

STATE OF THE PORT

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER • VOLUME 02 • JUNE 2020



60 YEARS

We would like to welcome you to the second installment of our quarterly newsletter, which was originally launched in January of this year.

This newsletter is a tool for us here at the Greater Lafourche Port Commission to allow you to better know who we are and what we do in Port Fourchon.

As a region, country, and **Port**, we have experienced plenty of challenges in the first few months of this newest calendar year. While these challenges have tested us all, I am pleased to report that we have continued moving forward unimpeded. This is a credit to our hard-working staff, the guidance and oversight of our **Board of Commissioners**, and our valued tenants, who have truly risen to the occasion during these unprecedented times. Through following state/parish and CDC guidelines, which includes, but is not limited to; practicing **social distancing**, **washing hands regularly**, using **hand-sanitizing agents**, and implementing other uniform changes throughout the GLPC when it comes to **disinfecting work spaces**, we have continued to work towards projects and initiatives that hopefully make our agency and Port **stronger** than ever.

Obviously, **we are aware** of the struggles going in the **O&G industry** and have addressed these difficulties with our tenants in the form of offering across the board **short-term rental relief**. We have even taken it upon ourselves to work further with some of our tenants to discover additional ways we can assist them as they try to maintain their work force through this stretch. Personally, with the full support of the Board of Commissioners, **I accepted an invitation to sit on a task force** aimed at **helping businesses** come back online throughout our state. Beyond that, as the **Board President** of the **South Central Industrial Association (SCIA)**, my colleagues and myself have sent a letter to our **legislative leadership in Washington, D.C.**, including **President Donald Trump** to encourage them and him to take further steps to help the O&G industry through this downturn.

On behalf of the GLPC Board and our **valued tenants**, I drafted and sent a letter to President Trump highlighting ways he could aid in our eventual recovery from what has become a tumultuous time. **Starting January 1st**, the **GLPC and Port Fourchon entered its 60th anniversary with high hopes**, which included the launch of a **new logo** to better identify us. Out of respect to everyone we deal with, we decided to postpone the debut of this impactful new brand. While unveiling the new logo isn't part of our immediate plans, here's an update on where other items stand.



Chett Chiasson
Executive Director

"Our hope is to maintain current business, attract new business, and help to diversify our economy for our community's long-term viability."

As you may remember, we have continued to work on approvals to **dredge Belle Pass to 50-feet**, and **just recently received approval from the Corps of Engineers and the Assistant Secretary of the Army to move forward with Congressional Authorization to dredge Belle Pass, Bayou Lafourche to Flotation Canal, and our Northern Expansion to 30-feet** with the understanding that the next phase will see us continuing for an additional 20-feet. In the meantime, we can begin building out the infrastructure needed for our **Fourchon Island development**.

This eventual investment will serve as a **premier Deepwater rig, repair, and refurbishment facility**, along with providing **86-million cubic yards of sediment over the 50-year lifespan of the project**. This rich sediment will not only help to further build-up Port Fourchon but will also aid greatly in the coastal restoration and protections needed for areas around Port Fourchon and the greater community.

Of further importance, our **future LNG project** continues to slowly inch closer to becoming a reality. A recent productive meeting with **Energy World** officials reaffirmed the company's initial commitment that will see them investing nearly **\$900 million** in Port Fourchon and Lafourche Parish.

Additionally, we are progressing through our design-bid-build model for the construction of an **Airport Corridor and Bridge project** that we received a **\$16.4 million federal BUILD grant for at the end of 2018**. This **\$35 million project** that has Federal Grant, State Capital Outlay, GLPC, and Lafourche Parish

Government financial components attached to it will set us down the path of having an industrial park on the same footprint of our airport in the coming years.

We are also excited to speak about our recent **Port Security Grant** submittal that if approved would bring about improvements in an already stellar Cyber-Security system has **earned national acclaim**. When combined with our upcoming submittal to another federal grant program specific to **coastal sea ports** where we will pursue an **estimated \$24.5 million bridge project** that seeks to replace the older Fourchon bridge with a new one, please understand that the GLPC has not stayed stagnant, but rather has resolved itself to be more ambitious than ever before. When tallied up, the public and private investments mentioned above, that also considers our personal investment of dollars for the completion of the **last phase of the elevated section of LA 1** amount to about **\$1.7 billion coming into the 10th Ward of Lafourche Parish in the coming years. Continued on page 3.**

GLPC Run Airport Experiences Amazing Growth With (More to Come)



The **South Lafourche (Leonard Miller Jr.) Airport** continues to make a name for itself in general aviation airport circles, as shown by a recent state-commissioned study revealing the Galliano-based airport ranked **fourth overall in total economic benefits** with a net output of **\$97,628,000** in 2019.

This represents a jump of **more than \$25 million** since the last time this study was performed in **2015**.

Overall, the airport continues to see tons of activity with nearly **130,000 passengers** traveling in and out of Leonard Miller Jr. in **2019**.

"These figures tell us a lot," GLPC Executive Director **Chett Chiasson** said. "When our Board of Commissioners purchased the airport from the parish in 2001, we did so knowing it was an investment in the future of Lafourche and the oil and gas industry our valued tenants service. Obviously, our commissioners were right, and this speaks to that when we see the volume of passengers using our airport, and how we are ranked fourth out of **61** general aviation airports in Louisiana."

Throughout the years, what started out as an airport in dire need of capital investment, has been completely re-imagined and now features a **6,500-foot long runway**, full instrument landing system, an AWOS weather system, full parallel taxiway, 24/7 self-service fuel station, and a pilot's lounge.

Investments from the GLPC and dollars derived from

successful grant applications and capital outlay requests have put the airport in a position to be what it is today, Chiasson said.

