



FOURCHON



THE PORT MESSENGER

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UPDATE ON WHERE WE ARE ENTERING 2022

Wow, what a year it has been! Finding a way to start this update is difficult because so many things have happened since we last talked. First and foremost, I wish for a better 2022 for our entire community because God knows we deserve it.

In our newsletter, I encourage you to check out page 7 where we have included a timeline that gives you a comprehensive look at what occurred before and after Hurricane Ida made landfall in Port Fourchon.

This summation gives you an idea of what all went into us collectively pulling off what I consider to be one of the most remarkable feats imaginable, which is having our first couple of tenants resuming operations in Port Fourchon only nine days following Ida.

Ever since the August 29th landfall, we here at the GLPC along with our Board of Commissioners have been working diligently to address the many facets of not only helping stand back up the Nation's most critically important energy port, but also our own facilities.

This process has been far from easy, but progress continues to be made each day.

Along the way, we have aided our tenants and users by providing short-term rental relief as well as removing their roadside debris.

Initial reports following Ida made many believe Port Fourchon may be finished for good, but those reports were greatly exaggerated and simply didn't take into account the resiliency of our people and

businesses that call this part of south Louisiana home.

Our goals remain very much intact as we continue to pursue large-scale projects that are certain to make an economic impact on our local community.

In my various travels in the weeks and months following Ida I have been humbled by the amount of well wishes and concern others have had for not only our Port, but our employees, board members, and community as a whole.

So, what's next? Well, a lot! That's the short answer, but as we move forward, I have a steadfast optimism that our best days are in front of us not behind us as some may think.

My confidence comes from knowing how well we are positioned to continue being the premier port on the Gulf of Mexico to service the energy needs of our country.

On a recent visit to Washington, D.C., my assumptions were once again confirmed when a number of important agency officials spoke to me about how important an asset Port Fourchon truly is.

Their recognition of this fact is all the evidence I need to surmise we are positioned perfectly to meet the energy needs of tomorrow in whatever form that comes.

As we enter 2022, not only is there hope, but a confident realization that this country will continue to depend on the amazing people that work and are associated with our great Port, Port Fourchon.

"I have been humbled by the amount of well wishes and concern others have had for not only our Port, but our employees, board members, and community as a whole."

—GREATER LAFOURCHE PORT COMMISSION
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR CHETT CHIASSON



PRESIDENT BIDEN VISITS SOUTH LAFOURCHE AIRPORT FOLLOWING IDA

Greater Lafourche Port Commission's Executive Director Chett Chiasson met and talked with President Joe Biden on Friday, September 3rd, at the South Lafourche Leonard J. Miller Jr. Airport in Galliano.

The meeting included numerous parish leaders, including Lafourche Parish President Archie Chaisson.

The unified message of both Chett and Archie was that our port and parish are steadfast in our desire to recover and come back better than ever following the painful legacy Hurricane Ida will leave behind.

"We talked about hope," Chett said. "It's a hope shared by our parish president and I that our best days are ahead of us, not behind us. We have begun our recovery in earnest but need the help of the federal government to expedite that recovery. We were happy the president visited our area and took a keen interest in what we had to say."

The highly productive meeting in the conference room of the airport lasted an hour, allowing for plenty of time for conversation on a range of topics with President Biden.

When the meeting concluded, Biden gave brief remarks on what he saw from the air and heard from the parish leaders in the room.

"I believe the president could tell just what type of hardworking people we have down here," Chett said. "He could see it in our faces, and he could sense the love we expressed when we talked about this great state we love."

The opportunity to meet with the President yielded immediate assistance, as at his direction, the administration moved to help deploy Navy vessels to begin the tedious process of clearing Bayou Lafourche from Golden Meadow up to Larose.

"We were told that if we needed something during our recovery to ask," Chiasson said. "When the opportunity arose to figure out a way to see how we could more quickly start clearing the bayou of overturned vessels and obstructions we called on the administration to step in, which they did."

Biden's visit marked the first time a sitting U.S. President visited southern Lafourche.

