

AGENDA  
September 9, 2009 at 10:30 AM

- I. Call to Order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Consider approval of minutes for August 12, 2009 regular meeting and August 26, 2009 special meeting
- V. Executive Director's Report
  - A. Northern Expansion**
    - 1) Slip B Dredging, Phases 3 & 4 (J. Wayne Plaisance)
    - 2) Slip B East Bulkhead, Phase #4, Part II (Angelette-Picciola)
  - B. Airport Projects**
    - 1) Localizer/DME (LPA Group)
    - 2) Airport Drainage Canal
  - C. FEMA Projects**
    - 1) Bathhouse
    - 2) Breakwater Repairs
    - 3) Beach Stabilization
    - 4) Ditch Sweeping
    - 5) Nerby Collins Marina Stabilization
    - 6) Fourchon Bridge Washout
  - D. Port Projects**
    - 1) Martin Terminal Slip #1 Repairs (EDA Grant)
    - 2) LA 3090
    - 3) Fourchon Seafood Site Repairs
    - 4) Communications Tower
    - 5) LA 1 Project - Command and Control with AVMS
  - E. LA 1 Highway Improvements**
  - F. Coastal Issues**
- VI. Committee Reports
  - A. Executive Committee**
    - 1) Consider Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with America's Energy Coast
    - 2) Consider request from Grand Isle Shipyard to assign lease to GIS Holdings
    - 3) Consider Landlord Agreement from GIS Holding
    - 4) Consider adopt-a-road contract application for LA 3090
    - 5) Consider AAPA delegate for 2009 Annual Convention in Texas
    - 6) Consider Right of First Refusal request from Orgeron Investments for property at Airport
    - 7) Consider request from Latelco to assign a portion of tower site to Global Tower, LLC
    - 8) Consider Chouest Shorebase Services Lease
    - 9) Consider the request from Chevron to lease the helipads at the Airport
    - 10) Consider the assignment request from Allport Services
  - B. Permits & Waterways Committee**
    - 1) Review permit application from Plains Pipeline LP, Louisiana Transportation Authority, Manti Operating Company, and Lafourche Parish Government
  - C. Construction & Development Committee**
    - 1) Consider Change Order No. 3 by Dolphin Services for the Wharf Repair project
  - D. Finance Committee**
    - 1) Consider payment of August invoices and recognize expenditures over \$10,000
    - 2) Consider approving August Financial Statements
    - 3) Consider out of state travel requests
- VII. Any other business
- VIII. Public Comment
- IX. Adjournment

# OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE GREATER LAFOURCHE PORT COMMISSION

September 9, 2009

The Board of Commissioners of the Greater Lafourche Port Commission met in regular session on Wednesday, September 9, 2009 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, Jimmy Guidry, and Ervin Bruce

ABSENT: Wilbert Collins and John Melancon

Upon motion by Donald Vizier and second by Perry Gisclair, the board unanimously approved the minutes for August 12, 2009 regular meeting and August 26, 2009 special meeting.

## **Executive Director's Report**

In the absence of Director Falgout, Mr. Chett Chiasson presented the report.

Northern Expansion – Engineer John Plaisance reported that the contractor Coastal Dredging is expected to be on site next week for Slip B Dredging, Phases 3 & 4. The contractor will begin with cross sections of the area and hopefully begin dredging toward the end of the week. Engineer Larry Picciola reported that the test pile program is complete for Slip B East Bulkhead, Phase 4, Part II. The contractor Low Land Construction is expected to begin bulkhead construction on October 1<sup>st</sup>. He reported that the preliminary reports result in reducing to 292 65' piles and 127 55' piles, 127 piles will change from 55' piles to 65' piles with a net savings of \$225,000. The plan to reduce the size of one deadman will result in a savings of \$20,000. He stated that the test pile program costs \$22,000 but the overall savings will be approximately \$250,000 with increased capacities. He stated that some of the materials have already been sent to the painter.

