

AGENDA  
March 7, 2006

- I. Call to Order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Consider February 8, 2006 Regular Meeting Minutes for approval
- V. Executive Director's Report
  - A. **Notice of Retirement**
  - B. **Northern Expansion Update**
    - a. **Construction status:**
      - i. Slip B, West Bulkhead, Project #1 – Joe Picciola
      - ii. Slip B, West Bulkhead, Project #2 – Larry Picciola
      - iii. Leeville Mitigation Bucket Dredge – Larry Picciola
      - iv. Slip A, Rowan Bulkhead Repairs – John Plaisance
  - C. **Airport Update**
    - a. Project status
  - D. **Port Security**
    - a. Security Camera System
  - E. **FEMA Updates**
    - a. Wave Protection
    - b. Debris Fence along LA 3090
    - c. Katrina and Rita FEMA Claims
  - F. **Highway Improvements Update**
- VI. Committee Reports
  - A. **Executive Committee**
    - a. Consider approving the bidding procedure for the Fourchon Bridge repair
    - b. Consider approving the resolution in support of LA 1's application to the Coastal Impact Assistance Program
    - c. Consider approving the resolution in support of LA 1's 2007 Federal Appropriation request
    - d. Consider approving the DOTD Sponsorship Agreement for the Airport
  - B. **Permits & Waterways Committee**
    1. Permits:
      1. James A. Whitson – CUP No. P20051583
      2. Swift Energy Company
      3. Maritech Resources, Inc.
      4. Chevron North America Exploration & Production Company
      5. Dantin, Issac
      6. Apache Louisiana Minerals, Inc.
      7. Chevron North America Exploration & Production Company
      8. Chevron USA, Inc.
      9. Hilcorp Energy Company
      10. Maritech Resources, Inc.
      11. Hilcorp Energy Company
      12. Manti Operating Company
      13. Maritech Resources, Inc.
  - C. **Construction and Development Committee**
    1. Consider approving Change Order No. 1 for the Runway Extension Project
    2. Consider request from Interstate Electronic Systems
  - D. **Finance Committee**
    - a. Consider payment of invoices and recognize expenditures over \$10,000
    - b. Consider approving the January and February financial reports
    - c. Consider approving out of state travel arrangements
- VII. Any other business
- VIII. Public Comment
- IX. Possible Executive Session
  - Discuss pending litigation defined as "Rowan Companies, Inc. et al v. The Greater Lafourche Port Commission, et al, Civil Action No. 05-0030 – Sec. K – Magistrate 2"
  - Discuss pending litigation defined as "David Dardar, et al vs. Greater Lafourche Port Commission, Suit No. 102,795-7<sup>th</sup> JDC-Parish of Lafourche"
- X. Public Comment
- XI. Adjournment

Attachment

The following items may be discussed in an executive session:

- The pending litigation more specifically defined as "Rowan Companies, Inc. and Rowan Marine Services, Inc. v. The Greater Lafourche Port Commission; J. Wayne Plaisance, Inc.; Continental Construction Company, Inc.; Eustis Engineering Co., Inc.; Vulcan Construction Materials, LP; Vulcan Materials Company; and Core Industries, Inc., Civil Action No. 05-0030 – Sec. K – Magistrate 2".
- The pending litigation more specifically defined as "David Dardar, et al vs. Greater Lafourche Port Commission, Suit No. 102,795-7<sup>th</sup> JDC-Parish of Lafourche"

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE GREATER LAFOURCHE PORT COMMISSION  
March 7, 2006

The Board of Commissioners of the Greater Lafourche Port Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, March 7, 2006 at 10:30 AM.

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

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

ABSENT: None

Upon motion by Ervin Bruce and second by Jimmy Lafont, the board unanimously approved the February 8, 2006 regular meeting minutes.

**Executive Director's Report**

Notice of Retirement – Director Falgout officially announced his retirement as the director of the Port Commission effective December 31, 2006. He stated that during his 27 years as director he has seen tremendous progress, served with many commissioners, and worked with many dedicated employees. He stated that the greatest success story is the efforts to improve the highway to the Port. A project that was once unknown, but has advanced to being the poster child for projects even at the national level. He encouraged the voters of the tenth ward to continue to select commissioners to guide the Port into the future. He leaves this organization with a very talented and dedicated staff that is comprised of young and experienced personnel. He expressed that the Port Commission must continue to be a positive support in the community. He stated that being the director during this period of growth and prosperity has been a welcomed challenge and an unimaginably rewarding experience. It has been a good ride and although he is retiring his heart and commitment remains with the betterment of the Port and community. He closed in thanking the Commission for having the opportunity to work as the director. President Vizier stated that he has worked with Mr. Falgout for the past 18 years and he is a great leader who has surrounded himself with a great staff. He believes that past commissioners and A.O. Rappelet would like to see the port as it is today and he thanked Mr. Falgout for his time.

