the steel sheets are driven on the west side of Slip C Bulkhead project. The contractor is having issues with driving the timber piles. They are aware of the contract time delays and may start working 24/7. The installation of deadman will be a slow process. The deadline to complete the work on the west side is July 11<sup>th</sup> they may be a month behind but we will push them to get that job moving. Further on the agenda, there is a decrease change order of \$106,425 for the shorter pile lengths than originally planned on the east side of the slip.

Airport Projects – Joe Wheeler reported that the Glide Slope project is back on schedule. The generator has been hooked up to the Localizer/DME. The AWOS is being moved to the other side of the roadway. The installation error for the Taxiway Centerline Lighting project has been corrected and will be able to move faster now. The Apron Expansion project bid opening is scheduled for June 18<sup>th</sup>. The aircraft operations for May were 1967.

Port Security and Grant Projects – April Danos reported that the EOC furniture is scheduled to be delivered by June 19<sup>th</sup> with everything in place by June 27<sup>th</sup>. The Lafourche Ambulance District will move in the EOC beginning August 1<sup>st</sup>. The open house ceremony for the EOC is scheduled for July 31<sup>st</sup>. Notices will be sent out to the public. Johnson Controls is working at the EOC on the cameras and access card readers for the TWIC Implementation project. The notice to proceed for the CCTV Additional Camera project will be issued on Monday, June 16<sup>th</sup> and the contractor Johnson Controls should be complete by August 30<sup>th</sup>.

Other Port Projects – Breaux reported that Grand Isle Shipyard has completed adding the sand on top of the geotubes on the dune side of the Beach project. They are now working their way back shaping the beach side. They plan to be complete next week. Breaux met with Nicholls State University for planting to be worked out with landowners to help keep the sand in place. Executive Director Chett Chiasson reported that we should have the draft report of the Assumption of Maintenance Study by the end of the month to review then we will submit to Corps office for the northern Bayou Lafourche dredge area. We continue to work on the permit and currently responding to comments made regarding disposal of materials from Bayou Lafourche. This will change on how the disposal will be placed and we plan to install tidal creeks like we do with the mitigation areas.

Breaux reported that the subcontractor continues to drive the wharf piles for the Storm Harbor Marina project. They will then begin dredging and moving material across roadway to drive steel mooring piles and install goby mats. The contractor has till September 6<sup>th</sup> to complete the project. Gisclair questioned if the South Lafourche Levee District (SLLD) still needs fill for the south side of the floodgates, which Breaux replied yes but the contractor is coordinating that with the SLLD. Engineer Larry Picciola reported that the plans and specs are being finalized today for the N. J. Theriot Road Elevation & Improvement

project. They will be submitted to the Port this week to send to EDA and the State for review and approval. Breaux reported that J. Wayne Plaisance, Inc. is finalizing the plans for the Nerby Collins Commercial Marina Bulkhead. Chiasson mentioned the status of the Leeville Public Boat Launch that the Port has budgeted funds. The contractor has begun working on site bringing in the job trailer and some materials.

Update from South Louisiana Economic Council (SLEC) – Vic Lafont presented to the board their annual report. He explained that SLEC has adopted its new organizational framework and has committed focus on some core strategies. They are now housed in a renovated Babington hall at Nicholls State University and invited the board to visit when in Thibodaux. The new location allows them the ability to house the Small Business Development Center, Restore or Retreat, LA 1 Coalition, and Gulf Economic Survival Team and most recently accommodating the needs of the Lafourche Parish Chamber of Commerce. The report shows the number of companies SLEC has helped in 2013. They visited with more than 50 key players within our region while identifying over 12 million in anticipated expansion efforts. Of that 50, there were 10 working out of Fourchon which SLEC is assisting with their expansion and making sure they know about all the Louisiana and Federal Economic Incentives that are available to make sure they don't leave anything on the table.

SLEC has also been focusing on how important the Louisiana Ports are especially when Senator Chabert made that known to the rest of the world with Senate Bill 573. There was some opposition from his profession that appeared to be state wide but that was not a true picture of what was going on. We were all there watching that particular aspect of the bill and testified when needed. Lafont was successful in getting 7 out of 8 to not oppose the bill and the 1 that did oppose was because of the Airports. In regards to the South Lafourche Airport's future industrial area, this would be a great area to develop an industrial park which would in turn help the argument for the road. With that, he would like to see the study when complete for the Airport Access Corridor. SLEC participated in the OTC in partnership with LED visiting with port tenants. Lafont thanked Chiasson for the updated port maps which will help him in his position. Lafont plans to meet with Chouest today to discuss their expansions and requested information of any other companies expanding in Fourchon that he may provide some assistance. Lastly, SLEC also uses a business barometer to track the economy on a quarterly basis which is available on their website.

