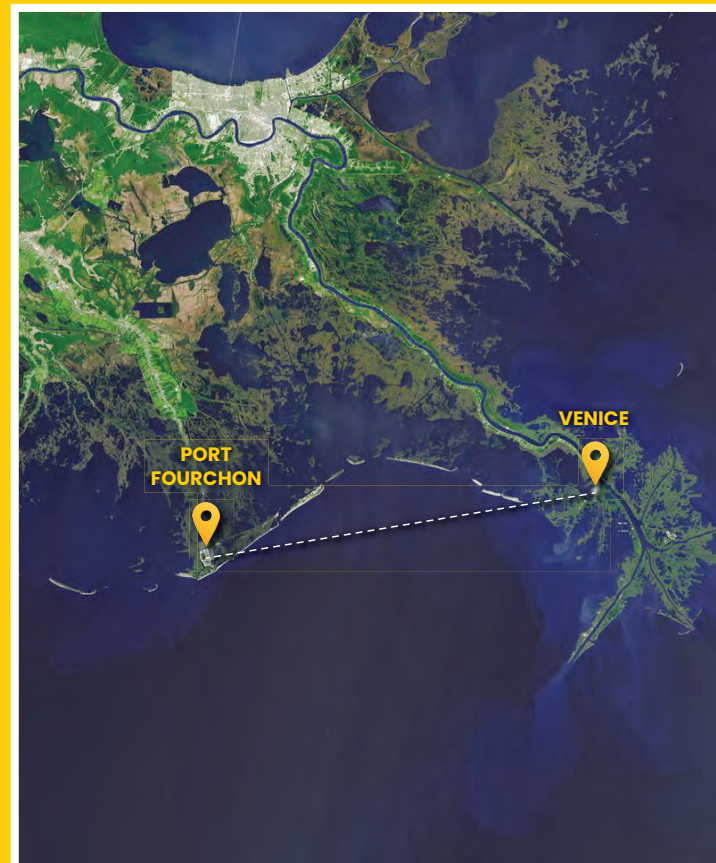




QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER • VOLUME 04 • JANUARY 2021



## DID YOU KNOW?

Port Fourchon is the southernmost location in Louisiana accessible by roadway. In fact, if you draw a straight line from the bottom of LA 1 in Port Fourchon eastward to LA Hwy 23 in Venice, you'll notice how the Port is indeed further south than Venice.



## THE PORT MESSENGER

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER • VOLUME 04 • JANUARY 2021

### TABLE OF CONTENTS:

#### PAGE 1

Entering 2020 With a Fresh New Look

#### PAGE 2

State of the Port

#### PAGE 3

Commissioner Spotlight  
Tenant Highlight  
Important Visitors

#### PAGE 4

Passage of WRDA Bill  
Legislation Paves Way  
for Construction of Port  
Fourchon Belle Pass  
Channel Deepening  
Project

#### PAGE 5

Difficult Storm Season  
Further Highlights  
Importance of  
Completing LA 1  
Elevated Highway

#### PAGE 6

Coastal Wetlands  
Park Development  
Moving Right Along

#### PAGE 7

Seen at the Port

#### PAGE 8

Did You Know?

## GLPC, FOURCHON ENTER 2021 WITH A FRESH NEW LOOK

The Greater Lafourche Port Commission (GLPC) recently debuted its new Fourchon logo with assistance from Thibodaux-based brand consultancy agency White Car.

With input from the GLPC and its dedicated Board of Commissioners, White Car worked in concert with the GLPC's communications team to produce a main logo that focuses on Port Fourchon's bright future as it continues to act as the central Gulf's premier service and supply hub for the offshore oil and gas industry.

"We believe the timing of this logo revamp felt right," **GLPC Executive Director Chett Chiasson** said. "As we enter 2021, we are filled with fresh hope and optimism that this year will be a better one for our region, state, and country. This logo reflects that optimism with its bold coloring and design. It also sets the stage for the future to create new opportunities for our port and community through its use."

The central theme of the logo highlights the grid-like development of Port Fourchon, whose bulkheads intermix with the adjacent waterways of Bayou Lafourche and the Gulf of Mexico. The blocks depict the solid nature of the Port that has resulted through advanced mitigation techniques, which have helped add substantial land, as well as commerce, to south Louisiana through the years.