Airport Projects – Airport Manager, Jason Duet reported that the contractor has begun the installation of the Localizer/DME project. The equipment is located at the north end of the runway. The equipment shelter should be complete by next week. He mentioned a few upcoming projects are the navigational aids approach lighting system at the south end of the runway an instrument for flying conditions and also constructing a perimeter fence around the entire airfield. This will increase the security at the airport and may attract other users. Mr. Duet stated that the excavator is on site clearing the Airport Drainage Canal. The contractor is approximately 700' from the corner working eastward toward the bridge. Commissioner Vizier questioned how much the investment to the airport with the additional equipment being installed, which Mr. Duet stated that it is slightly under \$500,000 with both the Localizer and DME projects.

FEMA Projects – Mr. Chiasson reported that Picciola & Associates ("P&A") is working on the Bathhouse Repair project located at the Public Boat Launch. He stated that we have received the FEMA project worksheet ("PW") for the Breakwater Repair in the amount of \$600,000. He has not signed the PW yet because it is approximately \$200,000 below the funds needed for the repair. P&A submitted to FEMA all the estimates for the repair however FEMA gave us 2,000 tons of rock less than what will be needed. Mr. Chiasson is having P&A review the PW to write a letter to FEMA explaining the need for this work. We will wait for FEMA's reply.

Mr. Chiasson reported that we also received the PW from FEMA for the Beach Stabilization which also came in below the cost needed at \$600,000.00. The repair cost would actually be \$6 to \$8 million. We are re-evaluating the PW and looking at other options on the beach such as protecting the Bay Champagne area with geo tubes. Mr. Autin stated that since the discussions on Monday night regarding the seawall servitude and Caillouet negotiations, the Caillouet Land Corporation has filed a comment regarding our permit application for a permanent project. They had made some original comments

regarding the gaps in the bags for public access along the extension of LA 3090 which was never in the plans. They also commented on where the staging area was going to be and whether it would block the access to their property which was discussed with DNR and it is not an issue. Mr. Autin stated that the latest comment questioned if we ever had a permit to do the beach project. He stated that the original beach project was permitted in the mid 1980's and after Hurricane Lili/Isidore we had another permit. He stated that with this latest comment we are waiting for DNR to present a formal request to us for us to respond. We are planning to keep working on the seawall servitude with the Caillouets' but this may turn us to look at alternative ways to get access to that property.

Mr. Chiasson stated that the Adam "Ted" Gisclair Road is left to be complete the Ditch Sweeping project. We will be placing rip rap around the hydrants on the east side of the roadway. He stated that the Nerby Collins Marina Stabilization project is complete. The Fourchon Bridge Washout project is also complete.

Port Projects – Mr. Chiasson stated that Angelette-Picciola is working on the design for the Martin Terminal Slip #1 Repairs. He reported that DOTD is currently advertising for the overlay of LA 3090. The bid opening is scheduled for September 30<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Guidry questioned if it was a complete overlay project, which Mr. Chiasson stated that the project is to mill 2 inches of the road then place a new layer of asphalt. This will not address the shoulders. Commissioner Lafont stated that this road is in bad condition and questioned if there is any way to get funds or grants to do maintenance so the road does not get this bad again? Mr. Chiasson replied that it is a DOTD state highway and they are responsible, however, once the elevated highway is completed the parish will take this road over which may allow us to get better maintenance.

Mr. Breaux stated that the Fourchon Seafood Site Repairs are 90% complete. He did request that they remove the small vessel and the stack of trash.

Mrs. Danos stated that she is meeting tomorrow with the engineers for the Communications Tower to review the bid specs. She expects this to be bid out by the end of September. Mrs. Danos stated that the RFP for the LA 1 Project - Command and Control with AVMS is completed. It is being reviewed and will be sending to DOTD next week for their review.

