

**GREATER LAFOURCHE PORT COMMISSION  
BOARD MEETING AGENDA**

**MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2024 at 10:30AM**

**Administration Office · 16829 East Main St · Cut Off, LA 70345**

*(Posted: September 10, 2024 at 10:10AM)*

- I. Call to Order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Approve minutes for August 14, 2024 and August 28, 2024 meeting
- V. Executive Director's Report
  - A. Northern Expansion
    - 1. Northern Expansion Slip D Bulkhead (*GIS Engineering*)
  - B. Airport Projects
    - 1. Aircraft Operations
    - 2. Airport Connector Road and Bridge (*Picciola & Associates*)
    - 3. FBO Terminal (*GIS Engineering*)
  - C. Other Projects
    - 1. Leeville Bucket Dredge (*Angelette Design*)
    - 2. Hurricane IDA Repair Projects
      - a. Breakwater Repairs (*Angelette Design*)
      - b. Fourchon Beach (*Angelette Design*)
      - c. Flotation Canal & Front Commercial Marina Dredge (*Picciola & Associates*)
      - d. Airport Hangar Replacement (*GIS Engineering*)
- VI. PUBLIC COMMENT
- VII. Committee Reports
  - A. Executive Committee
    - 1. Consider approving the agreement with USDA for hog removal
    - 2. Consider approving the request from Dawn Offshore to include Offshore Towing to the lease
    - 3. Consider approving the request from Hudson Services to lease non-waterfront sites
  - B. Permits & Waterways Committee
    - 1. Review permit from Terrebonne Conservation District
  - C. Construction & Development Committee
    - 1. Consider accepting the clear lien certificate from Preferred Electric for the PAPI LED Upgrades
    - 2. Consider rejecting the bid for the Fourchon Beach project
  - D. Finance Committee
    - 1. Consider approving payment of August 2024 invoices and recognize expenditures over \$25,000
    - 2. Consider approving the August 2024 unaudited financial statements
    - 3. Adopt the 2024 ad valorem millage rate
    - 4. Consider approving the 2024 insurance renewals
    - 5. Consider approving out of state travel request
- VIII. Any Other Business
- IX. Public Comment
- X. Adjournment

*Serena L. Bruce, Legal/Projects Assistant  
Greater Lafourche Port Commission  
16829 East Main St., Cut Off, LA 70345  
(985)632-6701*

*In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance, please contact us at (985) 632-6701, describing the assistance that is necessary.*

# OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE GREATER LAFOURCHE PORT COMMISSION

## September 16, 2024

The Board of Commissioners of the Greater Lafourche Port Commission met in regular session on Monday, September 16, 2024 at 10:30AM at the Administration Office 16829 East Main Street, Cut Off, LA 70345.

President Cheramie called the meeting to order then Secretary M. Callais called roll.

ATTENDED: Thomas Pitre III, Harris Cheramie Jr., Jimmy Lafont, Rodney Gisclair Sr., Reggie Ledet, Ted Savoie, John Melancon, Jr., Mike Callais, and Kris Callais

ABSENT: None

Upon motion by M. Callais second by Melancon, with no public comment, the board unanimously approved the minutes for August 14, 2024 and August 28, 2024 meeting.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Northern Expansion – Engineer John Plaisance reported Dynamic Group is in the process of scheduling to do the test piles for Slip D Bulkhead project.

Airport Projects – Deputy Port Director Davie Breaux reported the aircraft operations for the month of July were 1877, with 10,290 passengers, and 18,956 vehicles. Engineer Joe Picciola reported on the Airport Connector Road and Bridge. Sealevel Construction is on site doing asphalt this week along LA 3235, the connector road and LA 1. They continue to assemble the lift span on the bayou side. They are working on electrical and controls inside the control house. Executive Director Chiasson stated that Bryce has had some discussions with the state on the timeline extension and we are working through that process. Engineer John Plaisance reported B.E.T. Construction continues to send submittals and has started working on the construction layout for FBO Airport Terminal.

Other Projects – Engineer Neil Angelette reported Grand Isle Shipyard completed the Leeville Bucket Dredge two weeks ago and we are recommending substantial completion.

