

AGENDA
January 14, 2009 @ 10:30 AM

- I. Call to Order
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Roll Call
- IV. Consider approval of minutes for December 10, 2008 regular meeting and December 22, 2008 special meeting
- V. Executive Director's Report
 - A. **Northern Expansion**
 - 1) Slip B West Bulkhead, Project #3 (J. Wayne Plaisance)
 - 2) Slip B East Bulkhead, Project #4, Phases I and II (Angelette-Picciola)
 - B. **Airport**
 - 1) Parallel Taxiway Site Prep & Safety Area (LPA Group)
 - 2) North Taxiway Paving (LPA Group)
 - C. **FEMA**
 - D. **Highway Improvements**
 - E. **Coastal Issues**
- VI. Committee Reports
 - A. Executive Committee
 - 1) Consider the request from Deep Marine Technology for a right of first refusal on Slip B and credit original implementation fee towards new agreement
 - 2) Consider Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with SLEC/ROR/LA 1 Coalition
 - 3) Consider Receipt and General Release of claim for camera damage by F/V Orchid Lady II
 - 4) Consider the request from Fourchon Heavy Lift to relocate guard shack on 5th Street
 - 5) Consider the request from Safety Compliance Services to lease 1 acre site along LA 3090
 - 6) Consider the request from Abdon Callais Boat Rentals to suspend rentals on wharf lease
 - 7) Consider the request from Rotorcraft Leasing to extend rent house lease for an additional year
 - 8) Consider the request from CLC regarding appraisal of Baroid (non-waterfront) Tract
 - 9) Consider Board position regarding Airport Corridor appraisal process
 - B. Permits & Waterways Committee
 - 1) Review permit application of Apache Corporation
 - 2) Review permit application of Maritech Resources, Inc.
 - C. Construction & Development Committee
 - 1) Consider bids for semi-annual Construction Materials
 - 2) Consider bids for annual Fuel Services
 - D. Finance Committee
 - 1) Consider payment of December invoices and recognize expenditures over \$10,000
- VII. Any other business
- VIII. Public Comment
- IX. Adjournment

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE GREATER LAFOURCHE PORT COMMISSION

January 14, 2009

The Board of Commissioners of the Greater Lafourche Port Commission met in regular session on Wednesday, January 14, 2009 at 10:30AM.

President Griffin called the meeting to order and Secretary Collins called roll.

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

ABSENT: Chuckie Cheramie

Upon motion by Wilbert Collins and second by Donald Vizier, the board unanimously approved the minutes for the December 10, 2008 regular meeting and December 22, 2008 special meeting.

Executive Director's Report

Northern Expansion – Mr. Andre Uzee reported that the contractor has 1400 ft of steel bulkhead installed for Slip B West Bulkhead, Project #3. The contractor is constructing multiple steps with 700 ft of timber piles, 100 ft of bumper pipe, and 200 ft of whalers also installed. The contractor should be complete by mid-September 2009. Director Falgout questioned if the cement deadman have been poured, which Mr. Uzee replied they are beginning today.

Engineer Larry Picciola reported that the contractor is on site for Slip B East Bulkhead, Project #4, Phase I. The sheets are being painted and should be delivered soon. He is waiting on the EDA grant approval to advertise for Phase II. Mr. Breaux questioned the alignment where the bulkheads will meet, which Mr. Picciola reported that the first contractor to get to the corner will set the alignment for the other contractor. Director Falgout questioned when we anticipate the EDA grant, which Mr. Chiasson stated that he sent the pre-application for \$1.2 million to cover some of the extra cost on this bulkhead but he has not received a response yet. He stated that by next meeting he should have a status update to determine if we will wait for this approval or move forward with the project. Director Falgout questioned if the grant will be for the entire project or can we focus this funding for later construction to not interfere with the bulkhead being let. Mr. Chiasson stated that he will discuss this with EDA.

