The Madison Parish Port Commission met in a regular session on Tuesday, March 29, 2016 at the Delta Southern Railroad Office. The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Vining and a roll call was taken as follows:

Commissioners present: Charles Vining, Jim Tucker, Isaiah Ross, Harold Allen and Robert Charles Brown

Commissioners absent: Donald Frazier and Latasha Griffin

Other members present: Mr. Terry Murphy, Director; and Kimmeka Epps, Secretary/Treasurer

Visitors: Craig Huff and Trent Roberts (DSR), Tommy Aaron (Circle R Railroad Consultants)

On motion given by Commissioner Tucker and seconded by Commissioner Ross, on the previous meeting minutes from the meeting Tuesday, February 23, 2016 the minutes were approved with no necessary changes. Motion carried unanimously.

Murphy reminded the board of the pending lease items of the Lansing Grain Lease. The lessee agreed to the items that the Port brought forth. The lease was revised and executed.

Secretary Epps informed the board of the decrease in funds to State Revenue Sharing Account due to government cuts.

 On motion given by Commissioner Allen and seconded by Commissioner Ross, the financial reports were approved with no necessary changes. Motion carried unanimously.

Secretary Epps commented on line item b. Epps informed the board of the findings from the Auditors. Epps stated that she is waiting on the Attorney General’s opinion of the matter at hand.

Craig Huff update the board on the progression of the railroad projects. He stated that the finalization of the colors are complete. May 1st is still slated as the operational day. Commissioner Vining stated how well the trestles look. Craig Huff gave a safety briefing of the building. He also reminded the board of the grand opening date scheduled for April 26, 2016. Commissioner Vining asked if the railroad posted and/or crossing signs up for the notification of commuting trains. Craig stated that he is working on that. He would like to put advance warning signs system up. Tommy Aaron suggested speaking with the state DOTD for info and assistance.

Murphy discussed information from the Economic Development Corridor. The idea is to apply across state lines as one group both public and private partnerships to apply for a Tiger Grant. The project is underway.

Murphy informed the board that the EDA Grant monies have been released. Hopefully the replacement of ties and other construction of the rail will begin soon.

Murphy informed the board of PAL annual conference. Two CEO’s of major oil companies gave presentations of future and current projections of the oil business. They informed the attendees of potential oil price increases. Secretary Don Pierson mentioned the Port of Madison Parish during his presentation.

Murphy provided information of the NELEA Board Meeting. The meeting was held at the DSR office. The board members were impressed with the progression of the railroad. They were also informed of the ongoing projects in Madison Parish.

Murphy updated the board on LIDEA Policy Day meeting. Economic Development group was confident that the governor will put viable monies in their budget.

On motion given by Commissioner Allen and seconded by Commissioner Tucker, the board voted to enter into executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

A roll call was taken.

On motion given by Commissioner Ross and seconded by Commissioner Allen, the board voted to enter back into regular session. Motion carried unanimously.

A roll call was taken.

Commissioner Vining asked for Public comment. Craig Huff stated that he is in search of applicants with current CDL License and able to operate a backhoe.

There being no further business brought before the board, Commissioner Vining declared the meeting adjourned.

Kimmeka Epps Charles Vining

Secretary/Treasurer Vice-Chairman