Gisclair stated that with the several different tax credit incentives available how receptive businesses are to these tax credits and what kind of revenue is there. Lafont replied that there is a formula used which depends on the type of business, job creation, and if the suggested expansion could possibly bring future expansions. There are so many tax credit incentives available that it will be interesting to see in 10 years the amount of money coming back to the state through the workforce. Gisclair questioned the remedy in the workforce, which Lafont replied that the workforce needs skilled workers, which means training and classrooms. The other remedy is providing affordable housing for people that come here for jobs costing them \$15 a day instead of hotel charges while they are searching for jobs and doing interviews.

Chiasson recognized Senator Norby Chabert to address the board and discuss this legislative session and Senate Bill 573. Senator Chabert stated that Senate Bill 573 was passed and should be signed by the Governor any day now. We had to fight for this bill all session long because it was categorized as just a port bill which it is not. We all recognize how important ports are and the operations of a port involving all types of shipping services from one place to another such as rail, commercial trucking, air services, and waterways either inland or coastal. We have been blessed to have one of the most intricate navigable waterway systems in the world but we have not paid enough attention to the crumbling maritime waterway infrastructure challenges such as depth, draft, broken bridges or locks so the maritime industry was brought in to bring attention to these challenges as well. We took a branch of DOTD isolated it, elevated it, built a huge firewall around it, and kept it within the department. We created a winged government solely focused on the business of ports, airports, rails, maritime industry, and commercial trucking with the head of that commission to exist independently of the Secretary of DOTD and be appointed directly by the Governor.

Chabert stated that the Ports Association of Louisiana (PAL) has been fighting for this since the 80's and for one reason or another it was never able to gain ground to get approved. The fight to get this bill passed was a monumental task that he fought for every day. He stated that what will happen is that when the Governor signs the bill during next year this commission will be established with appointees from PAL, air sector, rail sector, commercial trucking sector, waterway operators, representatives from the legislature appointed both by the president of the senate and speaker of the house, as well as the chairman of both the senate and the house transportation and commerce committees. There will be a lot of input going into what this office will do and what the focus should be. This needs to be business oriented to keep businesses working by seeing challenges of today and tomorrow. Hopefully this is the bridging of a massive gap between economic development, transportation, and every other sector of government that stops businesses from being all they can be. One in every 5 jobs is related to maritime commerce with this bill taking so long to pass proves that they just don't get it. Before the session, we brought Steven Moret the Secretary of the Department of Economic Development here to tour Fourchon. It is shocking to know that he has not been here since before he was appointed. That is a major problem. Too often in this state we focus on the incentives for others to do business here instead of focusing on the businesses that we have and helping them grow. Hopefully over the next year this commission we set up will come up with serious legislation to be one of the strongest offices in all of Louisiana Government.

Senator Chabert then reported on the Budget stating that it basically is what it is. We are a victim of a situation of our own making. We cut so many taxes under this administration and the previous administration with tax swaps and repeals. None of us are fans of paying taxes but a lot was cut. As a business you understand there has to be a point of return. There is a cost of providing the essential services of government. If you raise your taxes too high, business can't operate, citizens will go into unrest, and everything will fall apart. We have not found that balance yet. The next governor in office will have to face raising taxes. This is the 6<sup>th</sup> year in a row we have almost a billion dollar shortfall. The lowest unemployment in the country is right here between Terrebonne and Lafourche. We are having problems collecting corporate taxes. We go into the red every year on rebates. We give back more than we collect. Chabert is charged with balancing the budget every year. It has to be done.

Cheremie questioned if the problems with the Airport have been worked out with the bill that was passed, which Chabert replied that the major component of the bill originally was to create this office within the Department of Economic Development (DED) which he feels is where this office belongs. If we had several years to reorganize government to maximize its efficiency ideally you would eliminate DED to recreate a Department of Commerce. You would have a Commerce Secretary where multimodal would be an office and economic development would be an office. Economic development is not a business it is site selection and how to get people here. The Airports were having problems because they are economic development entities. When they found out that all the incentives under economic development will mess with them the concerns began then they realized their funding comes from DOTD. Airports have a dedicated fuel tax for all aviation services that is protected by the state and feds which were their concerns so they were amended out of the bill on the senate floor. They did not want to change but by staying within DOTD they were happy and gave up opposition to the bill. Afterward, in the best interest of passing this bill and keep the same structure it was determined to leave it in DOTD which worked for everyone. So when the airports were added back in there was zero opposition to it. So everyone was supportive of the concept but it is that people are comfortable where they are and don't like to change.

