

**AGENDA**  
**May 12, 2004**

- I. Call to Order**
- II. Pledge of Allegiance**
- III. Roll Call**
- IV. Consider April 14, 2004 Regular Meeting Minutes for approval**
- V. Consider April 28, 2004 Special Meeting Minutes for approval**
- VI. Executive Director's Report**
  - A. Northern Expansion Update**
    - a. Construction status:
      - i. N. Doucet Drive Asphalt Extension – John Plaisance
      - ii. Slip A, Bulkhead – John Plaisance
      - iii. Slip B, West Bulkhead – Joe Picciola
      - iv. Slip B, Hydraulic Dredging – Larry Picciola
  - B. Airport Update**
    - a. Project status:
      - i. Hangar Construction
      - ii. Environmental Assessment
  - C. FEMA Update**
    - a. Debris Fence Project
  - D. Port Security**
    - a. Harbor Patrol Vessel
    - b. Security Camera System
  - E. Highway Improvements**
- VI. Committee Reports**
  - A. Executive Committee**
    - a. Commendation for Harbor Police Officers
    - b. Consider authorizing Director Falgout to execute the Contract with US Customs
    - c. Consider authorizing President Vizier to execute a lease with Tex Air Helicopters at the Airport
    - d. Consider updating By Laws
    - e. Consider approving Engineer's Insurance Requirements for Port Projects
    - f. Review applications and hire summer employees
  - B. Permits & Waterways Committee**
    - a. Public input needed for improved range lights
    - b. Public Notices:
      - 1. LA Transport Authority
  - C. Construction and Development Committee**
    - a. Consider accepting Clear Lien Certificate for Hangar Building
    - b. Consider accepting Clear Lien Certificate for Breakwaters
  - D. Finance Committee**
    - a. Consider payment of invoices and recognize Expenditures over \$10,000
    - b. Consider approving the December 31, 2003 Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire
- VII. Public Comment**
- VIII. Any other business**
- IV. Adjournment**

# **OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE GREATER LAFOURCHE PORT COMMISSION**

**May 12, 2004**

The Board of Commissioners of the Greater Lafourche Port Commission met in regular session on Wednesday, May 12, 2004 at 10:30 AM.

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

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

**ABSENT:** None

Upon motion by John Melancon and second by Wilbert Collins, the minutes of the April 14, 2004, regular meeting were unanimously approved.

Upon motion by Harry Cheramie and second by Ervin Bruce, the minutes of the April 28, 2004, special meeting were unanimously approved.

Upon motion by Larry Griffin, and second by Wilbert Collins, a roll call vote was taken and all agreed to deviate from the agenda and present four Harbor Police Officers with special commendations for valiant actions. President Vizier read letters of commendation while Lieutenant Larry Terry presented the Lifesaving Medal to Harbor Police officers Kirk Landry and Brook Angelette. On February 14, 2004, the officers arrived on scene of an overturned vehicle in a body of water. The officers entered the near freezing water to assist a man and remove a young unconscious girl from her seatbelt trapped in the vehicle. The officers performed CPR on the girl until Lafourche Ambulance arrived. Commendations for the Medal of Valor were presented to Harbor Police officers Elvin Dufrene and Ashley Pollard. On April 24, 2004, the officers arrived on scene at the beach and found a young boy hanging onto the breakwater barges in the Gulf. The officers entered the turbulent surf to rescue the boy. Officer Pollard reached the boy and hoisted him to safety but was swept away by the undertow. Officer Dufrene sheltered the youth on the barge until the US Coast Guard helicopter arrived to rescue them. Officer Ashley Pollard also received the Purple Heart for the life-threatening injuries he sustained during this rescue. He swallowed a large amount of seawater causing temporary kidney failure, and he suffered severe pain due to this ailment. President Vizier said that we are grateful that he has fully recovered from his injuries.