LA 1 Highway Improvements – Mr. Henri Boulet reported that Phase 1A of the LA 1 Project as of August 31<sup>st</sup> was 30.5% with 47% of the time elapsed. As of this morning, the DOTD project engineer on site still feels the contractor can meet the September 2011 deadline. 24 hour operations at the LA 1 Customer Service Center in Golden Meadow will continue until all area kiosks are tested, in place, and functioning. All kiosks have been delivered to the Crescent City Connection Division in New Orleans, and as I speak a DOTD contractor is testing the software that had to be programmed into all of them. They are hoping to deliver them to the merchant locations very soon, but could not give me a delivery date as of this morning due to the ongoing programming work. DOTD has ordered two additional kiosks; one to be installed in the Fourchon community and one in the Grand Isle community.

Some sign changes are forthcoming, including one to inform motorist that they will have 96 hours to post-pay tolls before any violation notice is sent out. A second sign is one I requested a few weeks ago which will alert motorist to available facilities in Leeville namely for camping, lodging, food, and gas, and will state that the next services are in 10 miles. This sign will be placed approximately ½ mile before the north access ramp.

Concerning Phase 2 R/O/W acquisitions, DOTD is expecting to make half of the offers by the end of this month to property owners. Concerning the geotechnical work, DOTD is still reviewing the RFP and expects to award that work in the coming weeks. Concerning Phase II construction funding, Mr. Boulet is continuing to work on an upcoming TIGER grant application to the US Department of Transportation's TIGER Discretionary Grant Program which is due September 15<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Cheramie questioned if DOTD did an economic survey for Leeville and the South Lafourche companies because the tolls are killing the businesses. Some companies are charging surcharges, loss of boat contracts, businesses are losing money because of the tolls. Mr. Boulet stated that DOTD did a study in 2004 on the impacts of the tolls but he hasn't heard if they are doing another one since the bridge has opened. Mr. Boulet stated that he will request this be done.

Commissioner Griffin questioned how many employees are working at the customer service center, which Mr. Boulet replied they are suppose to have 4 full time employees. I believe they only have 3 right now and they are looking for someone right now. Some employees from New Orleans are working nights. They are looking at trends to not have long lines. They have noticed that they are very busy on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings. Commissioner Gisclair questioned if there were any surprises in the Geauxpass system? He heard that many truck drivers (18 wheeler) are only wanting one time passes. Mr. Boulet stated that they didn't expect the many one time passes or the many people passing at certain hours. He stated that eventually they will have a cash machine to handle some of the one time pass transactions. They are also looking at scheduling additional people for the morning hours. Commissioner Gisclair questioned the police car there, which Mr. Boulet replied that the Crescent City Connection police are there mostly at night.

Commissioner Vizier stated that he understands that some truck drivers are passing the toll charge onto there customers which he understands Commissioner Cheramie's concerns but that is progress for building a new bridge. Commissioner Vizier stated that his main concern is the people that are going around the structure to avoid the toll. He questioned how much money did the state collect in the last month and will this be enough to pay for the bond? Mr. Boulet has asked the same question but they can not give reports yet but should be resolved in the next few weeks. He also asked the state on how the traffic is doing compared to the projected figures which we should have a report next month. Commissioner Vizier stated that the bridge is 76' high and a shrimp boat already hit the bridge. They need to know to lower their booms. Mr. Boulet stated that the state is aware of the cars passing around the structure and will be installing a camera to monitor and capture their license plates.

Commissioner Lafont stated that tolls are very unpopular and how do we get the point across to the public that the Greater Lafourche Port Commission ("GLPC") did not put the tolls on the bridge. Mr. Boulet stated that it is not the GLPC, it is Louisiana DOTD. He stated that they were very clear at the public hearings held in May 2004 both in Grand Isle and Larose where Mr. Johnny Bradberry stated that this project will not happen unless the state has a commitment. Commissioner Gisclair stated that it is not our bonds, bridge, or toll. He understands that Director Falgout wears more than one hat with the different organizations he is involved in but we need to make that separation that it is not GLPC.