Airport – Mr. Duet reported that the Parallel Taxiway Site Prep & Safety Area project is basically complete. The engineer is reviewing the substantial completion request and it should be ready for our next meeting. The contractor has moved on site for the North Taxiway Paving project. The connector will be closed for 30 days. The runway is open and we worked out with American Air to still operate their aircraft and have access to the runway. Mr. Duet reported that he spoke to DOTD regarding the stimulus package being offered which we were included in for \$5 million to complete the taxiway (6,500 ft). DOTD indicated that if we are not approved in the stimulus package, DOTD will refund 100% of the design cost for the remaining taxiway. The reason for this is to encourage airports to move forward with their projects and have design plans ready. Director Falgout stated that we had not anticipated moving forward with design as of yet, but since the design is a requirement to be eligible for the stimulus package we will move forward with it since it will be reimbursed by DOTD if we don't get stimulus money.

Director Falgout stated that they had some complaints of deer on the runway which is not good. We are looking into fencing and other options to prevent this.

FEMA – Mr. Chiasson reported that he is making headway with FEMA getting some project worksheets signed. The Front Marina wharves and boatlift has been signed for approximately \$1.5 million. The maintenance warehouse damage has been completed for approximately \$36,000. The Fourchon bridge southeast approach washout has been temporarily fixed and we will come back with a permanent project. The Public Boat Launch wharves and pavilion project worksheet is for \$50,000

which we are pushing forward to repair. We had discussions with FEMA for the Fourchon Beach repair to possibly do a temporary project to get some protection then push forward with a permanent project. We are doing the most important projects first then will push forward with the remaining 25 projects for repair.

Director Falgout stated that we were concerned with the speed that FEMA was moving with our projects. We sat down with FEMA and GOHSEP and we are now moving forward at a pace that we are comfortable with. They all know we need to tackle the beach project and that definitely something needs to be done.

Commissioner Vizier questioned if we are going with the same style wharves as before for the Front Marina, which Mr. Chiasson stated that we are going with the same style but may discuss further the gaps between the wood because FEMA indicated that if water could pass through larger gaps it may not cause as much damage. Director Falgout stated that FEMA will only replace the same type structure that was there. If we want an improved or another structure, it will be additional cost to the port. We have to consider the size of vessels that remain in the marina during the storms because a lot of the damage seems to be from vessel movement hitting the wharves. Commissioner Melancon stated that since the last storm the board discussed not allowing vessels to tie up in the marina during the storms. Director Falgout stated that we did not restrict vessels in the marina during storms and we left it that we would urge those vessels to move further inland. Commissioner Gisclair stated that the committee discussed not allowing any vessels to remain in the marina unless they were manned during the storms. Commissioner Vizier was wondering if a different design for smaller vessels on the Port Fourchon Marina side is necessary, which Director Falgout stated that the lessee has not requested this but we can look into it. Mr. Chiasson stated that if the Storm Harbor Marina is awarded, this may be a place for large vessels to be secure inside the floodgates. Commissioner Vizier stated that the board should consider during major hurricanes to give vessel owners 24 hours notice to remove all vessels in the marina because the vessels are tearing up everything. Director Falgout suggested that this go before committee to discuss and possibly put a policy in place to implement.

Highway Improvements - Director Falgout reported that as of as of December 31st Phase 1A of the LA 1 Project (between Port Fourchon and Leeville) is 16% complete, Phase 1B (approaches) is 87% complete, Phase 1C (main-span crossing) is 94% complete, and Phase 1D (Tolling Equipment) is 24% complete.

Concerning Phase 2 of the LA 1 Project, the DOTD is still planning on beginning the R/O/W acquisition process as soon as they receive the R/O/W maps, which is expected sometime in February. \$2 million of state funds remains available for this process. Geo-Technical work within the eight miles of R/O/W could cost as much as \$3-4 million. Henri Boulet is working toward securing these needed pre-construction funds, both with our local government and FEMA. Phase 2 was not originally included in the proposed federal stimulus bill however the Coalition has worked very hard with our Legislature, Congressional delegation and the Governor's office over the years to now have the LA 1 Project on the list for \$360 million. As well, the Larose Bayou Lafourche Bridge project is also on the list for a cost of \$40 million, the S.L. Airport as mentioned earlier is on the list for \$5 million, and our Port Bulkhead Improvements are listed for \$15 million. All these projects are listed in the stimulus bill and hopefully we will get funding from the state to move forward with our developments.