## **Executive Director's Report**

Northern Expansion – Representing J. Wayne Plaisance Engineers, Mr. Andre Uzee reported that the asphalt paving and striping is complete for the N. Doucet Drive Extension. He stated the waterline has been installed and once final test results are received a certificate for substantial completion will be submitted. Director Falgout stated that with the completion of the waterline the implementation fee and primary term for Chouest Offshore Services' lease site in the Northern Expansion area of Slip B will commence on June 1, 2004. Mr. Uzee reported that Rowan has hired a firm to do additional soil borings on Slip A West Bulkhead and that Eustis Engineering is doing additional soil borings as well in the area of the ASCO lease. Engineer Joe Picciola reported that geotechnical borings are complete and he expects results within a few weeks for the West Bulkhead of Slip B. He stated that the site surveying is complete and they are

currently working on the preliminary design with projected construction beginning in early fall. Engineer Larry Picciola reported that the dredging of Slip B is approximately 90% complete. He reported that the contractor has stopped pumping spoil in the Maritime Forest Ridge area and is now pumping in the disposal along Slip B. Engineer Picciola stated that approximately 86,000 cu. yds. of additional dredging have been added to the contract for the area along the Flotation Canal which will require change order approval. Director Falgout stated that the additional dredging with the low dredge price of \$.95 per cu. yd. will benefit the mooring dolphin project as well as place quality material in the Maritime Forest Ridge area. Director Falgout reported that he anticipates finishing the reshaping of the Maritime Forest Ridge by October which will include retaining an 8' elevation of the center. He also stated that by next spring he anticipates planting the ridge along with the US Soil Conservation Service, which will be funded by grants received from several organizations. Director Falgout stated that the Maritime Forest Ridge will ultimately consist of a 12,000' walking trail connecting to LA 1 and the construction of a Coastal Maritime Center for eco-tourism. Discussion followed regarding the spoil placement and the total yards of material obtained. Engineer Larry Picciola requested authorization to negotiate a change order with Mike Hooks to do additional work, subject to Attorney Loulan Pitre's review of the state bid law requirements, to increase the work to a maximum of 25% of the contract costs, including mobilization. Upon motion by Harry Cheramie, and second by Ervin Bruce, the motion to negotiate a Change Order with the additional material upon Attorney's review was unanimously approved.

**Airport –** Director of Operations, Davie Breaux reported that the Airport Hangar Firewall installation is 100% complete. He reported that the few punch list items are being completed which include the painting of the bottom section of the hangar and a few electrical items to prepare for the final Fire Marshal inspection. He stated that after these punch list items are completed the hangar will be ready to lease out. Engineer Joe Picciola reported that the clear lien certificate was received and is in line for approval today. He recommends approving the clear lien but withholding \$2,400 from the retainage for the punch list items that are not complete. Airport Manager, Jeff Hunter reported that the Corps of Engineers sent a letter stating that there are no wetlands impacts in the proposed Airport Development Plan. Director Addie Callais elaborated on the discussion by noting that Lance Key with FAA is reviewing the EA and expects to complete his review by the end of this week. She stated that once comments are received, changes are made, and we receive the approved Corps letter, the next step is to issue a notice of environmental assessment to the public. The notice may or may not result in a public hearing and after these results are received the EA can be finalized and officially approved and accepted by the FAA.

**FEMA Debris Fence –** Mr. Breaux reported that the Debris Fence is ready for review and should be advertised for bid by next week. He reported that 18 FEMA projects have been completed and the 2 remaining projects are the Debris Fence and the Beach Stabilization. The original design of the beach stabilization was changed to include the mat system which was also approved by the Caillouet's. He reported that the design change will be resubmitted for approval and once received it will be ready to go out for bid. Mr. Breaux described the debris fence project to be 48" high, 10' x 10' wooden posts with 2 standard guard rails to avoid debris from going on LA 3090 during storms. The project is funded by FEMA. Discussion followed regarding the estimated construction time and the anchorage of the posts.

**Port Security –** Director Falgout reported that the Port Security Vessel is nearing completion. He reported that the Security Camera system, which is a \$1.2 million project, includes 16 different camera locations throughout the Port as well as on the Leeville Bridge. He stated that monitors will be located at the Operations Building in Port Fourchon and the Galliano

Office and will have the capability of viewing all 16 sites. The estimated completion date of the Camera System is in August 2004. Commissioner Chuckie Cheramie questioned the progress of having a small boat and a 4-wheel drive vehicle available for emergency use on the beach. Director Falgout reported that the smaller vessel is being looked into and a 4-wheel drive port vehicle will be available at the Operations Building for emergencies.

