

WEST ST. MARY PARISH PORT, HARBOR AND TERMINAL DISTRICT

MEETING MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 7, 2021

6:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Wilson Terry, President of the Port Commission. Mr. Terry led in the Pledge of Allegiance. Ms. Lanceslin gave the Invocation. A roll call resulted in the following:

Present:

Sam Jones  
Donna Lanceslin  
Ralph Longman  
Willie Peters  
Joseph Phillips  
Murphy Pontiff  
Joseph Tabb  
Wilson Terry

Absent:

Greg Paul

Also present at the meeting were Ms. Marguerite Robinson of Teche Talk, Mr. Phillip Prejean, Mayor of Baldwin, Mr. Reid Miller of Miller Engineers, Mr. Eric Duplantis, Port Attorney, Ms. Brandy Pennison, Administrative Assistant, Mr. David Allain, Executive Director and Ms. Rebecca Pellerin, Office Manager of the Port Commission.

Mr. Terry reported that the minutes were distributed and asked if there were any corrections. After hearing no corrections, he asked for a motion. A motion was made by Mr. Tabb to accept and approve the minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Longman. Mr. Jones said in the minutes it said that he made an allusion to reporting on potential contracts if they weren't in negotiation and he stated that he thought he also made a motion for the Port to contact five businesses every month for the Director to report on. Mr. Allain said he was not sure if he specified a number but did ask for names of the companies he contacted during the month. Mr. Terry asked if there were any more questions or any more discussion – there was none. He asked if there was any opposition – there was none. The motion carried unanimously.

There was no public comment.

Mr. Terry introduced and welcomed Ms. Brandy Pennison, the Port's new Administrative Assistant. He said the Port is very happy to have her on board with the Port. Mr. Terry asked Mr. Duplantis to draft a thank you letter to Ms. Benita Prevost for her service to the Port of West St. Mary. He asked if there was any opposition to this request – there was none.

Mr. Allain gave the following report regarding Economic Development - several calls were made this month but further contact was interrupted by the Hurricane. He attempted to contact Crosby Tugs, a company he was in contact with the before the storm to inquire if they needed any assistance and has not heard from them since the storm. He also reported that he spoke with Mr. Evan Boudreaux, the St.

Mary Parish Economic Developer regarding prospects that he is aware of that are interested in St. Mary Parish and stated that he did not want to mention at this time what they were working on but did say that they are interested in the west end of St. Mary Parish. He stated that the companies are interested in acreage but are concerned about flood protection. Mr. Allain also added that it was his understanding that Congressman Clay Higgins would be visiting the area within the next week or so to discuss flood protection. Mr. Allain continued, reporting interest from a cable company that manufactures cable for offshore use looking for acreage in this area. Mr. Allain and Mr. Boudreaux plan to meet sometime next week to discuss the needs of the cable company.

Mr. Allain reported that the American Rescue Plan was announced a few weeks ago. The Port submitted an application for funding for second water well at the Port's Water Plant. The application is currently being reviewed and scored. Mr. Jones added that the application was not a federal application but is a state application.

Mr. Allain reported that the Annual Sanitary Survey of the Port's water plant was performed by the Louisiana Department of Health on August 24<sup>th</sup>. There were no findings at the plant but the Port received a few suggestions which are in the process of being completed, He also reported that the water plant is running well.

Mr. Allain reported that he was scheduled to meet with Sugar Growers and Refinery, Inc. on Friday before Hurricane Ida but had to cancel the meeting due to the impending storm. He added that he spoke with his contact with the company and was informed that plans are to move forward with the project. He reported that the area where the sugar refinery is located sustained heavy damage from the storm and repairs are being made. Plans are to get the refinery up and running within two weeks. Mr. Allain is scheduled to meet with the company within the next two weeks. He also added that he hopes to have a lease to present the Commission very soon.

Mr. Jones questioned Mr. Allain about the cable company he mentioned earlier in his report and asked if the company was located in St. Mary Parish. Mr. Allain answered that the company is located in the Houston area. Mr. Allain said the company is connected to two large oilfield related businesses that are located in St. Mary Parish. Mr. Jones asked what type of cable this company produces and Mr. Allain responded that it was his understanding that it is communication cables that are used on the sea floor. He further reported that he was unsure of exactly what the company's needs were but did know that they were interested in acreage, water frontage and access to the Gulf of Mexico.

