PROCEEDINGS OF A REGULAR MEETING OF

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF**

**THE MORGAN CITY HARBOR AND TERMINAL DISTRICT**

**March 8, 2021**

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 February 8, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. Joseph Cain, President, convened the meeting with Commissioners Pete Orlando, Deborah Garber, Adam Mayon, Steven Cornes Troy Lombardo, and Matthew Glover in attendance. Ben Adams was absent. Also present in the meeting were Raymond Wade, Executive Director; Tori Henry, Office Manager; Cindy Cutrera, Manager of Economic Development; Gerard Bourgeois, Board Attorney; Senior Chief Derrick Sullo, United States Coast Guard (“USCG”); Terral Martin, Providence Engineering and Environmental; O’Neil Malborough, GIS Engineering; along with members of the general public.

The meeting was called to order and the presence of a quorum was noted. Councilman Ron Bias led the invocation, and Raymond Wade led the Pledge of Allegiance as it was recited. Gerard Bourgeois swore in Matthew Glover as the newest members of the Morgan City Harbor & Terminal District’s board, who was welcomed by Mr. Wade and the Board.

It was moved by Mr. Cornes and seconded by Mr. Mayon that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 8, 2021 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 February, 2021 be received and accepted and that all invoices presented to the Board for the month of February, 2021 be paid. Mr. Lombardo seconded that motion, which carried unanimously.

Raymond Wade reported on behalf of Tim Connell that (i) the Dredge Alaska left Crew Boat Cut for the shipyard and will return sometime in May; (ii) the Berwick Harbor cleanup is holding up according to the latest survey done; (iii) we are starting to see a slight bump in the Atchafalaya River and are keeping an eye on that; (iv) Stouts Pass is starting to fill back in, but we are waiting to consolidate with another dredging project or utilize a Corps dredge; (v) the Brice Dredge is widening the channel with each task order, and at some parts the dragheads are down to 21’.

Senior Chief Derrick Sullo reported that: (i) total transits for the month of February were 1,607, averaging 57 per day; and (ii) a MSIB was distributed this month for Bayou Chene restrictions.

O’Neil Malborough reported that: (i) we met with Senator Allain regarding funding this year because our project was not in P5 last year, it would be a heavy lift to include it. However, he guaranteed to funding would be in P5 this year and moved to P1 next year.

Cindy Cutrera reported that: (i) Charles Brittingham has advised of the possibility of the return of earmarks. He is working closely with Senator Kennedy and Representative Garrett Graves offices; (ii) Coast Guard Industry Day/High Water meeting was virtually with Mac making a presentation, along with St. Mary Levee District, Corps, NOAA and Coast Guard; (iii) our annual Hurricane Meeting will be held virtually this year on April 27th, with the save the date going out soon; (iv) it is more than likely that we will be in the top 3 for the LA National Estuarine Research Reserve (LaNEER) site. Mrs. Garber moved to support a Resolution of Support for a National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) Designation for the Atchafalaya Estuarine zone in St. Mary Parish, which was seconded by Mr. Cornes and carried with only Mr. Lombardo opposing.

**R E S O L U T I O N**

A Resolution supporting a National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR)

Designation for the Atchafalaya Estuarine Zone in St. Mary Parish

WHEREAS, the Morgan City Harbor and Terminal District (“District”) is the local sponsor to the United States Corps of Engineers (“Corps”), in regards to its Atchafalaya River and Bayou Chene, Boeuf and Black, Louisiana Project, which was authorized and approved by Act of Congress, and as such is uniquely aware of the beauty and benefits provided by the Atchafalaya;

WHEREAS, the designation of National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) site provides an outstanding example of broader impacts to local communities; and

WHEREAS, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (“NOAA”) is currently exploring the feasibility of developing a NERR for the Gulf Coast of Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the Wax Lake and Atchafalaya Deltas are unique areas where new land is being created and coastal marshlands are growing; and

WHEREAS, the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), the Nature Conservancy (TNC), and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) have announced the creation of the Sustainable Rivers Program (SRP) Atchafalaya River Project, which can only enhance a NERR in the Atchafalaya Estuarine zone; and

WHEREAS, a La. NERR established the Atchafalaya Estuarine zone would also support Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards newly announced Atchafalaya Basin Task Force, which task force includes the District’s Director, and shall focus on issues facing the Atchafalaya River Basin and the importance of its holistic management for navigation, flood control, and restoration and enhancement of the Basin; and

WHEREAS, the Atchafalaya Basin is home to the largest wetland area in the United States, the vitality of which is critical to the current and future prosperity of ecological sustainability of the District and in the broad region impacted directly by the Atchafalaya River and Gulf of Mexico; and

WHEREAS, Research activities associated with NERR situated in the Atchafalaya Estuarine zone will attract scholars on both the national and international stage, providing employment opportunities to the region, stronger connectivity to the rest of Louisiana, the Gulf Coast, the United States, and ultimately inject money into the local economy; and

WHEREAS, many of the youth currently enrolled in local school districts value Louisiana's natural resources for the quality of life opportunities that they provide, shaping decisions about where they live, seek employment, further their education and raise their families; and

WHEREAS, Eco-tourism is an established and growing industry in St. Mary Parish and the Atchafalaya Basin and a research reserve would fit well within the 137,695 acre Atchafalaya Delta Wildlife Management Area already located at the mouths of the Atchafalaya River and the Wax Lake Outlet in St. Mary Parish;

WHEREAS, a St. Mary Parish Based NERR would enhance place-based identity, contributing directly to talent recruitment and retention efforts;

WHEREAS, the Board of the Morgan City Harbor and Terminal District wholeheartedly supports the establishment of a NERR in the Atchafalaya Estuarine zone.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Morgan City Harbor & Terminal District, that they do hereby support the location of the LaNERR here in the Atchafalaya Estuarine Zone.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be provided to Governor John Bel Edwards, NOAA, the Louisiana Sea Grant, and state and federal government representatives (House and Senate) who represent St. Mary Parish.

(v) we submitted a letter of support, as per Senator Cassidy’s request for the RISEE Act, which has a lot to do with creating revenue sharing for offshore wind revenues and reforming GOMASA; (vi) The Atchafalaya Basin Master Plan and CPRA Master Plan has been released and deadline for comments are March 27th, which we plan to submit; and (vii) Mac has been appointed by the Governor to the Atchafalaya River Basin Restoration and Enhancement (ARBRE) task force, where he will be able to provide input on how to get more water and sediment out.

Gerard Bourgeois presented: (i) a request for a Letter of No Objection to Central Boat Rentals for a permit for mooring piles on Bayou Schaffer. Mr. Mayon moved to authorize Mr. Wade to execute said letter, which was seconded by Mr. Cornes and carried unanimously. He also suggested that: (2) due to Mr. Matthew’s expiration, a special election of officers is on the agenda. Mr. Orlando moved to nominate Mr. Cornes as Secretary, which was seconded by Mr. Lombardo and carried unanimously. The President, Joseph Cain, Vice-President Peter Orlando, Treasurer, Deborah B. Garber, current officers of the Board of Commissioners, remaining.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Steven Cornes, Secretary