Highway Improvements – LA 1 Coalition, Director Roy Francis reported that the outcome of the DOTD Toll Study meetings as excellent, and out of 89,000 residents in Lafourche Parish there were no objections at the Larose meeting. The agencies involved with the TIFIA loan along with newly-appointed Secretary Bradberry of DOTD toured LOOP and the Port before the scheduled meetings, and they were all very impressed with the activities in Port Fourchon. The meeting in Grand Isle went well with some concerns voiced about the toll tags and ramp locations. The Grand Isle residents understood the importance of the elevated roadway and the fact that we do not have the luxury of waiting. Commissioner Vizier commented that the major concern of the residents of Grand Isle was the fact that the elevated road would stop at Fourchon. Mr. Francis commented that there are plans to work with the Grand Isle officials to increase the protection of the roadway from Fourchon to Grand Isle by adding shoulders and upgrading the roadway which can be funded by grants. Mr. Francis reported that the effort to get funding with the CARA and Energy Bills were unsuccessful and federal funding has not been available as of yet, but the Coalition will continue trying to seek federal funding. Currently, a total of \$23 million in Federal and State funds have gone into this project. DOTD will contribute a large portion of funds for this project and will pay for the operation and management for the life of this project. Mr. Francis reported that Boh Brothers is expected to start driving test piles within the next 2 weeks in the Leeville area. The test pile program is a \$3.5 million project that DOTD is currently funding. Director Falgout reported that the problems with the Leeville Bridge continue to affect the waterways. He reported that DOTD had just finished repairing the fendering system of the Leeville Bridge and again this weekend a tug with a barge destroyed the fendering system on one side of the bridge. This damage along with the depth of the water being near 40' and the extreme tidal conditions at the Leeville Bridge presents a need to do something quickly. Mr. Francis stated that DOTD realizes the conditions and will be maintaining the current bridge by adding limestone at the foot of the piles to protect the bridge from future scouring. In a few months DOTD is expected also to do some emergency work on the Leeville Bridge's northwest piles. Commissioner John Melancon requested a time line for the elevated 4-lane highway. Mr. Francis reported that if everything goes right with the permits for the mitigation issues, the land rights issues, and the financial issues, he estimates that the contract for the elevated end on end project of the roadway from Leeville to Fourchon will go out in December or January. He also estimates that by 2005, some construction work will begin. Attorney Loulan Pitre stated that he along with Senator Dupre, the Chairman of the House Transportation Committee, and another member of the transportation committee attended the DOTD Public Hearing in Larose. He stated that the Leeville Bridge and elevated highway is the first project of the LA Transportation Authority and is a one of a kind project. Attorney Pitre stated that Secretary Bradberry was very happy with the hearings and wants to move this forward quickly and use this project as a chance to show an early success of the Transportation Authority for future projects. He also stated that the Chairman of the House made a brief presentation on the floor of the House regarding this project stating that this is a model and pilot project to improve the transportation infrastructure of the whole state. He also stated that the Governor in her opening speech stated that this is the kind of funding we will look into for future projects. Commissioner Harry Cheramie said he agreed with the toll and found it to be a reasonable

amount for the residents and other drivers. Mr. Francis thanked the Commission for having the foresight to help create the LA 1 Coalition to be able to build this elevated road.

### Committee Reports

Executive – Chairman Donald Vizier reported that the committee met on April 28, 2004 at the Operations Building in Port Fourchon. Present were Donald Vizier, John Melancon, Larry Griffin, and Harry Cheramie; no member was absent. They also met on May 10, 2004 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 for the board's consideration authorizing Director Falgout to execute the contract with US Customs to lease office space in the old administration building. Director Falgout stated that the old building is currently being occupied by the US Customs and US Coast Guard and both organizations would like to expand their office space. Upon motion by Jimmy Lafont and second by Chuckie Cheramie, the lease to US Customs was unanimously approved, and Director Falgout was authorized to sign it.