Hurricane IDA Repair Projects – Engineer Neil Angelette reported Rigid Constructors is ordering materials for the Breakwater Repairs. Director Chiasson stated there was no further damage to the breakwaters from this past storm. Engineer Neil Angelette reported the one bid received for the Fourchon Beach project was over budget and we recommend rejecting the bid. We will discuss with administration to consider alternate borrow sources to possibly use smaller dredge companies. Engineer Joe Picciola reported on the Flotation Canal & Front Commercial Marina Dredge project. Coastal Dredging continues to dredge in Flotation Canal. They did demobe for the storm but returned on Saturday. Melancon questioned the subcontractor that was dredging in the marina, which Picciola replied he didn't have enough discharge pipe to complete the job. Once Coastal Dredging finishes in Flotation Canal, they will move to the marina area. Engineer John Plaisance reported Freetown Builders is working on permits and ordering materials for the new Hangar Replacement.

Director Chiasson reported on Hurricane Francine. He thanked the tenants, staff and employees. There was a lot of cooperation among our customers and the Port to get situated prior to the evacuations. We worked with the Parish, State Police, Parish Police, Fire District with everyone working together. We appreciate it and we all understand how important it is to get back up and running. We would like to thank Grand Isle Shipyard for staging their front-end loader to clear roads. Tuesday the mandatory evacuation was set for 5:00PM and by Thursday morning at 6:45AM the frontend loader began to clear the roads. We were able to use our new side scan sonar equipment for the waterways. He reported by 10:00AM Thursday morning we were able to

do our Port assessment and by 2:00PM we confirmed with the USCG waterways were cleared and ZULU was lifted. It was a quick turnaround involving private companies and Port staff and employees. It was a great move forward. The side scan sonar was purchased with port security grant funds and came in handy. I was able to talk with the new Captain of the U.S Coast Guard. He was thankful that we had our own equipment to do the work. Savoie questioned the wind and water levels in the Port. Chiasson stated September 12<sup>th</sup> made his 19<sup>th</sup> year working for the Port and this was the closes storm in distance that didn't have a storm surge. It was 1ft above normal. This storm brought more water to the Golden Meadow levee than we had in Fourchon. There was more wind in Cut Off than there was in Fourchon. In Fourchon the vessels clocked 70MPH wind gusts. There was no damage, and no water close to Fourchon. Fourchon's high tide was at 4:00AM on Thursday morning and we had 1ft of water over LA 1 in low lying areas. Pitre thanked the Port for all the updates throughout the storm. Chiasson stated the work Entergy did after Ida helped us to keep power in Fourchon. We never loss power in Fourchon. There were a few companies that did which were fixed. We never seen that for any storm. In fact, we kept power and were able to view our cameras system. We were able to convince USCG because of the photos we were able to send him to open the port. All those things done over the last several years have led us to be resilient, as well as, working together to get it done. Gisclair stated we were able to be proactive. Melancon requested a brief description of ZULU for the audience. Chiasson explained there are USCG terms for the weather conditions: Whiskey is alert of high winds expected within 72 hrs., X-Ray high winds are expected within 48 hrs. about to shut down vessel movement, and ZULU high winds and storm expected within 12 hrs. no movement of vessels in the water. He stated on Thursday we were able to confirm the channels were clear, if not we would have had to wait on NOAA, the Corps, or another private survey team to do the survey and release ZULU. Cheramie commended the harbor police, maintenance and administration for doing an extremely well job.

President Cheramie opened the floor for any public comment. Robert Theriot announced the upcoming Golden Meadow Rotary Club Shrimp Boil-Off and Craft Show will take place at the Golden Meadow Park on October 5, 2024.

### **Committee Reports**

Executive Committee - The committee met August 28<sup>th</sup> and September 9<sup>th</sup> in Cut Off. Present were Cheramie, Gisclair, Lafont, and Pitre.

Upon motion by Pitre second by Lafont, with no public comment, the board unanimously approved the Cooperative Service Agreement with U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), and Wildlife Services (WS) to provide hog removal services.

Upon motion by Gisclair second by Savoie, with no public comment, the board unanimously approved the request from Dawn Offshore to include Offshore Towing to the lease along Slip C.

President Cheramie presented for the board's consideration to approve the request from Hudson Services to lease non-waterfront site. No action was taken.

Director Chiasson recommended adding to the agenda the CPRA Amendment and the substantial completion certificate from the Leeville Bucket Dredge project.

Upon motion by Melancon second by M. Callais, with no public comment, the board voted which resulted in 9 yeas to add to the agenda to consider approving the Amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement with CPRA for the Fourchon Island Long Term Resiliency Analysis TE-0178.