COMMISSIONER SPOTLIGHT: JOHNNY ORDONNE

Johnny Ordonne was elected in July 2020 to the Greater Lafourche Port Commission and his reason for wanting to serve on the commission stems back to his childhood. He said he was a huge Pittsburgh Steelers fan and remembered hearing the fact that Pittsburgh was a steel mill town. What stuck with him was learning that when the steel mills went away, so did the small towns surrounding them. He looks at his community in the same light and said if the Port goes away, so will the community around it. "I want to make sure my kids and grandkids have the opportunity to work down here in some way shape or form for years to come and don't have to leave our community to go to work somewhere else," he said.

He said his experience serving has been positive although it hasn't been any type of normal due to COVID-19 and Hurricane Ida. He said once things get back to normal, people who want to see the Port can go to see what it is they do. "It's been a great experience for me," he said. He also noted that going forward they are focusing on Hurricane Ida efforts first and foremost because they do still have debris on the ground and tenants still have a considerable amount of damage. He also noted the Port's operation building and maintenance building was completely destroyed so there's still a lot of work to do to get back to normal. He also proudly noted that they have achieved a goal by accepting bids to go forward with funding for the elevated highway to Golden Meadow, "The Port played a big part in that, so that's something we are very excited about also," he said.

In his free time, he said he's a big family man and loves spending time with his wife, sons when they are in town, and his two granddaughters. Another fun fact about him is he enjoys playing cornhole locally, and he's pretty good at it! He noted he and his colleague Chris Callais are big into the sport and even has jerseys made with the name "Commissions of Cornhole."



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



On behalf of the Greater Lafourche Port Commission and its Board of Commissioners, we'd like to express our sincerest gratitude to the many people that donated goods and supplies or simply visited us in the immediate aftermath of Ida. This list includes, but is not limited to; President Joe Biden, Governor John Bel Edwards, Cedric Richmond, Senator Bill Cassidy, Representatives (House Minority Whip) Steve Scalise, Garret Graves, Troy Carter, Julia Letlow, and other local Louisiana delegation members. Other visitors that provided goods and supplies included Scott Angelle, the Port of Iberia, the Port of New Orleans, the Port of Lake Charles as well as Shell, AAPA, Molly Morgan with Morgan Oil Company, Ports America, CRC Solutions, CMA CGM. Our tenants and users were also of great help as they worked hard to resume operations following Ida.

GLPC COLLECTS THREE AAPA COMMUNICATIONS AWARDS



The American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) honored the Greater Lafourche Port Commission (Port Fourchon) with three communications awards this week as part of the trade association's 55th annual Communications Awards Program recognizing member seaports for exemplary communications projects and programs.

Here's a full list of GLPCs winning entries in the 2021 competition:

- Award of Distinction – **Periodicals: The Port Messenger**
- Award of Distinction – **Social/Web-Based Media: Social Media – Port Fourchon**
- Award of Distinction – **Visual Only Presentations: Infographics**

COMPLETION OF LA 1 ELEVATED HIGHWAY IS NO LONGER A DREAM, BUT INSTEAD A REALITY

With the recent acceptance of a **\$463 million low bid from James Construction Group**, Phase 2 of the project to complete the **8.3 miles** of remaining elevated highway from Golden Meadow south to Leeville is set to commence in **early 2022**.

The total financial package demonstrates what is possible when federal, state, local, and business interests work together towards a beneficial infrastructure project with wide-ranging impacts on helping not only a community, but entire country continue to meet its energy needs.

During the last two hurricane seasons, 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 170 hours due to high water making the road impassable.

These **closures cost the nation's GDP in excess of \$3.5 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**.

While the U.S. Department of Transportation's federal INFRA grant award helped provide \$135 million of the necessary funds to finish this project, the state, GLPC, Lafourche Parish Government and private sources have allocated all the remaining funds.

This includes the GLPC share, which is **\$25 million (or 5.4-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 (INFRA) 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.

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.

Construction on the remaining highway is expected to last for five years with its opening pegged for **2026**.

"This is fine example of what hard work and perseverance by all levels of government can do, and we are proud to be a part of it," Chiasson said. "The future of our community and economy is bright with the reliable, safe access this project will provide."





COASTAL WETLANDS PARK SET TO TRANSFORM FURTHER IN COMING MONTHS

2022 will bring about a bevy of projects within or connected to Port Fourchon.

One of the more exciting ones is the continued development of the Port Fourchon Coastal Wetlands Park.

