

**PROCEEDINGS OF A REGULAR MEETING OF  
THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF  
THE MORGAN CITY HARBOR AND TERMINAL DISTRICT  
April 8, 2024**

The Board of Commissioners (“Board”) of the Morgan City Harbor and Terminal District (“District”) met in regular session at the District’s office at 7327 Highway 182, Morgan City, Louisiana on March 11, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. Pete Orlando, President, convened the meeting with Commissioners, Deborah Garber, Joseph Cain, Steven Cornes, Ben Adams, Matthew Tycer, Troy Lombardo, Adam Mayon and Matthew Glover in attendance. Also present in the meeting were Raymond Wade, Executive Director; Tori Henry, Office Manager; Cindy Cutrera, Economic Development Manager; Michael Knobloch, Knobloch Professional Services; Gerard Bourgeois, Board Attorney; Lieutenant Jenelle Piche and Timothy Spence, United States Coast Guard (“USCG”); Bill Blanchard, GIS Engineering; Councilman Louis Tamporello, City of Morgan City; John McVay, Brice Civil Constructors; along with members of the general public.

The meeting was called to order and the presence of a quorum was noted. Raymond Wade led the invocation, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

It was moved by Mr. Tycer and seconded by Mr. Lombardo that the minutes of the regular meeting of March 11, 2024 be approved and adopted, with said motion carrying unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. Mayon that the report of receipts and disbursements for the month of March, 2024 be received and accepted and that all invoices presented to the Board for the month of March, 2024 be paid. Mr. Glover seconded that motion, which carried unanimously.

Timothy Connell reported via teleconference that: (i) all dredging contracts are completed, except for the continued Brice agitation which will have another task order issued soon; (ii) the new contract for Bayou Chene is scheduled to be awarded September 15<sup>th</sup> and other rental contracts are ready should the need arise; (iii) a new IDIQ solicitation should be released shortly for Berwick Harbor and Stouts Pass for July dredging; (iv) we received no MR&T funding in the President’s budget; and (v) there will be day time closures for repairs to the Bayou Boeuf Lock gates in May.

Lieutenant Piche reported: (i) 2,263 total transits in March through the VTS zone, at an average of 73 per day; (ii) there were four (4) groundings in Stouts Pass; (iii) a shrimp boat sunk at the Berwick dock but is not an obstruction to the waterway and is being closely monitored by them; and (iv) next week the Atchafalaya River may rise to 4.5’ and high water restrictions may be put in place.

Michael Knobloch reported that: (i) we will be sending Carl Blum’s contract, plans and specs of the warehouse fire suppression system to Facilities and Planning for approval. Mr. Mayon moved to authorize Mr. Wade to execute said contract between the District and Carl Blum, with updated dates and fee rates, which was seconded by Mr. Cornes and carried unanimously; (ii) we have decided not to proceed with the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure grant application; (iii) we were approached by the Office of Multimodal Commerce about a \$5 million grant available to Ports for Port Security, with no local match that we will proceed with applying for; (iv) we were finally able to accept the FY22 \$200,000 NOAA grant for the MET stations and since the budget has been approved we are able to begin accepting the FY24 CPF and CDS earmarks for the \$2.3 million we were awarded; and (v) Congress and Senate have begun accepting applications to the FY25 CPF and CDS earmark programs so Mr. Adams moved and Ms. Garber seconded that the following resolution be submitted for \$5,120,000 and be matched by \$1,280,000 of Port funds for “Multi-Modal Warehouse Project”, which resolution was unanimously adopted.

**RESOLUTION**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the above does hereby authorize the submission of its proposed funding request entitled “*Multi-modal Warehouse*” and officially requests \$5,120,000 (or, 80% of the \$6,400,000 total estimated construction costs) from the *FY 2025 Congressional Directed Spending* (CDS) program, with Board being responsible for providing 20% local, non-federal cost-share from its general fund for this project.

After a unanimous vote, the agenda was expanded to discuss applying to the USDOT FY24 INFRA grant program, and after discussion, with Mr. Adams moving and Mr. Lombardo seconding that the following resolution be submitted for \$4,800,000 in funds to be matched by \$3,200,000 of Port funds for the previously discussed “Phase 4 - Concrete Cargo Transloading Area and Rail Extension Project”, which resolution was unanimously adopted.



RESOLUTION

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the above does hereby authorize the submission of its proposed funding request entitled “Concrete Cargo Transloading Area and Rail Spur Extension” to the US Department of Transportation’s (USDOT’s) “FY 2024 INFRA” grant program (authorized at 23 U.S.C. § 117, and described in the Federal Assistance Listing under the title of *Nationally Significant Freight and Highway Projects*, with assistance listing number 20.934) and requests \$4,800,000 for its implementation, with the District providing the local, non-federal match of \$3,200,000.

Charles Brittingham reported that it was a quiet few weeks since all members were in recess, however it is an election year so it will become hectic. Mr. Orlando requested he work with Mac and Cindy to assist with funding for Stouts Pass dredging since we were not awarded any for MR&T in the President’s budget.

Robert Karam presented Sealevel Construction’s final Payment Application No. 14 in the amount of \$260,022.08 with Mr. Cornes moving for payment, seconded by Mr. Tycer and carried unanimously. He also reported that: (i) they had a site visit with an electrical engineer on the West Dock and is currently reviewing their revised scope of work. He noted they are hoping to have plans and specs for review by the end of May or mid-June but are still awaiting Corps permits.

Bill Blanchard reported that they are pursuing Disposal Area 1 and should have plans and specs for review to go out to bid on the drydock in July with construction to begin in September.


Cindy Cutrera reported that: (i) on April 17<sup>th</sup> we will be hosting our annual hurricane preparedness meeting; (ii) Colonel Jones spoke at the Atchafalaya Intercoastal Coalition meeting, with Durand Ellzey in attendance and urged everyone to comment on the Lower Mississippi River Study; (iii) we are working on a video including drone footage and photographs of the District noting the benefits of doing business at the Port of Morgan City including the alternate routes to the Mississippi River and connecting the Atchafalaya River to the Red River which is part of the M-49 Marine Highway; and (iv) the MRC High Water public meeting at be held on April 12<sup>th</sup> at the Baton Rouge public dock.

Gerard Bourgeois reported: (i) Baker Hughes has not paid a group of its sublessors, the District’s lessors, due to an internal accounting system error(s). Mr. Adams moved to authorize payment to the lessors and to charge Baker Hughes those amounts, plus 15% overhead, which was seconded by Mr. Mayon, carried with all in favor, excepting Ms. Garber who abstained from the vote; (ii) we are working with Bollinger and GIS on Disposal Area 1 and are currently getting appraisals in which Mr. Wade noted the importance of that area; and (iii) this year is a re-evaluation for Ad Valorem taxes which will be discussed next month.

After Motion of Mr. Lombardo, second of Mr. Tycer, and unanimous vote, the Board entered into Executive Session to discuss its suit against Providence Engineering & Environmental Group, LLC and Patriot Construction and Industrial, LLC for Youngswood yard failure. After the Executive Session ended, it was moved by Mr. Cornes, and seconded by Mr. Lombardo that the Board return to Regular Session, which carried unanimously.

With there being no further business to come before the Board, it was moved by Mr. Cornes and seconded by Mr. Adams that the meeting was adjourned.

Attest:

  
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Steven W. Cornes, Secretary