These investments were recognized by companies such as Chevron who relocated their airport operations in Port Fourchon to Galliano in **2014** because they saw the value of having a large-scale facility located inside the flood protection levee where they could safely and efficiently ferry their workers on and offshore.

Current plans call for even more development at the site of the airport. Along with finalizing design work to build a new hanger, the GLPC is currently in the midst of working through the design-bid-build module to make use of a **\$16.4 million federally awarded BUILD grant** for the construction of an Airport Corridor and Bridge that will one day allow for the development of a true **industrial park** adjacent to the airport.

Construction of this corridor and bridge is slated to begin by the second quarter of 2021.

"Between working with Lafourche Parish Government and going after capital outlay dollars that we are additionally matching with our own dollars, we believe this **\$35.2 million** project will bring about tremendous investment in our parish because it will allow for larger trucks to transport goods and services directly from our airport down to Port Fourchon," Chiasson said.

Category	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Passenger Volume	100,000	110,000	120,000	130,000	130,000
Revenue	\$1,000,000	\$1,100,000	\$1,200,000	\$1,300,000	\$1,300,000
Operating Costs	\$800,000	\$850,000	\$900,000	\$950,000	\$950,000
Net Output	\$200,000	\$250,000	\$300,000	\$350,000	\$350,000
Total Economic Benefits	\$1,200,000	\$1,350,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,650,000	\$1,650,000
Ranking	10th	8th	6th	4th	4th

COMMISSIONER SPOTLIGHT

"No place better than Port Fourchon"

Before retirement, Gisclair worked out of the port daily.



Rodney Gisclair, Sr.

Vice President of Board of Commissioners

Before **Rodney Gisclair Sr.** was elected to the Board of Commissioners of the Greater Lafourche Port Commission in 2016 and subsequently became the Vice President in October of 2019, he was already very familiar with Port Fourchon. A Cut Off native and former oyster fisherman and member of a tugboat company, he said he worked out of the port daily.

"I really got to know the port and saw it grow from a mosquito haven, as some people say, all the way to what it is today," he said. "When I retired in December of 2015, I said to my wife, 'I think I want to give back to the community, and I can think of no better place than Port Fourchon.'"

"It's a great economic engine for the whole economy: the local community, the parishes, the state and even the nation," he continued.

Since he joined the Board, Gisclair noted that the organization has been diversifying. "We went ahead and began diversifying into LNG [liquefied natural gas] -- which is still technically oil and gas but with a different slant on it," he said. "And also we want to deepen our channel. We need to deepen our channel because the vessels are not getting smaller; they're only getting larger and deeper."

One of the things he is the most proud of is the organization receiving national and even international recognition for the work that's being done at the port, Gisclair said. "It's important that we make ourselves known nationally and even internationally," he continued. "They really want to know what's going on down here in Port Fourchon."

But more important than that, Gisclair is proud that the port has been able to keep the local economy afloat, although the oil and gas industry has its ups and downs.

"Continuing our economic base for our community is what I'm proudest of," he said, "which we have done through some pretty tough times here in the last five years."

"I just have to commend Chett Chiasson, the rest of our staff, Harbor Police, everyone," Gisclair added. "They make our job so much easier."

Continued from page 1

In the next several years, you can rest assured that you will seas **kayaking** and **fishing** with our **future Coastal Wetlands Park** playing a central role in our plans. Our hope is to maintain current business, attract new business, and help to diversify our economy for our community's long-term viability.

In the meantime, our entire agency wishes you and your families the very best as we slowly begin to acclimate to our new normal with the understanding that when we stand united, **we can** and **do** make incredible things happen.

TENANT HIGHLIGHT



Founded in 1946 by **Donald Bollinger**, **Bollinger Shipyards** was begun with the understanding that following World War II the oil and gas business would flourish.

To accommodate the maritime industry, Bollinger Shipyards established machine shops, new construction, and repair yards.

What started out small in scope has grown larger and larger throughout the years with Bollinger becoming a word that is synonymous with quality and expertise, as the Lockport-based company continues to serve the extremely respected role of helping protect our country by providing game-changing Fast Response Cutters to the **United States Coast Guard**.

To date, Bollinger Shipyards has delivered **more than 180 vessels** to the Coast Guard, Navy and Army.

With many facilities under its guidance, Bollinger Shipyards has been an important mainstay in south Louisiana, including its repair and conversion yards, **Bollinger Fourchon North and Bollinger Fourchon South**, both of which provide solutions for the demands of vessel operators, operating companies, service companies and oil and gas exploration groups.

We thank Bollinger Shipyards for being a valued tenant of Port Fourchon and are appreciative of its many contributions to the Maritime Industry over the years!

To learn more about Bollinger Shipyards, visit bollingershipyards.com.

GLPC WINS AWARD



The GLPC attended a DOTD event in early March where they were given the **2020 Transportation Excellence Award for Intermodal/Public Works Project Development**.

The award was a way of recognizing the efforts and execution of Port Fourchon's Northern Expansion Phase II, Slip C, Phase III project that utilized GLPC dollars and funds from the state's Port Priority Program to help add 2,071 linear feet of new waterfront property.

Pictured above are: DOTD Secretary of Transportation Dr. Shawn Wilson (far right), GLPC Executive Director Chett Chiasson (far left), and Commissioner and Board Secretary Mike Callais.

Port Fourchon

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Did You Know?

Port Fourchon has nearly **74,000 linear feet** of bulkhead property that serve as the backbone of all the operations which take place in and out of the Port. If someone were to stretch out all these linear feet in one straight line it would equal **14 miles** or stretch from Port Fourchon to Golden Meadow.