Northern Expansion Update - Engineer Joe Picciola reported that James Construction has installed all the steel sheet piles and the I-beam whaler for Slip B, West Bulkhead, Project #1. He stated that they have poured all the concrete deadmen and driven all the timber piles to the Flotation Canal corner. They are currently driving piles for the Delmar crane pads. He stated that they are behind schedule to meet the contract time, which is scheduled for April 4<sup>th</sup> and the estimated completion time would be in early June. Commissioner Collins questioned if the delay is due to the hurricanes, which Mr. Picciola responded that they were given 36 extra days in a change order and beyond that it is manpower and equipment and their ability to finish the job on time. Everyone is experiencing problems with labor and materials which is hurricane related. Director Falgout questioned if Delmar has been notified of the delay, which Mr. Picciola reported that he has spoken to Mr. Dugas and has kept him notified of the progress. Commissioner Martin questioned the impact to Delmar in their current lease situation, which Mr. Autin replied that by the agreement between Chouest and Delmar, they are currently paying rentals on a month-to-month basis. Mr. Martin questioned if Delmar is being negatively affected by this situation, which Mr. Picciola reported that they have not mentioned any negative impact with their current Chouest lease agreement. They do desire to get on site as soon as possible because they are experiencing growth in business and need the site. Further discussion followed regarding the Delmar and Chouest relocation agreement.

Mr. Neil Angelette with Larry Picciola Inc. reported that Shavers-Whittle has completed driving all the timber piles for the deadmen on Slip B, West Bulkhead, Project #2. He stated that they are

currently pouring concrete for the deadmen. He stated that they should meet the completion date scheduled for August 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Mr. Angelette reported that United Dredging is on site dredging on the northern section for the Leeville Mitigation Bucket Dredge. He stated that the completion date is scheduled for April 30<sup>th</sup> for both the northern and southern sections. He stated that the contracts have been sent to Weeks Marine for the Leeville Hydraulic Dredge project and we are waiting on the notice to proceed date.

Engineer John Plaisance stated that they are completing the plans for the cap & bumper replacement along Slip A, Rowan Repairs. He stated that they will be requesting quotes within the next few weeks and that once the project is approved it will take 60 days to install.

Airport Update – Mr. Breaux reported that Airport Manager, Jeff Hunter is attending the Louisiana Airport Managers Conference. Mr. Breaux reported that Phylway is proceeding on time and next week they will be doing the top coating and test sections of paving for the Runway Extension project. Once the test sections are checked, they should begin paving the runway within the next few weeks. The scheduled completion time is June 15<sup>th</sup> and they are ahead of schedule. He stated that the engineer is 66% complete with the preliminary design of Phase II of the project, which consists of stone and paving of the 5,000' to 6500' runway, concrete culverts for drainage, with an alternate for site prep and paving for a 500' taxiway. Commissioner C. Cheramie questioned when the runway will re-open, which Mr. Breaux stated that once the paving is complete the runway will reopen.

Port Security – Director Falgout stated that the board was briefed last night at the committee meeting by Mr. Lloyd Francioni with Interstate Electronic Systems on the progress of the Security Camera System. He stated that IES has requested an additional 7 days to complete the repairs to the camera system. Mr. Callais stated that 15 of 17 cameras are currently working. He stated that the two Belle Pass cameras have been tested and the replacement parts have been received and are ready to be installed. They are scheduled to install the equipment this week. Commissioner C. Cheramie questioned the completion time of the whole project, which Mr. Callais responded that once the project is substantially complete the 90-day trial period will begin. He stated that if the Port accepts the project after the 90 days, the project will be complete. The board viewed the live cameras on the screen. Commissioner Martin questioned when we received the grant for the cameras, which Mr. Callais replied that the grant was issued in 2003 during the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of security grants.

FEMA Updates – Mr. Chiasson reported that there are 3 project worksheets left to write for the beach restoration to bring in sand that was lost during Katrina, ditch sweeping in the Northern Expansion and on Theriot Road, and dredging the Flotation Canal. He stated that the projects are in the engineering phase being prepared to advertise. Commissioner Martin questioned the plan that we have for emergency dredging if we had a great siltation that would shut down the port, which Director Falgout stated that the Corps has the responsibility to dredge our channel and when a disaster is declared Congress gives direction to the Corps to address critical channels that have been impacted. He stated that depending on the time of year, the Corps may be low in funding and Congress has to do an appropriation before dredging can begin. If it is early in the year they have enough money to do emergency dredging. He stated that we have to compete with other impacted channels for the available funding and there is no guarantee into the future of how fast the Corps will dredge the channel.