Upon motion by Ledet second by M. Callais, the board unanimously approved the Amendment to the Intergovernmental Agreement with CPRA to increase the funding from \$1,500,000 to \$2,097,513.53 for the Fourchon Island Long Term Resiliency Analysis TE-0178.

Upon motion by Melancon second by Ledet, with no public comment, the board vote resulted in 9 yeas to add to the agenda to consider approving the Substantial Completion Certificate from Grand Isle Shipyard for the Leeville Bucket Dredge work.

Upon motion by Melancon second by Pitre, with no public comment, the board unanimously approved the Substantial Completion Certificate dated September 5, 2024 from Grand Isle Shipyard for the Leeville Bucket Dredge work.

Permits & Waterways Committee - The committee met August 28<sup>th</sup> and September 9<sup>th</sup> in Cut Off. Present were Gisclair, Pitre, Savoie, and Cheramie.

Gisclair presented for the board's review the permit from Terrebonne Conservation District.

Construction & Development Committee - The committee met August 28<sup>th</sup> and September 9<sup>th</sup> in Cut Off. Present were K. Callais, M. Callais, Lafont, and Cheramie.

Upon motion by K. Callais second by M. Callais, with no public comment, the board unanimously accepted the clear lien certificate from Preferred Electric for the PAPI LED Upgrades.

Upon motion by K. Callais second by Lafont, with no public comment, the board unanimously rejected the bid from Weeks Marine for the Fourchon Beach project.

Finance Committee – The committee met August 28<sup>th</sup> in Cut Off. Present were K. Callais, Ledet, Cheramie, with Melancon absent. They also met September 9<sup>th</sup> with all members present.

Upon motion by Melancon second by M. Callais, with no public comment, the board unanimously approved payment of August 2024 invoices and recognized expenditures over \$25,000 which total \$3,321,844.76.

Upon motion by Melancon second by Savoie, with no public comment, the board unanimously approved the August 2024 unaudited financial statements.

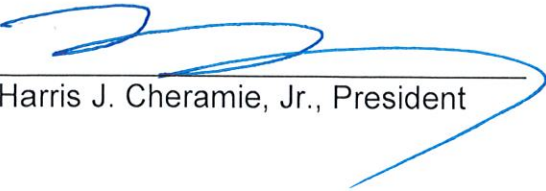
Chairman Melancon presented for the board to adopt the 2024 ad valorem millage rate. Chiasson stated last year we levied 6.89 mills. This year is a reassessment year. Our adjusted millage rate is now 7.59 mills, and the adjusted max millage is 7.90 mills. He stated after discussions with the board at our committee meetings, the board's recommendation is to levy 6.54 mills. He stated at 6.54 mills the estimated tax collection would be approximately \$2.4 million which would save taxpayers approximately \$392,872. Chiasson then read the resolution out loud: *"Be it resolved that the following millage(s) are hereby levied on the 2024 tax roll on all property subject to taxation by the Greater Lafourche Port Commission millage for Operations and Maintenance of 6.54 mills. Be it Further Resolved, that the proper administrative officials of the Parish of Lafourche, State of Louisiana, be and they are hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to spread said taxes, as hereinabove set forth, upon the assessment roll of said Parish for the year 2024, and to make the collection of the taxes imposed for and on behalf of the taxing authority, according to law, and that the taxes herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject to taxation as herein set forth, and collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law."* Upon motion by Melancon to adopt the millage rate of 6.54 mills for the tax year 2024, which was second by Ledet, the floor was open to public comment. Mr. Robert Theriot thanked the board for keeping the taxes as low as possible. The roll call vote resulted in 9 yeas by Cheramie, Pitre, Lafont, Gisclair, Ledet, Savoie, Melancon, M. Callais, and K. Callais.

Chairman Melancon presented for the board's consideration to approve the 2024 insurance renewals. Chiasson stated as it was presented at the committee meetings, the current premium is \$588,000, approximately 4.5% increase from last year and recommends approval. Upon motion by Melancon second by Gisclair, with no public comment, the board unanimously approved the 2024 insurance renewals.

Upon motion by Melancon second by Lafont, with no public comment, the board unanimously approved the out of state travel requests from Scott Bynum and Joshua Collins to attend the AAPA Port Partner Emergency Response Summit in Virginia November 4<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup>.

Upon motion by Lafont second by Pitre, the board adjourned the meeting at 11:03AM.

ATTEST:



---

Harris J. Cheramie, Jr., President



---

Charles M. "Mike" Callais, Secretary