Several months ago, the one-plus mile long tidal creek was opened to the public complete with a kayak launch that allows outdoor enthusiasts to wander through the wetlands park in non-motorized watercraft.

"Opening up the tidal creek was a milestone event for us," GLPC Executive Director Chett Chiasson said. "It provides an area for recreational activities to take place in an environment that is unique and one-of-a-kind."

Fast-forward to early November when the Board of Commissioners approved a resolution paving the way for the GLPC to execute a grant award agreement with the Land, Water & Conservation Fund to build an orientation hub and building next to the kayak launch.

The \$350,000 grant will be matched with \$350,000 in GLPC funds to help construct a two-story building that will feature two self-focusing view finders on the second level.

These view finders, which were bought thanks to the generous support of Louisiana Cajun Bayou's Tourism Investment Grant Program will offer unparalleled view of the nearly 100-acre mitigation area located in the middle of Port Fourchon.

Additionally, trails will be constructed in the wetlands park as well as around it where it will connect to a fishing rodeo pavilion that is currently under construction on Flotation Canal Road next to Flotation Canal. Interactive

signage that tells the story of how mitigation works and what happens in a coastal wetlands environment will also be integrated in to the project.

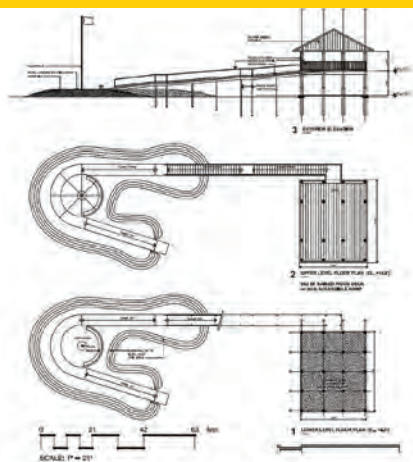
"Sometimes waiting longer than you anticipate to do something works out in a favorable way," Chiasson said. "Our grants director began working with Duplantis Design Group about two years ago to submit a grant to go about procuring the matching funds needed to pursue the vision we had for this site. Now, we are seeing all the pieces coming together simultaneously to produce what I believe will be something truly amazing for this community."

Money has been budgeted by the GLPC to further develop parking between the orientation hub and fishing rodeo pavilion.

"When we released our master plan several years ago, we dreamt of a time where we could start bringing all these pieces online," Chiasson said. "With these funding elements secured, we are now in a position to bring our renderings to life. It's an exciting time."

According to Chiasson, the work on these various structures and trails that highlight how Industry and the Environment can harmoniously work together will hopefully be completed in time for the yearly Fourchon Oilmen's Fishing Rodeo in July of 2022.

To learn more about the Port Fourchon Coastal Wetlands Park, we encourage you to visit our Coastal Wetlands Park page on our website (portfourchon.com) located under the **Our Environment** tab on the top toolbar.



14. SCHEMATIC FLOOR PLAN
PORT FOURCHON RECREATIONAL AND COASTAL WETLANDS PARK



Overall Master Plan



PORT FOURCHON RECREATIONAL & COASTAL WETLANDS PARK MASTER PLAN



CONSTRUCTION ON AIRPORT BRIDGE AND CONNECTOR ROAD UNDERWAY

In partnership with **Lafourche Parish Government**, the **Greater Lafourche Port Commission (GLPC)** is pleased to announce construction of a much-needed access corridor linking the **South Lafourche Leonard Millier, Jr. Airport** to **Highway 3235** has commenced.

This **Airport Bridge and Connector Road project**, which is being headed up by **Sea Level Construction of Thibodaux**, was made possible through the awarding of **\$16.4 million federal BUILD grant** as well as state and local dollars.

While completion of the **\$32.957 million project** is still three years away, the building of this bridge and connector road provides a vitally important infrastructure piece that was missing until now.

"The plain and simple truth is our airport is a success story," **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 our valued tenants and users."

According to a state-commissioned study performed in 2019, the Galliano-based airport ranked fourth out of 61 general aviation hubs with a total economic benefit of **\$97,628,000**.

While impressive, the lack of accessibility from a

transportation standpoint has continued to handicap the overall growth of the airport.

This upcoming project will change that by allowing for the development of a true industrial park adjacent to the airport; an airport featuring 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**.