Chiasson mentioned that over the last 2 sessions the bill for port industry with last year the port tax credit bill and with this year's bill which was a broader changing bill he feels this is monumental to the state and he thanked Senator Chabert for being a champion on that for us and the industry. It is very important for us to compete with other states around us that are investing hundreds of millions of dollars into their infrastructure and we get 20 million a year that we compete for in this state for infrastructure dollars into our facilities. Chiasson is proud to say that PAL has named him as the port representative on that board. We are already planning a meeting with the Secretary of DOTD to begin a discussion on what will happen here to move forward. Chiasson then stated that we appreciate everything you do and then

presented to Senator Chabert on behalf of the Port Commission a framed Port Fourchon/South Lafourche Leonard Miller Jr. Airport map.

### **Committee Reports**

Executive Committee - The committee met on May 28<sup>th</sup> in Fourchon. Present was Gisclair, Cheramie, Melancon, and Griffin. They also met on June 9<sup>th</sup> in Galliano with all present.

Upon motion by Cheramie and second by Bruce, with no public comment, the board unanimously approved the request from Newpark Environmental Services to assign lease sites GLF343 and GLF343-16 to Ecoserv, LLC.

Upon motion by Griffin and second by Guidry, with no public comment, the board unanimously approved the request from Ecoserv for a Landlord Subordination and Consent to Leasehold Mortgage for lease sites GLF343 and GLF343-16.

Upon motion by Griffin and second by Collins, with no public comment, the board unanimously approved the purchase of an excavator from Marsh Buggies, Inc. in the amount of \$502,050 with a four year buy back clause of \$180,000. Chiasson stated that the Terrebonne Levee and Conservation District recently bid out an excavator and we will legally piggy back off of their bid process to purchase the same excavator. The TLCD already approved this transaction at their meeting.

Upon motion by Melancon and second by Gaudet, with no public comment, the board unanimously approved advertising the sale of surplus equipment.

Permits & Waterways Committee - The committee met on May 28<sup>th</sup> in Fourchon. Present was Chairman Cheramie, Gisclair, Collins, and Griffin. They also met on June 9<sup>th</sup> in Galliano with all present.

Chairman Cheramie presented for the boards review the permit applications from Chevron Environmental Management Company and TANA Exploration.

Construction & Development Committee - The committee met on May 28<sup>th</sup> in Fourchon. Present was Chairman Bruce, Gisclair, Vizier, and Griffin. They also met on June 9<sup>th</sup> in Galliano with all present.

Upon motion by Bruce and second by Guidry, with no public comment, the board unanimously approved Change Order No. 4 a decrease of \$106,425.00 with 20 additional days for shorter pile lengths on the east side from Johnson Bros Corporation for the Slip C Bulkhead project.

Finance Committee - The committee met on May 28<sup>th</sup> in Fourchon. Present was Chairman Melancon, Gisclair, Guidry, and Gaudet. They also met on June 9<sup>th</sup> in Galliano with all members present.

Upon motion by Melancon and second by Vizier, with no public comment, the board unanimously approved payment of May invoices and recognized expenditures over \$10,000 with all payments totaling \$2,080,112.64.

Upon motion by Melancon and second by Collins, with no public comment, the board unanimously approved the January to May 2014 financial statements.

Upon motion by Melancon and second by Guidry, with no public comment, the board unanimously approved the out of state travel request from Joe Colson to attend the DEFCON Conference in Nevada on August 5<sup>th</sup>.

President Gisclair opened the floor for any public comment which Griffin stated that he will undergo surgery tomorrow and asked everyone to keep him in their prayers. Cheramie stated that he would like to thank everyone for their thoughts and prayers of support for his wife Kelly while she was under going cancer treatments.

Upon motion by Cheramie and second by Collins, the board adjourned the board meeting.

ATTEST:

  
Perry Gisclair, President

  
Harris "Chuekie" Cheramie, Jr., Secretary