President Vizier presented for the board's consideration authorizing President Vizier to execute the lease with Tex Air Helicopters for the property at the South Lafourche Leonard Miller, Jr. Airport. Director Falgout reported that this will be a one-year lease to facilitate their presence at our Airport. Upon motion by Wilbert Collins and second by Larry Griffin, the lease to Tex Air Helicopters was unanimously approved, and President Vizier was authorized to sign it.

President Vizier presented for the board's consideration the updated By-Laws. President Vizier reported that the revised copy was just received and recommended tabling this issue until next month. Upon motion by Chuckie Cheramie, second by Wilbert Collins, and unanimous approval, this item was tabled.

President Vizier presented for the board's consideration approving the Engineer's Insurance Requirements for Port Projects. Director Falgout reported that based on previous discussion, the article on insurance was revised to set limits for commercial liability at \$1 million, automobile liability at \$1 million, and Workers Compensation and Employers liability as required by the State Labor code. Professional Liability coverage was the main concern of the Commission. Director Falgout stated that a minimum of \$500,000 per claim and aggregate shall be maintained at all times that work is being done by the engineers on behalf of the owner; said coverage shall be maintained for five years following the completion of the project. He stated that for projects with construction costs of between \$1 million and \$2 million, coverage shall be maintained at minimum of half the value of the project through the duration of the project and for at least 5 years following the completion of the project. He also stated that for projects with construction cost between \$2 million and \$20 million, coverage shall be maintained at minimum of \$2 million throughout the duration of the project and shall be maintained for five years following completion. Upon motion by Harry Cheramie and second by Larry Griffin, discussion followed. Commissioner Beau Martin questioned the coverage of construction projects from \$2 million to \$20 million. He stated that he was uncomfortable with only having \$2 million of insurance on a \$20 million project. Director Falgout recommended reducing the \$20 million of construction cost to \$10 million and anything larger will be negotiated. Commissioner Beau Martin made a motion to amend the requirements so that for construction costs between \$2 million and \$10 million, coverage shall be maintained at a minimum of \$2 million throughout the duration of the project and for at least 5 years following the completion, and coverage for any costs above \$10 million shall be subject to negotiations between the Commission and the engineer. The amended motion was seconded by Jimmy Lafont and unanimously approved.

President Vizier presented 14 applicants for summer employment. Director Falgout stated that every year we hire 6 college students who reside in the 10<sup>th</sup> ward to do maintenance work at the Port and the Airport. The maintenance crew selects 2 previously hired applicants to be leaders and the remaining 4 are selected randomly. The 2 leaders chosen were Lance Allemand and Miles Cheramie. The board then proceeded to pull names to select the summer employees who are Justin Danos, Drake Gisclair, Jobie Dufrene, and Nicholas Collins. The remaining names are selected as alternates which are, in order of their preference, Jason Guidry, Jacob Adams, Gavin Duet, Brandon Allemand, Adam Lefort, Kevin Terrebonne, Andy Johnson, Jacob Vegas, and Scott Louviere.

Permits & Waterways – Chairman Chuckie Cheramie reported that the committee met on April 28, 2004 at the Operations Building in Port Fourchon; present were Chuckie Cheramie, Jimmy Lafont, Beau Martin, and Donald Vizier; no member was absent. The committee also met on May 10, 2004 at the Administration Building in Galliano; present were Jimmy Lafont, Beau Martin, and Donald Vizier; Chuckie Cheramie was absent. The Commission then discussed items that were discussed at the committee meetings.

Chairman Cheramie presented to the board the public input needed for the improved range lights at Belle Pass. Director Falgout reported that with the intension of improving the navigation in the Port the new range lights were installed. The US Coast Guard asked for feedback and the Harbor Police have been inquiring with the mariners and we also will be advertising for comments in our local paper. Director Falgout stated that concerns of shrubbery blocking the lower range light for smaller vessels and concerns of the back lighting of the Port affecting the view of larger vessels were conveyed to the US Coast Guard.

Chairman Cheramie presented to the board the public notice received from LA Transport Authority. There are no concerns with this permit therefore no action needs to be taken.