Commissioner Martin stated that in the past, the Corps was able to contract with dredging companies that were already in the Port to do emergency dredging. He stated that we need to prepare and look at any avenue we can to address this situation for an immediate response. President Vizier agreed with Mr. Martin and would like the board to look into setting up \$1 million in the budget to take the first steps and hire a dredge for the channel in times of storms and worry about reimbursements from the Corps later. Director Falgout stated that it is worth looking into. He stated that the Corps has open ended bids in progress with commitments from dredging companies if an emergency arises which allows them to quickly put together a project within 30 days. Further discussion followed regarding the Corps bidding process and past storms. Commissioner Griffin questioned when the Corps took over the channel, which Director Falgout responded that it was in 1996. The first dredging was done in 1997, which the Port shared the cost with the Corps and since then they have done maintenance dredging. Commissioner Griffin question the estimated money that the Port has saved since the Corps took over,

which Director Falgout stated that just the dredging cycle coming up is over \$3.5 million. He stated that we are also seeking to extend the Corps dredging responsibility all the way to Flotation Canal, which it currently stops near C-Port 1. Just that project will be close to a \$9 million project. It is a huge sum of money that we are saving. Commissioner Griffin stated that if it is legal to have standby monies available we would still be ahead of the game. Director Falgout stated that if we set money aside that we need to think more on the lines of \$3 million instead of \$1 million. Commissioner Melancon stated that before the Corps took over the channel we always had money set aside for dredging the channel. Commissioner Martin stated that he will bring this to the hurricane committee to further discuss to be proactive in an emergency situation.

Highway Improvements Update – Director Falgout stated that Monday Senator Landrieu and Senator Murkowski from Alaska will be visiting the Port around 1:00 pm and will fly over Coastal Louisiana. Henri Boulet, LA 1 Coalition Director, stated that Senator Landrieu was in Houma on February 21<sup>st</sup> and he was able to speak to her on the need for highway funding for Phase 1A, which is scheduled to bid in late summer and is hoping for a \$30 million commitment from federal appropriations. He also conveyed to her the need for revenue sharing for Phase II of the project, which is estimated at \$250 million. He reported that on February 22<sup>nd</sup> the low bid for Phase 1C center spans came in at \$20,200,000 by Traylor Bros/Massman, which was 33% higher than expected. DOTD doesn't anticipate a problem to accept this bid. This project is for a 350' center span with 2 flanking spans to connect to the approaches. He reported that in late February, he worked on the congressional appropriations request for fiscal year 2007 with Senator Vitter, Senator Landrieu, and Congressman Melancon. He expressed the funding needed for Phase 1A and Phase II.

He attended a meeting with DNR on the coastal impact assistance program. Mr. Boulet will develop an application for the LA 1 project to present to the Lafourche Parish Council for the \$540 million of energy funds to our state, which will be dispersed between 2007 and 2011. He has been working with the South Lafourche Levee District to draft letters to DOTD to show support for raising LA 1 at floodgates to coincide with raising the levees. He announced several upcoming events for the board to attend: March 14<sup>th</sup> the Corps is hosting a public hearing in Thibodaux at 6:30 pm at the Howard Johnson Envie` banquet room to identify flood control and hurricane protection measures for coastal Louisiana; March 15<sup>th</sup> there will be a Lafourche long-term recovery plan meeting in Raceland at the Bingo Hall on LA 1 at 5:30 pm; March 16<sup>th</sup> LA 1 Coalition is sponsoring a Chamber breakfast with DOTD Secretary Bradberry speaking about the LA 1 Elevated Highway project at the Larose Civic Center; March 24<sup>th</sup> the groundbreaking for the LA 1 Highway project in Leeville at 4:00 pm which he is working on getting the Governor and other Washington delegation to attend.

### **Committee Reports**

Executive Committee – Chairman Donald Vizier reported that the committee met on February 22, 2006 at the Operations Building in Fourchon. Present were Donald Vizier, John Melancon, and Jimmy Lafont. Harry Cheramie was absent. The committee also met on March 6, 2006 at the Administration Building in Galliano. All members were present. The Commission then discussed items that were discussed at the committee meetings.

Chairman Vizier presented to the board the bidding procedure for the Fourchon Bridge repair. Director Falgout stated that the advertisement for bids will begin on March 20<sup>th</sup> and we will receive bids on April 19<sup>th</sup>.

Upon motion by John Melancon and second by Beau Martin, the board unanimously approved the resolution in support of LA 1's application to the Coastal Impact Assistance Program.

Upon motion by Beau Martin and second by Ervin Bruce, the board unanimously approved the resolution in support of LA 1's 2007 Federal Appropriation request.

Upon motion by Wilbert Collins and second by Chuckie Cheramie, the board unanimously approved the DOTD Sponsorship Agreement for replacing the wind cone assembly and AWOS tilt bucket at the Airport that was damaged by the storms and authorized President Vizier to execute.