"This logo is something we as a commission are very proud of," **GLPC Board President Chuckie Cheramie** said. "It is a logo that

stands out just like our tenants and users of the Port. As we move ahead as a Commission and Port, it is important to have a logo that tells the story of how this Port has modernized itself to meet the challenges of the 21st century through the hard work of many; including those early on that made the Port what it is today, which is the service provider for nearly 100 percent of all Deepwater Offshore Energy Production and Activity in the Gulf of Mexico."

The main Fourchon logo is only one of several subset logos that showcase the GLPC and its many assets, such as: Harbor Police,

the South Lafourche "Leonard J. Miller, Jr." Airport, and the Port Fourchon Wetlands Park.

Chiasson noted that, although the logo(s) may have changed, the mission of the Port as being **Ready Today, and Ready for Tomorrow**, remains the same.

We encourage the community to be on the lookout for our logo, as it will serve as the new identity of the GLPC and Port Fourchon, Chiasson said.

"I would like to thank all our tenants and users for making us who we are. When developing this logo, it was not lost on me that, without our service and supply industries that form the backbone of Port Fourchon, exciting moments like this are not possible. Like our tenants and users, we welcome a prosperous future where this logo is what people think of when someone says, 'Fourchon,'" he said.

The blocks depict the solid nature of the Port that has resulted through advanced mitigation techniques, which have helped add substantial land as well as commerce to south Louisiana through the years.



# STATE OF THE PORT 2020 END OF THE YEAR

BY CHETT CHIASSON, GLPC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



With everything that has happened in 2020, it makes sense for me to update everyone on where we stand as a Port Commission following all these events.

Let me preface both these topics by leaning on our slogan at Port Fourchon, which is **Ready Today, Ready for Tomorrow**.

This year's hurricane season brought us many challenges, with five glancing blows and a direct hit. All of them caused some sort of disruption to our community and Port Fourchon by cutting off access with water overtopping LA 1 between Golden Meadow and Leeville. Although Port Fourchon took a hard hit and sustained damage as a result of Hurricane Zeta's direct hit, our tenants and users returned to work, and power was totally restored to the Port very quickly thanks to the amazing work that was performed by GLPC Staff, Tenant Facility Employees, and our partners at Entergy that got us back up and running in short order.

As for the presidential election, we pledge to work with the new administration as we continue to demonstrate why we play such an important role in meeting and providing for this country's energy demands today, tomorrow, and into the future as well.

We all know **President Donald J. Trump** was an ally for those working in the energy industry. With this said, we also believe **President-elect Joseph R. Biden** can be as well, knowing that he understands fully that all forms of energy must be explored and pursued as a country in order to keep us on a trajectory to remain **energy independent** as a Nation.

Throughout his campaign, Mr. Biden spoke of shifting away from oil and gas over time, but he knows that eliminating oil and gas completely is not an option. At the end of the day, ridding ourselves of oil and gas is simply impossible, and we will go on believing this because we know it to be true. None of the many products, services, etc. that we utilize in everyday life would be possible, as most everything is made with petroleum products...it's just reality.

For a Port that services nearly 100% of all Deepwater offshore energy exploration and production in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico, it is our job to make sure Mr. Biden and his administration understand our continued im**PORT**ance to this country.

Furthermore, we embrace the opportunity to work in collaboration with an incoming administration that is willing to listen, and to put our future successes as a country over any sort of non-sensible policies that would seek to undermine our country's progress as an energy leader on the world stage.

There is no doubt that COVID-19, the many storm threats we faced this hurricane season, and a struggling economy have not made any of our lives easy.

Despite this, we remain confident that our tomorrow is full of the promise that comes with the announcement of significant projects, such as the completion of the elevated highway leading to Port Fourchon, the construction of an Airport Bridge and Connector Road, and continued investments in developments of bulkheads.

These investments, when combined with significant dredging of the waterways leading in and out of Port Fourchon, constitute an economic return estimated at more than \$1.7 billion in public and private investment over the next decade. Add that to the already amazing impact of Port Fourchon to the tune of \$46 million daily to the Oil and Gas and \$500 million daily to the National GDP.

