

AGENDA
September 10, 2008 @ 10:30 AM

- I. Call to Order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Consider August 13, 2008 regular meeting minutes for approval
- V. Executive Director's Report
 - A. Northern Expansion Update:**
 - 1) Slip B, West Bulkhead, Project #3 – John Plaisance
 - 2) Slip B, East Bulkhead, Project #4, Phase I – 700 LF – Larry Picciola
 - 3) Slip B, East Bulkhead, Project #4, Phase II – 1,100 LF – Larry Picciola
 - B. Airport Update/Project Status**
 - C. FEMA Update**
 - D. Highway Improvements**
 - E. Hurricane Update**
- VI. Committee Reports
 - A. Executive Committee**
 - 1) Consider approving the right of first refusal request from Orgeron Investments, LLC for property at the Airport
 - 2) Consider approving the Landlord Consent Agreement for Halo, LLC
 - B. Permits & Waterways Committee**
 - 1) Permits - Lorise Naquin
 - C. Construction & Development Committee**
 - 1) Consider awarding the low bid for the Northern Expansion Bulkhead Phase IV – 700'
 - 2) Consider approving the substantial completion certificate from Grand Isle Shipyard for the Maritime Forest Ridge Shaping project
 - D. Finance Committee**
 - 1) Consider payment of August invoices and recognize expenditures over \$10,000
 - 2) Consider approving the August financial statement
 - 3) Consider approving the Insurance Renewals
- VII. Any other business
- VIII. Public Comment
- IX. Adjournment

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE GREATER LAFOURCHE PORT COMMISSION
September 10, 2008

The Board of Commissioners of the Greater Lafourche Port Commission met in regular session on Wednesday, September 10, 2008 at 10:30AM.

President Griffin called the meeting to order and Vice President Vizier called roll.

ATTENDED: Chuckie Cheramie, Perry Gisclair, Jimmy Lafont, Donald Vizier, Larry Griffin, John Melancon, Jimmy Guidry, and Ervin Bruce

ABSENT: Wilbert Collins

Upon motion by John Melancon and second by Jimmy Guidry, the board unanimously approved the August 13, 2008 regular meeting minutes

Executive Director's Report

Northern Expansion Update – Engineer John Plaisance reported that contractor should be back on site this week for the Slip B, West Bulkhead, Project #3. He will determine who is responsible for the removal of debris from the site. Engineer Larry Picciola reported that the low bid for Slip B, East Bulkhead, Project #4, Phase I – 700 LF is from Low Land Construction in the amount of \$4,299,999.00 which is on the agenda for approval. Engineer Larry Picciola reported that the plans and specs for Slip B, East Bulkhead, Project #4, Phase II – 1,100 LF should be complete by next month. Director Falgout questioned the cost for the linear foot bulkhead without dredging, which Mr. Picciola reported it is approximately \$6,100.00.

Airport Update/Project Status – Airport Manager, Jason Duet reported that the contractors for both the EDA Waterline & Roadway project and the Parallel Taxiway project were working up until the storm. They are waiting on the outcome of Hurricane Ike to return. Currently the airport is non operational due to no electricity and runway lights. Director Falgout questioned if the FBO is providing fuel, which Mr. Duet replied yes. Mr. Duet reported that Entergy is working out of the airport transporting fuel to their aircraft placing poles.

FEMA Update – Mr. Chett Chiasson reported that the Substantial Completion Certificate dated August 28th for the Maritime Forest Ridge Shaping project is on the agenda for approval. The contractor for the Pass Fourchon Dredging project began bucket dredging in Nerby Collins Marina prior to the storm. The contractor is 75% complete in the marina. They have not mobilized back as of this morning. Commissioner Gisclair questioned the depth in Nerby Collins Marina, which Mr. Breaux replied that the marina is permitted to a -12 ft. with a -6 ft. depth along the backside where the small vessels tie up. Mr. Chiasson stated that there will be a FEMA meeting within the next few days to discuss assistance for Hurricane Gustav damages. The Port Commission will have a number of projects mainly Fourchon Beach, roadside washouts, public boat launch, and the Port warehouse. Director Falgout stated that the Port is keeping records of damages to request assistance from FEMA. Commissioner Vizier requested that the Port consider redesigning or relocating the public boat launch bathrooms. Director Falgout agreed with the possibility of elevating it and moving it closer to LA 3090 for accessibility. Commissioner Melancon stated that there is a very good program on Channel 5 showing the damages in Lafourche Parish and Grand Isle from Hurricane Gustav.