Concerning the overlaying of Highway 3090, Mike Stack, District 2 Administrator informed us that the Federal Highway Administration did not view the amount of damage on LA 3090 as qualified for storm related repair money. There will be no FEMA or disaster recovery money to repair the highway. They are aware of our concerns with the ponding of water at the intersection of Hwy. 3090 and LA 1, DOTD along with LA 1 Project Site Engineer did meet and found the culverts are blocked. There is a subsequent meeting set with the property owner, a DOTD representative, and port representative to discuss correcting the failing drainage.

The Coalition has officially requested of DOTD in writing that they conduct traffic counts on both the Cut Off and Larose Connectors to 3235 to determine if current traffic quantities qualify these intersections for permanent traffic lights by our state. The traffic counts are only one element the state

looks at when deciding if an intersection qualifies for lights. They then look to see if other qualifications listed in the Engineering Directives & Standards Manual are met.

Finally, the LA 1 Coalition, Mr. Boulet, continues to work in Washington to move our project forward. He will be in Washington next month meeting with new members of Congress. Tomorrow the House Transportation Committee is visiting Port Fourchon which is another effort to move our highway project forward.

President Griffin stated that DOTD has begun the emergency shoulder repairs on LA 1 from the Grand Isle Bridge toward Fourchon. Director Falgout stated that once they complete that area they will move toward Golden Meadow.

Commissioner Melancon questioned if the projects that will be funded by the stimulus package are projects that are ready to go. He feels that the Phase II of the elevated highway is close to being prepared. Director Falgout stated that we are advancing that as quick as possible for it to be ready with the funds available. The right of way acquisition takes years to accomplish which the stimulus package requirements don't give that time period. We would also have to do a "design build" for this phase which is to submit a project for a major company to design and build the project. This will allow projects to move at a faster pace.

Coastal Issues – Director Falgout stated that we are a strong supporter of coastal projects across the state and important organizations such as Restore or Retreat (ROR). Simone Maloz, Executive Director of ROR addressed the board. She reported that 2008 was a relatively good year for progress in LA and they are looking forward to 2009. In 2007, Congress passed the Water Resources Development Act for restoration projects in LA. In August 2008, the Governor announced that \$1 billion was committed to restoration projects in LA from different sources. She stated that \$20 million went to the Bayou Lafourche project to increase the water flow. The Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District took over this project and has begun surveys and staking. The emergency restoration capacity project will test the capacity of the existing pumps as much as possible and dredge the first 6.2 miles near Donaldsonville. She stated that the survey and staking will be complete by next month and the dredging should begin this summer.

Ms. Maloz reported that \$30 million went to a long distance sediment pipeline project which had already received \$33 million from the CIAP. This sediment distribution is an important part of the restoration process but has yet to be proven at long distances. ROR encouraged the state to do some planning and goal setting on their own which would save time and money and give the state more control over projects. Another encouragement to the state was to combine smaller projects with larger projects in the same area. In 2009, ROR will be involved with the Caminada project which received \$40 million of funds. ROR continue to work on the Davis Pond project. She stated that in January 2008 for 10 days the project ran at maximum capacity to check the ponding areas and it did very well. Some of the guide levees were damaged during the 2008 hurricanes which the CORPS is working on the repair to be complete by spring for another test. She reported on other projects that ROR is involved in such as the Mississippi River Delta Management which is a freshwater diversion study to determine how much water and settlement the river can deliver. ROR is also involved with community projects such as the Levee Decertification Committee, the Chamber of Commerce, and Industrial Association. She thanked the Port Commission for being a supporter of ROR. Further discussion followed regarding the Davis Pond project. Director Falgout stated that ROR will play a significant role in the Caminada project which covers the entire area from Caminada Pass to Belle Pass. He stated by having ROR involved is a proven way to get our interest recognized and projects built.

Committee Reports

Executive Committee - Chairman Griffin reported that the committee met on January 12, 2009 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 Ervin Bruce, the board unanimously approved the request from Deep Marine Technology for a 1 year right of first refusal on 600 linear feet of property along the east side of Slip B and credit original implementation fee towards new agreement.