Commissioner Guidry questioned how permanent is the position that is open at the customer service center, which Mr. Boulet stated that it is a permanent civil service position and should be posted on the DOTD website. Commissioner Vizier questioned if the bonds are LA state bonds, which Mr. Boulet replied yes they were issued by the LA Transportation Authority and LA state government backs up those bonds. There is a reserve fund at DOTD to service the bond debt should revenue be short at any time. Commissioner Vizier questioned whose idea was it to build the bridge, which Mr. Boulet replied the LA 1 Coalition with the support of the whole community. Commissioner Vizier questioned if GLPC was one of the biggest sponsors in the beginning of the LA 1 Coalition, which Mr. Boulet replied yes. Commissioner Vizier stated that would you say the GLPC had nothing to do with the bridge, which Mr. Boulet replied that the GLPC realized the vulnerability with the condition of the road and joined 80 other companies to secure access to the coast. Commissioner Vizier stated that he is proud to say that he was part of this a long time before some of the other board members were elected that we have been supporting the LA 1 Coalition to build a better highway to Grand Isle and Port Fourchon. It is progress.

Coastal Issues – Mr. Chiasson stated the Director Falgout is at a Corps meeting today discussing coastal projects such as Davis Pond, Bayou Lafourche and several others. He reported that the Corps has awarded the project for the Belle Pass Jetty Repairs. We will contact them to see who has the contract and a time schedule of the work to be done. Commissioner Cheramie questioned if they state the size rocks that will be placed to repair the jetties, which Mr. Chiasson replied that we did meet with them in Washington to let them know that the size that was placed previously was incorrect. They stated that this time it will be larger boulders to do it right. Mr. Chiasson is writing a grant application for Hazard Mitigation Funding from Hurricane Gustav to extend the breakwaters to protect Bay Champagne. We are planning to meet with Picciola & Associates and Taylor Engineering to determine the correct alignment. He stated that Taylor Engineering is the firm working on the Caminada Headlands project.

## **Committee Reports**

**Executive Committee** - Chairman Griffin reported that the committee met on August 26, 2009 at the Operations Building in Port Fourchon. Present were Larry Griffin, John Melancon, Jimmy Lafont and Wilbert Collins. The committee also met on September 8, 2009 at the Administration Building in Galliano with John Melancon and Wilbert Collins absent. The Commission then discussed items that were discussed at the committee meetings.

President Griffin presented for the board's consideration the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with America's Energy Coast. Mr. Chiasson stated that Director Falgout is involved with this organization and is a chairman on one of the committees. This would involve the Port donating \$5,000 for a sponsorship. Commissioner Guidry made the motion to approve the agreement which was second by Ervin Bruce. The floor was open to discussion. Commissioner Cheramie stated that he was not in favor at this point because we have so many cooperative endeavor agreements already. He stated that this needs to stop. He stated that positions for these agencies should be offered first to the board before other employees. Commissioner Vizier requested more information. Commissioners Guidry and Bruce removed their motion. Commissioner Vizier made the motion to table which was second by Chuckie Cheramie, the board unanimously agreed to table the agreement.

Upon motion by Jimmy Lafont and second by Donald Vizier, the board unanimously approved the request from Grand Isle Shipyard to assign lease site GLF610 to GIS Holdings.

Upon motion by Chuckie Cheramie and second by Donald Vizier, the board unanimously approved the Landlord Agreement from GIS Holding subject to additional language by Mr. Autin.

Upon motion by Donald Vizier and second by Ervin Bruce, the board unanimously approved the Adopt-a-Road Contract application for LA 3090.

Upon motion by Donald Vizier and second by Jimmy Lafont, the board unanimously approved Director Falgout as the delegate for the upcoming 2009 AAPA Annual Convention in Texas with the two alternates being President Griffin and Mr. Chiasson.

Upon motion by Donald Vizier and second by Jimmy Guidry, the board unanimously approved the Right of First Refusal request from Orgeron Investments for property at Airport.

