The items listed on the May 20, 2021 Agenda are incorporated and considered to be a part of the minutes herein.

Chair Laura Lapeze called the meeting to order. Brent E. Manuel called the roll.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

State Treasurer John M Schroder

Laura Lapeze, as Chair and designee for the State Treasurer

Lindsay Schexnayder, designee for the Commissioner of Administration

Senator Mack “Bodi” White, Chair of Senate Finance Committee

Senator Mark Abraham, Designee for Senator Mack “Bodi” White

Representative Jerome Zeringue, Chair of House Appropriations Committee

Ernie Summerville, CPA, Designee for the Legislative Auditor (Non-voting member)

**OTHER PERSONS PRESENT:**

Brent E. Manuel, State Treasury Fiscal Control Manager and Secretary to the Board

Karolien Debusschere, LOSCO, Deputy Coordinator

Lela Folse, State Bond Commission, Director

Blake Canfield, DNR, Executive Counsel

Ms. Schexnayder motioned for approval of minutes for the March 18, 2021 meeting, seconded by Representative Zeringue. Without objection, the minutes were approved.

Agenda Item 3a was submitted by the Department of Public Safety Services requesting an Escrow account for the collection and settlement of Louisiana Motor Transport Association special plate fees per 47:463:201. Representative Zeringue made a motion to approve Item 3a, seconded by Ms. Schexnayder. Without objection, Item 3a was approved.

Item 3b was submitted by the Department of Public Safety Services requesting an interest-bearing escrow Account for the receipt of Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NDRA) restoration settlement funds by the Office of State Police, Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator’s Office. Ms. Karolien Debusschere explained that there had not been joint settlements with the federal government for NRDA cases in the past. They are currently negotiating settlements that would have a federal fund component and wanted a place to put those funds. Ms. Lapeze explained that the Escrow had been created when they were under the Governor’s Office, later moved to DPS, and then was inactivated. DPS had to come back before the board to be able to activate it. Representative Zeringue made a motion to approve Item 3b, seconded by Ms. Schexnayder. Without objection, Item 3b was approved.

Item 3c was submitted by the State Bond Commission requesting an Escrow account for the collections from recovered economic damages sustained by the state from the Deepwater Horizon explosion oil spill per RS 39:91. Ms. Lela Folse explained that it is the Escrow fund they are requesting for the BP securitization and in the process of working with TIFIA to issue bonds. Representative Zeringue asked if this going to be a part of what was used for LA-1 and if it was going to utilize the funds for the settlement for the economic impacts. Ms. Folse explained that there are specific projects and statute title 39 and that LA-1 is a part of it. She continued to explain that they are not doing a TIFIA loan for LA-1 and that DOTD is going to pay for it on a pay-go process. Representative Zeringue asked if this was going to be the fund that was used for the series of projects. Ms. Folse explained that it will be the fund to pay the debt service and that $53 million will be captured in that fund and the projects that the loans are issued for will pay that debt service and then flow down to the sub-construction fund TTF. Ms. Schexnayder asked for clarity that the Escrow was being created because the statute says this revenue is dedicated to the repayments of the bonds before the revenue becomes State money. Ms. Folse clarified that it was. Ms. Schexnayder made a motion to approve Item 3c, seconded by Representative Zeringue. Without objection, Item 3c was approved.

Item 3d was submitted by the Department of Natural Resources requesting an Escrow Account pursuant to the Hanson and Billingsly Escrow Agreement between Indigo Minerals, LLC, in Desoto Parish and DNR. Funds placed in escrow are solely expended for Oilfield Site Restoration program work relating to EMER 18-003 to address the presence of thermogenic natural gas in the Carrizo-Wilcox aquifer. Mr. Blake Canfield explained that this was the second or third escrow agreement that they have set up through court order or a settlement agreement. Continued to explain that money is donated for a specific purpose to do work under the Oilfield Site Restoration Commission Program. Mr. Canfield explained the thought for the request was if they were able to get authority to establish escrows for agreements and court orders where money is directed towards reimbursement of the OSR fund for specific performance of restoration work. Ms. Lapeze explained that the issue was that the Department of Natural Resources had one escrow account and they closed it and had to come back before the board. Ms. Schexnayder wanted to clarify that DNR was amending the original request from being a site specific escrow account to on oil spill restoration account where DNR tracks the receipts and disbursements. Mr. Canfield clarified that was correct. Representative Zeringue asked if this could potentially be used for orphaned well programs. Mr. Canfield clarified that it could and that it was the same program and that it could also be directed towards emergency response centers under certain circumstances. Representative Zeringue inquired if the fund that Senator Allain is working on for the Orphan Well Program to use rescue dollars if this fund could be used for the one they are asking for or if they would need something else to deposit the rescue dollars. Mr. Canfield explained that he believes the rescue dollars could directly go into the Oil Site Restoration Fund but that Senator Allain had the condition that it would be spent on Orphan Sites and not be spent on response to emergency activities and does not think it is necessary to have in this fund. Mr. Summerville asked if this was the first outside money that came in. Mr. Canfield clarified that it was not and that there was previous money that was paid by Indigo from a previous escrow account. Senator Mark Abraham asked if this escrow is just specific to the Indigo situation. Mr. Canfield explained that they were changing the language to open it up to other court-ordered payments or settlement agreements. Ms. Lapeze explained how an escrow account works. Senator Abraham made a motion to approve Item 3d, seconded by Representative Zeringue. Without objection, Item 3d was approved.

Having no further business to discuss, Ms. Lapeze made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Representative Zeringue, and without objection, the meeting was adjourned.