Construction & Development – Chairman Ervin Bruce reported that the committee met on April 28, 2004 at the Operations Building in Port Fourchon; Present were Larry Griffin, Donald Vizier, and Ervin Bruce. Wilbert Collins was absent. The Commission also met on May 10, 2004 at the Administration Building in Galliano; all members were present. The Commission then discussed items that were discussed at the committee meetings.

Chairman Bruce presented the Clear Lien Certificate for the Hangar Building for approval. Director Breaux reported that the retainage of \$9,337.93 to Lamar Contractors will be paid and we are withholding \$2,400 until punch list items are completed. Upon motion by John Melancon, and second by Harry Cheramie, the Commission unanimously approved the Clear Lien Certificate and paying the retainage of \$9,337.93, but withholding the \$2,400 until completion of the punch list items.

Chairman Bruce presented the Clear Lien Certificate for the FEMA Breakwaters for approval. Upon motion by Chuckie Cheramie, and second by John Melancon, the Commission unanimously approved the Clear Lien Certificate and paying the retainage of \$24,988.00 to Luhr Bros.

Finance – Chairman John Melancon reported that the committee met on April 28, 2004 at the Operations Building in Port Fourchon. Present were John Melancon, Larry Griffin, and Donald Vizier; Wilbert Collins was absent. The Committee also met on May 10, 2004 at the Administration Building in Galliano; all members were present. The Commission then discussed items that were discussed at the committee meetings.

Chairman John Melancon made a motion to approve the invoices for the month of April 2004, which was seconded by Wilbert Collins, the invoices for the month were unanimously approved for payment.

Chairman John Melancon presented for the board's approval the December 31, 2003 Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire. Director James Rome reported that this is an annual questionnaire provided by the auditors certifying that we are complying with all the State requirements. Upon motion by John Melancon and second by Chuckie Cheramie, the board unanimously approved executing the questionnaire.

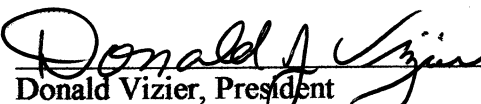
Upon motion by Chuckie Cheramie and second by Wilbert Collins, a roll call vote was taken and all members agreed to add the A.O. Rappelet Sculpture project to the agenda. Director Falgout presented for the board's consideration to proceed with the commissioning of a \$12,000 bronze bust sculpture of A.O. Rappelet including his hat, glasses, and arms. The sculpture will be done by Patrick Miller, a native of the 10<sup>th</sup> ward. Commissioner Wilbert Collins reported that \$4,525.00 has been collected from private contributions with other future commitments and requests that the Commission pay the remaining costs. Upon motion by Wilbert Collins and second by John Melancon, the board unanimously approved the commissioning a \$12,000 bronze sculpture and funding the difference between the contributions and the total cost.

President Vizier called for public comment. Mr. Charpentier requested the Commission persist in contacting the US Coast Guard to put a green turning light at the west jetty entrance. The Commission stated that it will be looked into. President Vizier congratulated the public for attending the meeting and the grand opening today. Commissioner Chuckie Cheramie reported that LOOP requested the presence of all Commissioners at their next Homeland Security Meeting to be able to inform the board of the continuing effort of public safety. Commissioner John Melancon welcomed the audience to their new building and encouraged them to tour the offices. He also thanked them for attending the meeting and stated that this is another asset to our community for the future of our children. Commissioner Larry Griffin stated he wishes to resign from his office as Vice President and appoint a new Vice President. Attorney Loulan Pitre reviewed the By-Laws and determined that the Election of Vice President can be added to the agenda by a 2/3 vote.

Upon motion by Larry Griffin, second by John Melancon, and unanimous approval, the election of a new Vice President was added to the agenda, and the floor was open for discussion. Commissioner Larry Griffin made a motion to nominate Jimmy Lafont as Vice President and was seconded by John Melancon. Nominations were closed and Jimmy Lafont was elected Vice President by a vote of 8 yeas and 1 nay. The board congratulated Mr. Lafont.

Upon motion by Larry Griffin, second by Wilbert Collins, and unanimous approval, the meeting was adjourned.

ATTEST:

  
Donald Vizier, President

  
Harry Cheramie, Secretary