Highway Improvements – Mr. Henri Boulet, LA 1 Coalition Executive Director updated the board on the LA 1 Elevated Highway projects. Phase 1A of the LA 1 Project (Port Fourchon to Leeville) is now 12% complete as of September 1st. Phase 1B (Leeville approaches) is 73% complete, and Phase 1C (Leeville center spans) is now 90% complete.

Phase 1D (Tolling Equipment) work is progressing. Initial meetings with all five kiosk sites recommended by Electronic Tolling Consultants have occurred. All appeared receptive, and the DOTD proposed agreements are being prepared at this time.

Phase 2 of the LA 1 Project (Leeville to Golden Meadow) had an Interagency Meeting scheduled for yesterday which was cancelled due to the storms. The meeting should be rescheduled shortly, and will present to federal and state agencies the revised alignment within the original EIS study area. Once the state and federal agencies concur with the alignment, the DOTD LA 1 Project Team would meet to officially adopt it, and at that point R/O/W maps would be finished. With those maps in hand, DOTD would then start the R/O/W acquisition process which is expected to be completed by the fall. Also on Phase 2, the Coalition has had initial feedback that the recently submitted FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Application for \$3.5 million of design monies may be moved to DOTD's "A" list due to some other projects not qualifying for this program. Should we not get funding through DOTD, the application would go into the state's very competitive general pool, where statewide only \$70 million is available for multiple agencies. Also, in looking at other funding sources for these design monies I attended a District 2 DOTD meeting where the Coalition requested that DOTD consider funding this \$3.5 million out of any state surplus funds it may receive from the state's budget year which ended June 30th.

Senator Landrieu successfully placed \$650,000 for the LA 1 Project in a Senate Committee passed Transportation Appropriation measure last month, that measure has not been scheduled for a full vote in the Senate, nor has work begun on a concurring measure on the House side as of yet. We have conveyed that there is no need to "further investigate the LA 1 need, it is already well documented." In regards to construction funds for Phase 2, the Senate's "Energy Reform Act of 2008" is still being crafted. A draft does state that a National Commission on Energy Independence will "investigate the need for upgrading and transitioning the national grid and other energy infrastructure." The Coalition is pushing for funding of "critical, at-risk energy infrastructure in this bill", which Senator Landrieu is taking a lead role in formulating.

The federal assessment of LA 1, the U.S. Department of Energy, is working on the Economic analysis on the Importance of LA 1 to the Nation. Last month, I forwarded several documents of information to their Infrastructure Team at the National Energy Technology Laboratory in Virginia.

The Coalition's lead contact at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's Infrastructure Protection Program indicated his team is working with components of DHS to place LA 1 in a certain tier level. This will help us in our funding request to Washington.

The state did reject the June \$30 million bid on the Larose Bayou Lafourche Bridge, which came in at 62% over estimate. The state is expected to take new bids on September 24th. The state has \$14.7 million that they expect to spend from the federal bridge replacement program, but their challenge is in funding the remaining. Here is where state surplus funds could mean the difference between a project happening or not. I mentioned this need at the surplus meeting. As well, that bridge was damaged for the storm, and DOTD is looking into all funding possibilities to replace this bridge. On another local bridge matter, the Galliano state bridge is scheduled to take bids on replacing its gearbox in November. The Larose Intracoastal lift bridge will resume replacing the electrical lines to the towers in a few weeks.

Commissioner Gisclair stated that if they didn't increase the budget for the Larose Bridge, do they expect the bids to come in lower? Mr. Boulet replied that they have to try to use the federal bridge replacement funds this state year. They are not changing the design or the estimate. They are hoping that the cost does come down. If not, then they will look at other funding possibilities and may have some surplus funds to pay the difference.