In the coming year, you will see us roll out our new logo that will more clearly tell the story of our ever-evolving Port. This image was created with the purpose of setting us apart from other ports because we are unlike any Port in the sense that we not only service the oil and gas industry, but serve as an environmental hub where wildlife and nature flourish in such a way to where you have a hard time distinguishing which one is valued more because each co-habitats seamlessly together.

## COMMISSIONER SPOTLIGHT: MIKE CALLAIS

In the wake of serving as an interim member of the Board of Commissioners of the Greater Lafourche Port Commission in 2017 to replace a commissioner who passed away, Mike Callais (Secretary, Seat H) decided he wanted to continue serving Port Fourchon and its surrounding communities by running for his own seat.

"After having served as an interim commissioner, I felt that I had the time and experience needed to contribute to the board," the Golden Meadow native said.

Throughout Callais' time on the board, Port Fourchon has seen significant production and expansion, even though it has had to adapt to challenging times.

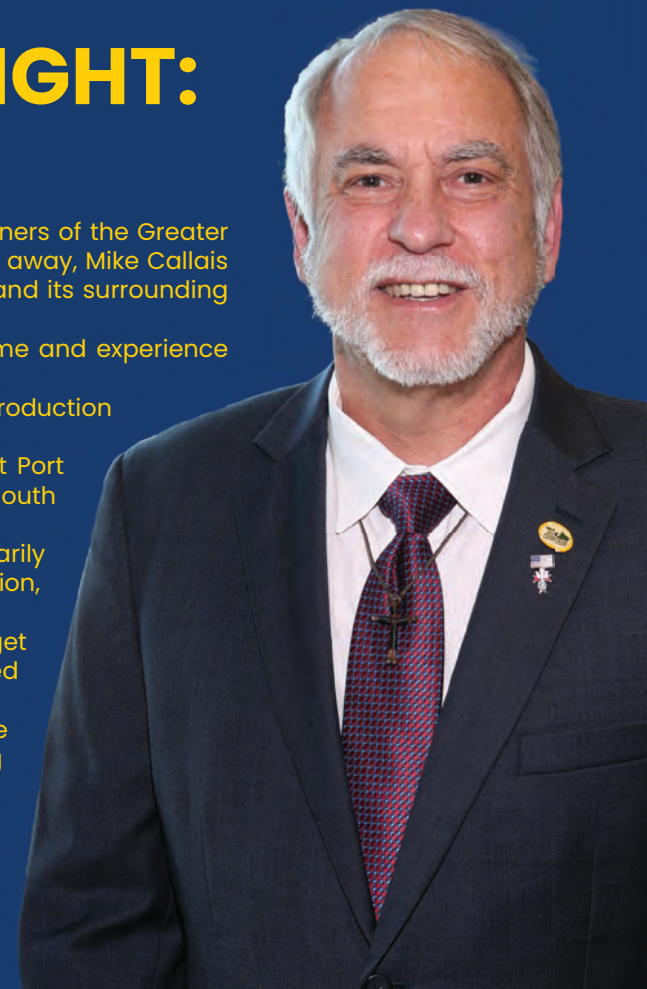
"Despite the challenges we've faced in the past, the growth I've seen at Port Fourchon is a testament to the foresight and capability of the people of South Lafourche," Callais shared.

For this year especially, with multiple Gulf storms causing the port to temporarily shut down and the COVID-19 pandemic slowing down oil and gas production, the fortitude of Port Fourchon was surely proven.

"I am most proud of how we have been able to help our port tenants to get past the problems caused by COVID-19 and the hurricanes we've experienced in 2020," Callais said.

Even with the challenges that 2020 brought, the port has a shining future with multiple projects that are in the works to enhance activity and bring more economic opportunities.

"I am looking forward to the bringing to fruition of the projects we have been working on," Callais said, "including the construction of the airport connector road and bridge, the development of Fourchon Island, the construction of an LNG facility at Port Fourchon and the completion of the elevated portion of Highway 1 from Golden Meadow to Leeville."



