

**PORT OF IBERIA DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL MONTHLY BOARD MEETING AGENDA
THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 2021
PORT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE – 5:30 P.M.
MINUTES**

The Special Meeting of the Port of Iberia District Board of Commissioners was called to order by Commissioner Danny J. David, Sr., President, at the Port of Iberia Administrative Office, on Thursday, April 8, 2021, at 5:30 p.m.

In attendance were Commissioners, Danny J. David, Sr., President, Roy A. Pontiff, Vice-President, Shane Walet, Secretary-Treasurer, Elbridge “Smitty” Smith, III., Patrick Broussard, and Mark Dore’.

Commissioner Simieon d. Theodile was absent.

Also present were Craig Romero, Executive Director, Joanna D. Durke, Administrative Assistant, Tracy Boudreaux, Bookkeeper-Secretary, Shari Landry, Receptionist-Secretary, Ray Allain, Port Attorney, Allain & Allain.

Thus, with a quorum being acknowledged, Board President, Danny J. David, Sr. recited the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

The purpose of the Special Meeting was to Discuss/Consider the Creation of an AGMAC (Acadiana Gulf of Mexico Access Channel) Right-of-Way Acquisition Team Consisting of the Following Team Members; Oneil Malbrough, GIS Engineering, LLC, Keith Dronet, Discovery Land Group, Francis Fortier, Francis Fortier, PLS, Keith Laperouse, Laperouse Abstract, Co., and Donelson Caffery, Donelson T. Caffery, III. and Discuss/Consider Adopting a Resolution to Forward to the Attorney General to Engage Special Counsel for AGMAC Project.

I. Discuss/Consider the Creation of an AGMAC (Acadiana Gulf of Mexico Access Channel) Right-of-Way Acquisition Team Consisting of the Following Team Members:

- Engineering Firm: GIS Engineering, LLC Oneil Malbrough
- Right-of-Way: Discovery Land Group Keith Dronet
- Surveyor: Francis Fortier, PLS Francis Fortier
- Abstractor: Laperouse Abstract Co. Keith Laperouse
- Special Counsel: Donelson Caffery, III Donelson Caffery

- Mr. Oneil Malbrough stated that it will take all of these services to complete the AGMAC Project.

- Mr. Craig Romero stated that the team will meet once a week to make sure the timeline is matching up and staying on schedule.
- Mr. Oneil Malbrough stated that it is a goal to have all of the Right-of-Ways accomplished by June 15th.
- Mr. Oneil Malbrough stated that the team will meet weekly on Tuesdays at 1:00 P.M.
- Mr. Oneil Malbrough stated that he will create a schedule of what he thinks needs to be completed for each member apart of the AGMAC Team.
- Mr. Craig Romero stated that he will begin making initial contact with all the correct land owners once he gets the information from the Abstractor. Then there will be a meeting at the Port Admin Office so Oneil Malbrough can explain this thoroughly to the land owners so they are aware of the whole project and what needs to happen.
- Mr. Oneil Malbrough stated that it was decided to revise the existing Right-of-Way. The Port is not acquiring additional land.
- Mr. Craig Romero stated that it is much better to approach a landowner with an amendment amending the Right-of-Way of what is needed rather than a completely new Right-of-Way.
- Commissioner Roy Pontiff asked what was the end product, is it to have everything completed to begin the dredging or to just begin the dredging. Mr. Oneil Malbrough stated that the end product is to have everything completed to be able to begin the dredging process.
- Mr. Oneil Malbrough stated that July 1, 2021 is the set date to go out for bids for dredging.
- Commissioner Roy Pontiff questioned if the team members are going to be working through GIS Engineering or the Port. Mr. Oneil Malbrough is the Program Manager.
- Commissioner Roy Pontiff stated that the invoices for the team services will come to the Board for approval monthly. Mr. Francis Fortier will be the only invoice coming from GIS Engineering.
- The Board went through the backup for all of the AGMAC Team Members.
- Commissioner Roy Pontiff questioned if LA DOTD would be reimbursing the Port. Mr. Craig Romero stated that he spoke with Mr. Chris Collins who told him to send the invoices in for reimbursement & LA DOTD will reimburse the Port in a timely manner.
- Mr. Ray Allain stated that Legal Counsel needs to be approved by the state. Mr. Ray Allain stated that Mr. Donelson Caffery's letter will suffice for a contract.
- Commissioner Roy Pontiff questioned the letter from Mr. Donelson Caffery dated April 7, 2021 regarding paragraph One concerning assistance with other legal services that may be necessary from time to time. Mr. Craig Romero stated that this is intended for AGMAC only.

A motion was made by Commissioner Elbridge "Smitty" Smith, III., seconded by Commissioner Shane Walet to authorize and approve the Creation of an AGMAC (Acadiana Gulf of Mexico Access Channel) Right-of-Way Acquisition Team Consisting of the Following Team Members; Oneil Malbrough of GIS Engineering, LLC, Keith Dronet of Discovery Land Group, Francis Fortier of Francis Fortier, PLS, Keith Laperouse of Laperouse Abstract Co., and Donelson Caffery of Donelson Caffery, III; motion further authorizes the Board President to execute Contract between the Port of Iberia District & Donelson T. Caffery, III.

This motion having been submitted to a vote; the vote thereon was as follows:

Yeas: Danny J. David, Sr., Roy A. Pontiff, Shane Walet, Elbridge "Smitty" Smith, III.,

Patrick Broussard, and Mark Dore’.

Nays: None.

Absent at Voting: Simieon d. Theodile.

And the motion was therefore passed on this the 8th day of April, 2021.

II. Discuss/Consider Adopting a Resolution to Forward to the Attorney General to Engage Special Counsel for AGMAC Project.

A motion was made by Commissioner Elbridge “Smitty” Smith, III., seconded by Commissioner Roy A. Pontiff to adopt the following:

**RESOLUTION
PORT OF IBERIA DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS, the PORT OF IBERIA (“PORT”) is in the process of planning and implementing dredging work in connection with the Acadiana Gulf of Mexico Access Channel (AGMAC) project for the purpose of deepening the Commercial and Rodere Canals, and the Board of Commissioners have determined that it is necessary to retain special counsel to assist in the legal work required to identify ownership, prepare appropriate servitudes from the owners of property adjacent to the canals, and otherwise to assist in the legal representation of the Port District in completing the project; and,

WHEREAS, the Port of Iberia District’s Executive Director, Craig Romero, has recommended that the PORT retain Mr. Donelson T. Caffery III, to assist the Port in this endeavor;

NOW THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Port of Iberia District Board of Commissioners does hereby authorize the engagement of Donelson T. Caffery III as “Special Counsel” on behalf of the Port of Iberia District Board of Commissioners to assist and represent the PORT in this matter, at a rate per hour of \$225.00 per hour, and that this resolution be submitted to the Attorney General of the State of Louisiana for approval, as required by law.

This Resolution having been submitted to a vote; the vote thereon was as follows:

Yeas: Danny J. David, Sr., Roy A. Pontiff, Shane Walet, Elbridge “Smitty” Smith, III., Patrick Broussard, and Mark Dore’.

Nays: None.

Absent at Voting: Simieon d. Theodile.

And the Resolution was therefore adopted on this the 8th day of April, 2021.

III. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Commissioner Elbridge “Smitty” Smith, III., and seconded by Commissioner Roy A. Pontiff the meeting was adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

SECRETARY-TREASURER

PRESIDENT