Commissioner Vizier questioned the number of landowners affected by the Leeville to Golden Meadow right of way project? Mr. Boulet replied that he is uncertain of the actual number but knows that the majority of the property is owned by Apache and ConocoPhillips which they have been very cooperative and have met with DOTD to identify the pipelines. Mr. Boulet stated that we hope they will

make a reasonable deal with the state to acquire the rest of the right of way within the \$2 million of the Governor's surplus funding.

Commissioner Cheramie questioned when DOTD will resurface LA 3090? Director Falgout stated that the storms did impact LA 3090 and eroded portions of LA 1. He did report this to the Governor's office today and we are now waiting their strategy to repair these roadways.

Director Falgout referred back to the airport. He reported that FAA did have some additional money from their fiscal year funds. We have sent them a letter requesting additional funds for the Paving of the North Taxiway which bids were rejected in July. The project is currently being re-advertised and we expect to open bids at the end of September. The Governor has committed \$4.5 million for this project and if bids come in over that amount the Port can participate and we also have DOTD participating 10% of the cost. Mr. Chiasson stated that we added an alternate to the paving project to use concrete rather than asphalt.

Hurricane Update – Director Falgout stated that he is very proud of the reaction of this organization to Hurricane Gustav. By having the hurricane guide in writing, we were ready and reacted in a disciplined well thought through manner. The actions of our staff were extraordinary certainly the harbor police were our front runners with others working behind the scenes. We didn't just handle the port. We helped with other major issues such as getting power to the Leeville Bridge, navigational issues, and getting fuel in our area.

Director Falgout then presented a presentation of slides of hurricane damages in and around Port Fourchon. He stated that the Belle Pass Jetties were severely impacted along the eastern side. The rocks placed earlier this year by the Corps were removed from the jetties and thrown towards the channel. Divers were sent out yesterday and reported that there are no large rocks in the 300' channel. The Corps of Engineers is responsible to repair and possibly upgrade the system. There was siltation in the channel causing a reduction in width due to water depths. The USCG restricted the channel to 20 ft. draft vessels. The Port contracted with NOAA prior to the storm to survey for obstructions immediately after the storm. NOAA did the surveys the day after the storm. From these reports, we contacted USCG to discuss opening the waterways. The harbor police then was able to escort vessels by one way traffic during daylight hours which then went to 2-way traffic. Today, the channel is open for full operations.

The next few slides showed the water on LA 1 south of the Golden Meadow Floodgates. The Leeville area had damages to buildings and debris along roadways. In Port Fourchon, the camps along LA 3090 suffered considerable damage. There were many power lines down on LA 3090. The vessels in the Front Marina moved on the bank or collided with other vessels. All the wharves in the marina were damaged. Many companies along LA 3090 were damaged with some demolished. The steel type structures held better than the mobile type structures which will be recommended out into the future. There were no major impacts in the E-Slip which is now in operation.

The other area that had considerable damages is Fourchon Beach. There is no more sand remaining only the clay. This will be a major beach repair project. The breakwaters performed masterfully to protect the structures north of them. East of where the breakwaters end, shows significant erosion to Bay Champagne and damages to the camps and companies along LA 3090. If we had breakwaters and a higher dune farther east, we may have not seen such damages in the Port.

Commissioner Vizier questioned when the cement bags were installed on the beach, which Director Falgout replied in early 1986 after Hurricane Juan. Director Falgout stated that clearly the beach project of cement bags and goby mats combined with the breakwaters and beach nourishment worked as a multiple system of protection. The area east and west of the breakwaters show substantial land loss. He recommended that we do the same type of project but stronger and higher. He stated that after Hurricane Isidore we planned to refurbish the beach project with additional sand and mats to a +10 elevation, however, due to landowner issues the project was never completed. Further discussion followed regarding the design and installation of the original cement bags and mats along the beach.