## TENANT HIGHLIGHT:



**Harvey Gulf International Marine, LLC**, which began as an inland and offshore towing vessel operator, has turned into much more and is now a provider of many other services in the deepwater and ultra-deepwater offshore oil and gas industry in the Gulf of Mexico.

The team at Harvey Gulf has had a presence in **Port Fourchon** for years and became the first owner and operator of LNG-powered OSV's in the U.S. in recent years. This, in turn, facilitated the construction of the first-ever LNG marine fueling site in North America in 2015.

Harvey Gulf truly is unique in its approach to making use of three fuel sources – **diesel, LNG, and electric battery** – to power its vessels. This has led Harvey Gulf to dub itself as **"The Safest & Greenest in Deep Water Marine Transportation."**

We thank Harvey Gulf 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 **Harvey Gulf** and **Chairman of the Board/CEO Shane Guidry**, visit [harveygulf.com](http://harveygulf.com).

## IMPORTANT VISITORS:



**GLPC Executive Director Chett Chiasson** had the privilege of hosting **Deputy Secretary of Energy Mark Menezes** (far left), **Deputy Secretary of the Interior Katharine MacGregor**, and **Director of the Bureau of Safety & Environmental Enforcement's Scott Angelle** in November of 2020.

These high-ranking US officials wanted to take a closer look at Port Fourchon and see what operations were like in the Port. Along with receiving a presentation and update on the Port, all of these officials toured a Harvey Gulf LNG vessel as well.

The GLPC appreciated this group making time to visit the Port, where they demonstrated a keen interest in the Port's tenants and users that service nearly 100% of all Deepwater Offshore Energy production in the Gulf of Mexico.





## PASSAGE OF WRDA BILL LEGISLATION PAVES WAY FOR CONSTRUCTION OF PORT FOURCHON BELLE PASS CHANNEL DEEPENING PROJECT

After completing a lengthy Section 203 Feasibility Study Report with its own funds, the Greater Lafourche Port Commission received some great news in late December via the **Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 2020**.

The multi-thousand-page document that requires federal approval and the backing of delegation members has given the Port authorization to begin dredging its channels to 30 feet in the coming years.

"The Greater Lafourche Port Commission applauds the House passage of the Water Resources Development Act," **GLPC Executive Director Chett Chiasson said**. "This bill contains authorization to construct the Port Fourchon Belle Pass Channel Deepening project, which is the culmination of more than three years of study conducted by our Port Commission with our consultant, GIS Engineering, and in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and with the final approval of the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works and United States Office of Management and Budget. This will enable Port Fourchon to deepen its channels to an initial depth of 30 feet, to accommodate the needs of our tenants in the offshore energy service industry and beyond."

Chiasson noted that this is a **BIG** step towards the goal of eventually dredging the Belle Pass channel to an ultra-deep 50-foot draft that will bring Fourchon Island online

as a premier destination for Deepwater repair work and refurbishment of offshore installations, among other opportunities.

"We will continue to evaluate our future needs and depths and seek to modify the authorization in the future, as dictated by industry needs. We wish to thank our Congressman Steve Scalise and the rest of the Louisiana Congressional Delegation for their support over the past three years while we were conducting this study, and for the development and passage of the current Water Resources legislation. In particular, we would like to sincerely thank Congressman Garrett Graves for his work on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee in getting this project into the bill," Chiasson said.

Additionally, the dredged sediments that result from this deepening project and future ones will help rebuild the coastal landscape in and around Port Fourchon.

"Our Board of Commissioners has been supportive of our initiatives to bring about many enhancements to our Port for not only today, but the future" Chiasson said. "The credit truly goes to them for setting us up to be successful, not only in the realm of our contribution to industry interests, but also contributing richly to our surrounding landscape through participation in worthwhile coastal restoration projects."

## DIFFICULT STORM SEASON FURTHER HIGHLIGHTS IMPORTANCE OF COMPLETING LA 1 ELEVATED HIGHWAY

Having weathered five glancing blows and receiving one direct hit, **Port Fourchon** had a storm season it will not soon forget.

The disruption to commerce in the Port was huge, especially when you consider that the unelevated portion of LA 1 was shuttered for **more than 100 hours** due to high water making the road impassable.

These **closures cost the nation's GDP in excess of \$2 billion** when all was said and done.