Director Falgout requested to add LOOP's lease renewal request to the agenda. Upon motion by John Melancon and second by Chuckie Cheramie, a two-thirds vote was taken which resulted in all yeas.

Director Falgout stated that LOOP is up for a 10-year option renewal and is currently paying \$118, 886 a year with a 2% escalation. We are negotiating with them to increase the rental for 2007 to \$141,272.14 with a 5% escalation. LOOP accepts the increase and has also requested to amend their lease to add 3 additional 10-year options to their lease. These figures represent what a new company coming into the Port would be paying. Commissioner Larry Griffin made a motion to amend LOOP's lease with the new rentals, 5% escalation, and 3 additional option renewal periods which was second by Wilbert Collins; the floor was open for discussion. Commissioner Martin moved that we amend the motion to include the current subleasing provision and add any new language to update their lease. The motion to amend was seconded by John Melancon and the board unanimously approved the amended motion to include the subleasing and new language in the lease. The board then voted on the motion as amended, which was unanimously approved and authorized President Vizier to execute.

Permits & Waterways Committee – Chairman Chuckie Cheramie reported that the committee met on February 22, 2006 at the Operations Building in Fourchon. Present were Chuckie Cheramie, Donald Vizier, and Jimmy Lafont. Beau Martin was absent. The committee also met on March 6, 2006 at the Administration Building in Galliano. All members were present. The Commission then discussed items that were discussed at the committee meetings.

Chairman Cheramie presented to the board the revised permit by James A. Whitson (CUP No. P20051583) which removed the prop washing language and the board had no objection to this permit. He also presented the permits by Swift Energy Company, Maritech Resources, Inc., Chevron North America Exploration & Production Company, Issac Dantin, Apache Louisiana Minerals, Inc., Chevron North America Exploration & Production Company, Chevron USA, Inc., Hilcorp Energy Company, Maritech Resources, Inc., Hilcorp Energy Company, Manti Operating Company, and Maritech Resources, Inc. The board had no objections to these permits, therefore no action was taken.

Construction & Development – Chairman Bruce reported that the committee met on February 22, 2006 at the Operations Building in Fourchon. Present were Ervin Bruce and Donald Vizier. Larry Griffin and Wilbert Collins were absent. The committee also met on March 6, 2006 at the Administration Building in Galliano. Larry Griffin was absent. The Commission then discussed items that were discussed at the committee meetings.

Chairman Bruce presented for the board's consideration to approve Change Order No. 1 for the Runway Extension Project. Engineer Joe Picciola reported that the initial plan was to use materials on site for the sub-base for the runway widening, but the contractor had problems with compaction of the material and chose to substitute that material with sand. This change order is the difference in sand brought in and borrowed materials they used. Upon motion by Wilbert Collins and second by Harry Cheramie, the board unanimously approved Change Order No. 1 from Phylway Construction in the amount of \$60,210.00 for the Runway Extension project and authorized Director Falgout to execute.

Upon motion by Chuckie Cheramie and second by Wilbert Collins, the board unanimously approved the request from Interstate Electronic Systems for a 7-day extension, which will end March 17<sup>th</sup>.

Finance Committee - Chairman John Melancon reported that the committee met on February 22, 2006 at the Operations Building in Fourchon. Present were John Melancon and Donald Vizier. Larry Griffin and Wilbert Collins were absent. The committee also met on March 6, 2006 at the Administration Building in Galliano. Larry Griffin was absent. The Commission then discussed items that were discussed at the committee meetings.

Upon motion by John Melancon and second by Larry Griffin, the board unanimously approved the February invoices.

Upon motion by John Melancon and second by Wilbert Collins, the board unanimously approved the January and February financial reports.

Upon motion by John Melancon and second by Harry Cheramie the board unanimously approved the out of state travel arrangements for April Danos to Tacoma, Washington, Chett Chiasson to Houston, Texas, and Jeff Hunter to Dallas, Fort Worth.

President Vizier opened the floor for any other business. Commissioner Martin stated that he has talked to the administration in the past to accumulate data about the Port and our community to have on hand to give to new companies coming into the Port. He presented to the board a hand out created by the Daily Comet, which focused on living in Terrebonne and Lafourche Parish. He recommended that we use this information to grow to another level and use as a marketing tool for our parish. He also commented that it ranked the schools and South Lafourche High School was the highest in the area. All in all it is good news to pass on. President Vizier stated that he is proud of South Lafourche and the teachers in the community. Mr. Chiasson stated that he represents the Port on the Chamber board and is the chairman of the Economic committee. He will present this information to the committee to distribute in the parish.

Upon motion by Larry Griffin and second by Wilbert Collins, the board adjourned the regular meeting.

ATTEST:

  
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Donald Vizier, President

  
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Jimmy Lafont, Vice President

March 7, 2006

5