"We know this project will bring about tremendous investment in our parish because it will allow for larger trucks to transport goods and services directly from the airport to Port Fourchon," Chiasson said.

Future plans call for even more development at the airport in the form of a new hanger.

"Our hope is to maintain current business, attract new business, and help to diversify our economy for our community's long-term viability. In working with Lafourche Parish's Economic Development Director **Kristi Lumpkin** and others, we hope to move projects like the airport in a direction that provides more tangible and meaningful investments in our parish, while also addressing safety concerns by making areas like LA 1 and LA 308 easier to traverse for every day commuters."

HURRICANE IDA TIMELINE

SUNDAY, AUGUST 29TH

Hurricane Ida makes landfall at 11:55 a.m. as a Category 4 storm. Reports of sustained winds above Category 5 strength (156 mph) were recorded aboard a vessel in Port Fourchon with a confirmed gust of 223 mph. Storm surge was recorded to be 10-feet at the height of the storm. Despite overtopping in several spots, the South Lafourche Levee District flood protection system kept water from inundating the 10th-Ward area of South Lafourche.

**TUESDAY, AUGUST 31ST –
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1ST**

Roadways leading down to the Port were cleared of debris. Water recedes from roadways on Tuesday afternoon.



WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1ST

Congressman Steve Scalise meets with GLPC Executive Director Chett Chiasson, Parish President Archie Chaisson, Board President Chuckie Cheramie, Board Secretary Mike Callais and Board Member T-Jim Lafont at the South Lafourche Leonard J. Miller, Jr. Airport.



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 2ND

Tenant assessment teams allowed to visit facilities. NOAA survey teams find NO significant obstructions in Belle Pass, which is the main channel leading in and out of the Gulf of Mexico. GLPC Executive Director Chett Chiasson participates in press conference at the Lafourche Parish Governmental Complex in Mathews.

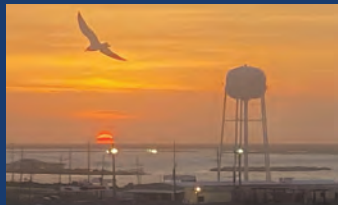


FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD

U.S. Coast Guard deems Belle Pass safe to traverse with restrictions in place. President Biden and Governor Edwards visit South Lafourche Airport and meet with local leaders, including GLPC Executive Director Chett Chiasson.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5TH

Temporary fire and emergency services are brought online in the Port.



MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH

Administrative operations are moved to building behind main complex. Main administrative complex was heavily damaged.

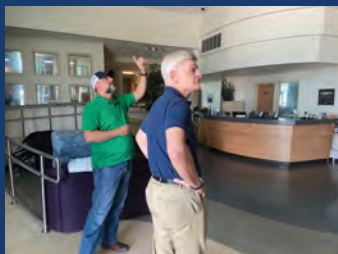


TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7TH

First tenants resume operations in the Port.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8TH

Senator Bill Cassidy meets with Chiasson, Cheramie, and T-John Melancon at new administrative building. Tours damaged administrative building as well.



THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH

Congressmen Garret Graves & Troy Carter as well as Congresswoman Julia Letlow meet with Chiasson and Cheramie outside of EOC building Port Fourchon. GLPC Executive Director Chett Chiasson participates in another press conference at the Lafourche Parish Governmental Complex in Mathews.



FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10TH

New temporary office building is brought online fully and administrative staff are set up with equipment and work spaces.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13TH

U.S. Navy salvage team in conjunction with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers starts enacting plan to clear multiple obstructions in Bayou Lafourche, including the area between the Ted Gisclair Floodgate in Larose and The Leon Theriot Lock in Golden Meadow.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14TH

Nighttime deliveries allowed to resume in the Port with a Harbor Police checkpoint in place.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH

Water service returns to Port Fourchon. Movers clear our former administrative building of all furniture and boxes. These items are placed in the warehouse next to Commissioner Mike Callais's office.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5TH

Power is restored to vast majority of the Port.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14TH

The 25th and final recovery message is sent out on behalf of the GLPC.



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DID YOU KNOW?

Nine of the Top 10 Lafourche Parish taxpayers operate from and/or utilize Port Fourchon. Furthermore, 80-percent of total economic impacts generated at Port Fourchon stay in Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes.