Commissioner Vizier made the motion to approve the request from Latelco to assign a portion of the tower site on N. Doucet Road to Global Tower, LLC ("Global") which was second by Ervin Bruce, the floor was open for discussion. Mr. Peter Louviere stated that Latelco has entered into an agreement with Global to sell 4 towers which are the 2 in Larose, 1 in Golden Meadow, and 1 in Port Fourchon. We are requesting that the Port allow us to subdivide the lease property and allow Global to have a direct lease with the Port for the property where the tower is located. He stated that Global is the fourth largest tower company in the US. They acquire towers and operate them. Mr. Louviere stated that Latelco is keeping 2 90' towers that are in Grand Isle and Larose. The board then voted which resulted in all yeas.

President Griffin presented for the board's consideration the Chouest Shorebase Services ("CSS") Lease for Site GLF621. Mr. Autin stated that the lease was presented to the committee and it was recommended to include Act of God language regarding the February 29, 2012 milestone for the Slip C availability date. Commissioner Vizier made a motion to approve the CSS lease which was second by Perry Gisclair, the floor was open to discussion. Commissioner Gisclair stated his concern of the Port being responsible to be complete by February 29, 2012 and stated that in most contracts there is a stipulation for down time or weather conditions. Mr. Autin stated that the laws already cover it but should not have a problem including such language. The board then voted which resulted in all yeas.

Upon motion by Jimmy Lafont and second by Chuckie Cheramie, the board unanimously approved the request from Chevron to lease the helipads at the Airport.

Upon motion by Ervin Bruce and second by Jimmy Guidry, the board unanimously approved the assignment request from Allport Services to acquire additional investors.

**Permits & Waterways Committee** - Chairman Cheramie reported that the committee met on August 26, 2009 at the Operations Building in Port Fourchon. Present were Larry Griffin, Jimmy Lafont and Perry Gisclair. Chuckie Cheramie was absent. The committee also met on September 8, 2009 at the

Administration Building in Galliano with all members present. The Commission then discussed items that were discussed at the committee meetings.

Chairman Cheramie presented for the board's review the permit applications from Plains Pipeline LP, Louisiana Transportation Authority, Manti Operating Company, and Lafourche Parish Government. He requested that a letter be sent to Manti Operating Company for the large amount of wheel washing in the permit. Mr. Chiasson stated that we will check with Director Falgout if a letter was sent from Coastal Zone Management.

Chairman Cheramie made a motion to add Ordinance No. 71 regarding unmanned vessels in Port to the agenda which was second by Perry Gisclair, a two-thirds vote was taken which resulted in all yeas of the present members.

Chairman Cheramie presented for the board's consideration adopting Ordinance No. 71. He stated that the ordinance was presented to the committee and it was recommended to adopt the ordinance as written. Upon motion by Chuckie Cheramie and second by Perry Gisclair, the board unanimously approved adopting the following ordinance:

#### ORDINANCE NO. 71

**AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING UNATTENDED VESSELS MOORED IN THE PORT AREA WHEN HURRICANE FORCE WINDS ARE EXPECTED IN THE PORT AREA WITHIN TWENTY-FOUR (24) HOURS.**

**BE IT ORDAINED**, by the Board of Commissioners of the Greater Lafourche Port Commission that:

**SECTION 1.** The terms below shall be defined as follows:

- a. Unattended – not occupied by sufficiently skilled, experienced marine personnel capable of stabilizing and controlling the Vessel in seas subject to Hurricane Force Winds
- b. Hurricane Force Winds – sustained winds or frequent gusts equal to or greater than 74 miles per hour
- c. Port Fourchon - that area commonly referenced as Port Fourchon inclusive of and bounded by Flotation Canal to the North, Port Fourchon Marina to the Northeast, by Louisiana Highway 3090 to the East, by the Gulf of Mexico to the South and Bayou Lafourche to the West
- d. Port Pilings – those mooring pilings owned by the Greater Lafourche Port Commission and situated to the East of the Bayou Lafourche channel in the North and South vicinity of the Leon Theriot South Floodgates.
- e. Vessel – any steamship, steamboat, tug, towboat, water craft, ship, boat or barge of any kind or description, whether foreign or domestic, regardless of whether same is self- propelled by a motor or engine

