



May 7, 2020

YOUR state of the Port Update

Amazingly, we are only four months into 2020, although it feels like much longer than that.

As a region, country, and **Port**, we have experienced plenty of challenges in these 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 on 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. 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.

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SEAPORT OPERATIONS
Port Fourchon Operations Center
180 A.O. Rappelet Road
Port Fourchon, LA 70357
Phone: (985) 396-2750
Fax: (985) 396-2596

GLPC ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
Port Fourchon / South Lafourche Airport
16829 East Main Street
Cut Off, LA 70345
Phone: (985) 632-6701
Fax: (985) 632-6703
E-mail: glpc@portfourchon.com

AIRPORT OPERATIONS
South Lafourche Airport (GAO)
Airport Road
Galliano, LA 70354
FBO Phone: (985) 475-6701
Airport Manager: (985) 632-1118

www.portfourchon.com

This eventual investment (Fourchon Island) 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**.

In the next several years, you can rest assured that you will see **many large-scale investments** being made by our Port and other partners to not only move our parish forward, but to provide more in the way of **mitigation** to help protect our **entire region**, as well as establishing sites to enjoy recreational pursuits such as **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.

Yours in service,



Chett Chiasson, MPA

Executive Director

Greater Lafourche Port Commission

Greater Lafourche Port Commission

Port Fourchon ♦ South Lafourche Leonard Miller, Jr. Airport

"The Gulf's Energy Connection"