

WEST ST. MARY PARISH PORT, HARBOR AND TERMINAL DISTRICT

MEETING MINUTES

September 1, 2026

6:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Joe Duck, President of the Port Commission. Mr. Duck led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Druilhet gave the Invocation. A roll call resulted in the following:

Present:

Greg Paul
Benny Druilhet
Della Derouen
Joe Duck
Morris Beverly
David Hanagriff

Absent:

Joseph Tabb
Wilson Terry
Joel Authement

A moment of silence was held for Russell Cremaldi.

Also present at the meeting were Mr. Reid Miller of Miller Engineers, Mr. Eric Duplantis, Port Attorney, Mr. David Naquin, Executive Director and Ms. Rebecca Pellerin, Office Manager of the Port Commission.

A motion was made by Ms. Derouen to dispense with the reading of the August 4, 2026 meeting minutes and to accept them as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Paul. Mr. Duck asked if there were any questions or comments – there were none. The motion carried unanimously.

There was no public comment.

Mr. Naquin reported that the #3 Sugar Warehouse is nearly empty. Mr. Naquin presented photos of suggestions by the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) for corrections at the water plant. There are areas with rust that need to be addressed. Also, the hydro tank has surface dirt and needs to be cleaned – he reported that he has contacted someone and a price is being obtained for pressure washing. There is also minor chipping on another tank. The areas will be buffed, cleaned and repainted. All of the aforementioned corrections will be completed by the end of September.

Mr. Naquin reported that the lease with Cajun Broadband has expired and they are unsure if the lease will be renewed. The area leased for the cell tower is to be maintained by the lessee. Mr. Naquin presented a photo of the area to the Commission showing that the area has not been maintained. Mr. Naquin had someone clean the area at a cost of \$980 and informed the lessee that he is responsible for payment of cleaning the property.

Mr. Naquin reported that a culvert at the Louisa location will be replaced. The existing culvert leading to the drainage pump needs to be replaced as it is preventing proper drainage. The St. Mary Parish Drainage District #1 will assist in the installation of the culvert. He added that spoil from the cleanout will be used to build up the road.

Mr. Naquin reported that a new water gauge has been installed and is operational at the Louisa location and will provide real time data.

Mr. Naquin reported that BIRLA (carbon black) has renewed interest in leasing warehouse #5 at the Baldwin location. They plan to store bagged, shrink-wrapped carbon black on pallets. Lease negotiations are in progress.

Mr. Naquin reported that he has not received the appraisal of the Industrial Park yet and is continuing to follow up with this request. He also reported that water meters have all been installed and appear to be operating correctly. He suggested that Commission consider waiting another month to ensure accuracy before considering a rate study. Discussion followed. He also reported that LDH is encouraging the Port to consider adding another source of water for the water plant. Discussion followed.

Mr. Naquin reported that he has requested quotes for the installation of an alert system for the front door of the Port Commission building. A Ring camera is also being considered.

Mr. Naquin reported that Marine Turbine is finalizing its natural gas requirements for testing turbine engines. Mr. Naquin has requested that MTT make a presentation to the Commission when the plan is finalized. Discussion followed.

A motion was made by Ms. Derouen to approve Payment Request #8 to Miller Engineers for the Dredging project in the amount of \$4,709.50. The motion was seconded by Mr. Paul. Mr. Duck asked if there were any questions or comments – there were none. The motion was approved unanimously.

Mr. Duplantis reminded the Commissioners that Ethics and Preventing Sexual Harassment Training must be completed by the end of the year and that if they are in need of assistance to contact the staff at the Port Commission office.

Mr. Miller reported with reference to the Dredging project – a water quality certification has been submitted to the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) which is a federal requirement. The process involves public notices and paperwork and that a response is expected soon. This certification is needed before the Corps of Engineers can issue a final permit. The project is estimated to be 3-4 months before receiving a permit from the Corps. Discussion followed. It is anticipated that 4-5 contractors may bid on the project due to the large disposal area.

Mr. Naquin reported that the next scheduled meeting of the Port Commission is October 6, 2026.

There being no further business to be discussed, a motion was made by Mr. Druilhet to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Derouen. Mr. Duck asked if there were any questions or comments – there were none. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:21 p.m.

Signed _____
Della Derouen, Secretary