Mr. Jones added that being aware of the recent storm and this terrible round of the virus, his intentions were to talk with companies located in and outside of St. Mary Parish and also outside of the state of Louisiana. Mr. Allain responded that he is working actively with the local economic developer to identify businesses to contact.

Regarding the EDA/Facility Planning Project number 08-01-05240 (Training Facility), a motion was made by Mr. Longman to approve Contractor's Application for Payment #6 from ARL Construction for work performed in the amount of \$261,021.52. The motion was seconded by Mr. Peters. Mr. Terry asked if there was any discussion or opposition – there was none. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Pontiff to approve Miller Engineers' Request for Payment #8 for professional services for the construction of the Training Facility in the amount of \$9,244.94. The motion was

seconded by Mr. Phillips. Mr. Terry asked if there was any discussion or opposition – there was none. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Jones said he visited the site in Baldwin where the Port plans to demolish buildings and to construct the warehouse for the Sugar Growers. He asked if the concrete would be removed also. Mr. Allain responded that the existing concrete must be removed because the existing concrete is not strong enough for the tonnage and the weight of the sugar to be stored in the warehouse. The concrete slabs used for the sugar warehouses are specialty slabs – they are concave slabs. Mr. Miller explained that initially when the project was being discussed, the settlement of the slab was determined to be approximately four feet which could potentially have a failure going out into the Charenton Canal. After reevaluating the slab, it was determined that approximately two to two and one half feet of settlement could be tolerated and would be sufficient. Mr. Pontiff asked if there would be plumbing under the concrete and Mr. Miller responded that there would no plumbing under the concrete. Mr. Tabb added that the building being proposed could be retrofitted in the future if needed.

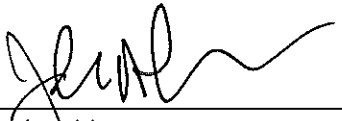
Mr. Terry reported on a request for a Letter of No Objection from Miller Engineers on behalf of CLECO. Mr. Miller explained that CLECO is making the request regarding a power line over Bayou Teche in Adeline, Louisiana. The power line was struck twice by a barge in the Bayou and CLECO is proposing to upgrade the line with steel poles and raise the line higher. A motion was made by Mr. Tabb to issue the Letter of No Objection requested. The motion was seconded by Ms. Lanceslin and carried unanimously. Mr. Terry asked if there was any discussion or opposition. Mr. Peters raised a question on why the cost of electricity has increased recently. Mr. Jones explained that just this year damages from Hurricane Katrina was paid off with the surcharge that has been included on customers' bills for the past years. Discussion followed. Mr. Terry asked if there was any more discussion on the Letter of No Objection – there was none. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Duplantis reminded the Commission to complete their online Ethics Training and Preventing Sexual Harassment Training before the end of the year and asked them to forward their certificates of completion to the Office Manager at the Port Office.

Mr. Miller gave the following Engineer's report on the Training Facility – the building erection is on-going. The main frame of the building is up as are the purlings and girts and sheeting is being installed on the exterior. The exterior slab, which is a work area, will be formed and poured soon. He further reported that all of the limestone material for the Turning Pad is on the site and has been rough graded and will be fine graded once the construction has been completed. The project is moving along and all of the sub-contractors are engaged and making good progress. He further explained that he expects an updated schedule from the contractor sometime this week and that the project has seen an approximate three month delay with a probable completion of sometime in January. He expects to present a Change Order at next month's meeting for the project. Mr. Tabb asked if something would be done to lock in the limestone and Mr. Miller explained that the edges would be compacted. Mr. Allain reported that he has been in contact with South Louisiana Community College about getting the word out to local businesses about the classes offered by the school. He also reported that he plans to do a mail out update and a ribbon cutting ceremony once the school is completed.

Mr. Terry once again thanked Ms. Pennison for coming on board with the Port and thanked Ms. Prevost for her service. Mr. Phillips complimented Ms. Pellerin for having the Port Commission roof cleaned.

There being no further business to be discussed, a motion was made by Mr. Pontiff to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Longman. Mr. Terry asked if there was any discussion or opposition. There was none. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.

Signed   
Joseph Tabb, Secretary