"This tells you all you need to know as to why so many of us have fought tirelessly to get the remaining funding secured to finish the elevated portion of LA 1," **GLPC Executive Director Chett Chiasson said**. "The completion of the final 8.3 miles of highway will cost an estimated \$445 million, but when you think about the money that will be saved by this country in the long-run as a result of it being built, it really is a small price to pay."

**The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)** announced the **\$135 million federal INFRA grant** award for the **LA 1 Improvement Project** in **mid-June of 2020** with the hope that construction will commence in Spring/Summer of this year.

The elevated roadway will extend from inside the flood protection system in Golden Meadow through the existing overpass and elevated highway in Leeville. Construction will take about seven years, with completion coming around 2027.

"The awarding of INFRA funds to the LA 1 project places the final piece of the puzzle that has been put together by the State, Parish, Port Commission, and Industry Stakeholders," Chiasson said. "This is an excellent example of what hard work and perseverance by all levels of government can do and we are proud to have been a part of it. The future of our community and economy is bright with the reliable, safe access this project will provide."

While the INFRA grant award provides a much-needed portion of the financial package necessary to complete the project, additional funds for its construction will come via \$260 million allocated from the state, and a combined \$50 million from the GLPC, Lafourche Parish Government, and private sources. The GLPC share of this is **\$25 million (or 5.6-percent)** of the total project cost, split out into \$5 million payments over the next five years beginning in 2021.

It must be emphasized that this grant is for new construction and **DOES NOT** affect the current toll for the bridge portion of the first phase of elevated highway in Leeville stretching southward to Port Fourchon.

"The toll that is accessed pays back the bonds and TIFIA loan that the state secured for the bridge that was constructed back in 2009," Chiasson said.

While the toll for the bridge will remain in force for the foreseeable future, **NO** additional tolls will be added, as the financial package attached to the final leg of the highway **WILL NOT** require any loans or new taxes levied of state residents to be used for its construction.







## COASTAL WETLANDS PARK DEVELOPMENT MOVING RIGHT ALONG

Anyone driving around Port Fourchon will probably notice work going on across from Flotation Canal Road next to the Greater Lafourche Port Commission Operations building.

What began as an idea to extract dredged materials from a developing slip, Slip D, in Port Fourchon, and place it right next door in a patch of open, water-filled marsh, has turned in to a fascinating process that will feature access to a man-made tidal creek for kayaking, a two-story orientation hub with viewfinders, walking trails, and more.

This immersive recreational and educational area will be designated for visitors and those working at the Port as well.

Currently, the Port is working on culvert improvements, parking, and the construction of a small bridge that will connect the existing tidal creek to provide a natural tidal range to flow from Flotation Canal through the tidal creek.

The funds being used for this project are coming via the Port and grant programs, the biggest of which is a very likely **Land, Water & Conservation Fund (LWCF)** program grant that has advanced to the National Park Service for final approval.

Thanks to a generous grant award via Louisiana's Cajun Bayou, the 100-plus-acre site will eventually feature several pedestal-mounted viewfinders for the community to access. Two of these view finders are currently located

at the **Irvin P. Melancon Public Boat Launch**.

"We couldn't be more thrilled about everything we have going on out there," **GLPC Executive Director Chett Chiasson** said. "Our team at the GLPC and our Commissioners understand how important projects like these are for the overall well-being of our community and visitors alike. I applaud everyone that has already and will eventually become involved in seeing our vision for this amazing site through to its completion."

With established partnerships with agencies like **Louisiana's Cajun Bayou** and **Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program (BTNEP)**, the site is and will continue to undergo changes that benefit everyone.

"The site is truly taking shape, and we are extremely hopeful that, along with our efforts, other partners, including those in the industry sector, take note and want to become involved because there is certainly room for them to do so. And by doing so, this engagement will only lend further proof to our prevailing thought that industry and environment are not mutually exclusive, but rather exist in unison with one another in Port Fourchon," Chiasson said.

If your company or business wants to know how you can partner with us as we continue developing this site, please contact the Greater Lafourche Port Commission at **(985) 632-6701** or email at **glpc@portfourchon.com**.



## SEEN AT THE PORT