**SECTION 2.** When Hurricane Force Winds are expected to occur at Port Fourchon within twenty-four (24) hours, no person shall

- a. allow a Vessel, which is self-propelled by a motor or engine and of which s/he is either an owner or captain, to remain Unattended in Port Fourchon or moored to Port Pilings.
- b. allow a Vessel which is not self-propelled by a motor or engine and of which s/he is an owner, to remain in Port Fourchon or moored to Port Pilings without being under the control of a Vessel(s), which is self-propelled by a motor or engine and which is occupied by sufficiently skilled, experienced marine personnel capable of stabilizing and controlling all such Vessel(s) in seas subject to Hurricane Force Winds.

**SECTION 3.** The Director of Security, upon coordination with the Executive Director, of the Greater Lafourche Port Commission is authorized to designate the time at which Hurricane Force Winds are expected to occur at Port Fourchon based on prevailing weather conditions and tropical forecasts.

**SECTION 4.** Any person violating any provision of this ordinance shall, upon conviction, be fined not more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) or imprisoned for not more than six (6) months in jail, or both, in the discretion of the court having jurisdiction.

This Ordinance No. 71, having been submitted in writing, having been adopted at a public meeting of said Commission, was then submitted to an official vote as a whole; the vote resulted in 7 yeas and 2 absent. The ordinance was declared adopted on September 9, 2009.

Construction & Development Committee - Chairman Bruce reported that the committee met on August 26, 2009 at the Operations Building in Port Fourchon. Present were Larry Griffin, Donald Vizier, John Melancon, and Ervin Bruce. The committee also met on September 8, 2009 at the Administration Building in Galliano with John Melancon being absent. Commission then discussed items that were discussed at the committee meetings.

Upon motion by Donald Vizier and second by Jimmy Guidry, the board unanimously approved Change Order No. 3 an increase of \$43,063.00 by Dolphin Services for the Wharf Repair project.

Finance Committee - Commissioner Guidry reported that the committee met on August 26, 2009 at the Operations Building in Port Fourchon. Present were Larry Griffin, John Melancon, Jimmy Guidry, and Wilbert Collins. The committee also met on September 8, 2009 at the Administration Building in Galliano with John Melancon absent. The Commission then discussed items that were discussed at the committee meetings.

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

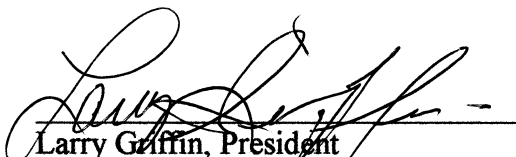
Upon motion by Jimmy Guidry and second by Ervin Bruce, the board unanimously approved the out of state travel requests by Jason Duet to attend the FAA Southwest Region Airport Division Conference on October 5, 2009 in Texas and April Danos to examine technology demos on products we will be moving toward with our Port Security Grant on September 20, 2009 in California.

President Griffin opened the floor for any other business. President Griffin recognized Mr. Al Danos with the Lafourche Beachfront Development District. Mr. Danos stated that this past Labor Day weekend was the last weekend for the beach to be open. He thanked Mr. Breaux for getting the roadway ready and the Harbor Police for patrolling the beach. He stated that it was a good summer with no major problems during the three weekends the beach was open to vehicles. He invited the board to attend their meeting tonight at 6:00 pm at the Galliano Complex Building to plan their next plan of action.

Commissioner Cheramie recognized the new COE student worker, Maggie Guidry. She thanked the board for this opportunity.

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

ATTEST:

  
Larry Griffin, President

  
Wilbert Collins, Secretary