Commissioner Melancon stated his concern about the small businesses in the Port that were demolished and requested that this Commission help them in any way we can. Director Falgout stated that we discussed with SLEC this morning the different services available to assist these companies.

Mr. Chiasson stated that a mobile business center will be in the parish to assist tenants. Commissioner Gisclair stated that the Commission should also help in any way. Director Falgout stated that if a request is made by a tenant for assistance we will bring the request to the board.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee - Chairman Griffin reported that the committee met on September 8, 2008 at the Administration Building in Galliano. Present were Larry Griffin, John Melancon, Jimmy Lafont and Wilbert Collins. The Commission then discussed items that were discussed at the committee meeting.

Upon motion by John Melancon and second by Chuckie Cheramie, the board unanimously approved the Right of First Refusal request from Orgeron Investments, LLC for .86 acres of property at the Airport.

Upon motion by Ervin Bruce and second by Perry Gisclair, the board unanimously approved the Landlord Consent and Agreement for Halo, LLC a sublessee of Intermoor on site GLF614.

Permits & Waterways Committee - Chairman Cheramie reported that the committee met on September 8, 2008 at the Administration Building in Galliano. Present were Chuckie Cheramie, Larry Griffin, Perry Gisclair and Jimmy Lafont. The Commission then discussed items that were discussed at the committee meeting.

Chairman Cheramie presented to the board the permit by Lorise Naquin.

Construction & Development Committee - Chairman Bruce reported that the committee met on September 8, 2008 at the Administration Building in Galliano. Present were Ervin Bruce, Larry Griffin, John Melancon, and Donald Vizier. The Commission then discussed items that were discussed at the committee meeting.

Upon motion by Jimmy Lafont and second by John Melancon, the board unanimously approved awarding the low bid for the Northern Expansion Slip B Phase IV – 700' Bulkhead to Low Land Construction Company, Inc. in the amount of \$4,299,999.00.

Upon motion by Perry Gisclair and second by Chuckie Cheramie, the board unanimously approved the Substantial Completion Certificate dated August 28, 2008 from Grand Isle Shipyard for the Maritime Forest Ridge Shaping project.

Finance Committee - Chairman John Melancon reported that the committee met on September 8, 2008 at the Administration Building in Galliano. Present were John Melancon, Jimmy Guidry, Wilbert Collins, and Larry Griffin. The Commission then discussed items that were discussed at the committee meeting.

Upon motion by John Melancon and second by Jimmy Lafont, the board unanimously approved the payment of August invoices and recognized expenditures over \$10,000.

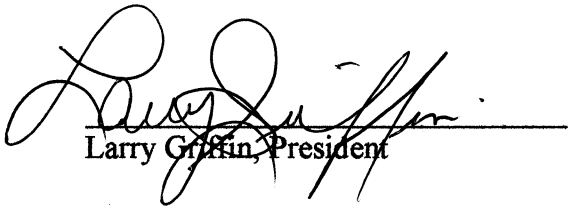
Upon motion by John Melancon and second by Jimmy Guidry, the board unanimously approved the August financial statement.

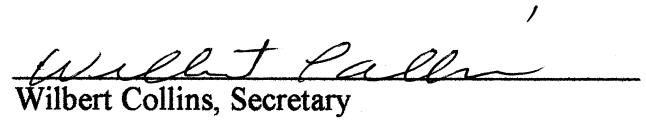
Upon motion by John Melancon and second by Jimmy Lafont, the board unanimously approved the September Insurance Renewals through Theriot, Duet and Theriot.

President Griffin opened the floor for any other business. Commissioner Lafont agreed with everything said about the hard working employees and getting the Port up and running. He stated that his concern is that New Orleans always comes first but stated that we are as important as New Orleans and during the storm there was no coverage of Fourchon. His question to Director Falgout was if we are going to start from Washington to get the word out because we are not respected as we should be. Director Falgout replied yes we will.

Upon motion by Jimmy Lafont and second by John Melancon, the board adjourned the regular meeting.

ATTEST:


Larry Griffin, President


Wilbert Collins, Secretary