

**LAKEFRONT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
FULL BOARD MEETING MINUTES
THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 2025 – 5:30 P.M**

**6001 Stars and Stripes Blvd.
New Orleans, LA 70126**

PRESENT: Commissioner Anthony Richard – Chair
Commissioner Carlos Williams – Vice Chair
Commissioner Howard Rodgers - Secretary
Commissioner Esmond Carr (Arrived at 5:36PM)
Commissioner Philip Clinton
Commissioner Stanley Cohn
Commissioner Robert Drouant
Commissioner Brian Egana
Commissioner Wilma Heaton (Departed at 6:55 PM)
Commissioner Randolph Odinet
Commissioner Terry Scott
Commissioner Sandra Thomas (Arrived at 5:47 PM)

ABSENT: Commissioner Stan Brien
Commissioner Adonis Exposé
Commissioner Monika Gerhart
Commissioner Jennifer Herbert

STAFF: Louis Capo – Executive Director
Vanessa McKee – Assistant to the Executive Director
Bruce Martin – Director of Aviation
Laith Alshamaileh – Director of Operations and Engineering
Mike Sciavicco - Harbormaster
Cindy Grace – Finance Manager
Kel Brownfield – HR Director

**ALSO
PRESENT:** Gerry Metzger – LMA Counsel
Al Pappalardo – LMA Real Estate Consultant
Sonya Duhe – LPOA President
Toni Hackett Antrum – Hackett Group President
Ed Shanklin – Hackett Group Consultant
Alex Antrum – Hackett Group Consultant

The regular monthly Full Board meeting of the Lakefront Management Authority was held on Thursday, April 24, 2025, at 5:31 PM at the Lakefront Terminal Building, 2nd Floor Conference Center, 6001 Stars and Stripes Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126 after due notice of the meeting was sent to each board member, the news media, and posted.

I. Called to Order at 5:31 PM.

II. Pledge of Allegiance led by Commissioner Drouant.

III. Roll Called by Mr. Capo. (10) members present quorum established.

IV. Opening Comments – Chair Richard thanked everyone in attendance. He spoke about how LMA was created with many responsibilities and little or no money to operate properly. He wants to work with the board individually and collectively to foster ideas to generate revenue for the agency and plans to hold a board meeting in the near future to have further discussion on ways to help meet the operating expenses of the agency.

V. Motion to Adopt Agenda

A motion was offered by Commissioner Rodgers and seconded by Commissioner Drouant.

Chair Richard called for a vote. All were in favor. The motion passed.

VI. Approval of Minutes

1) Airport Minutes – March 18, 2025

A motion was offered by Commissioner Heaton and seconded by Commissioner Drouant.

Chair Richard called for a vote. All were in favor. The motion passed.

2) Special Legal Minutes – March 19, 2025

A motion was offered by Commissioner Drouant and seconded by Commissioner Williams.

Chair Richard called for a vote. All were in favor. The motion passed.

Commissioner Carr arrived at 5:36PM.

VII. Public Comments - Limited to (2) Minutes - No public comments.

VIII. Presentation

1. Flood Wall Report by the Hackett Group.

Mr. Ed Shanklin, Sr. Consultant for the Hackett Group introduced himself, Ms. Toni Hackett-Antrum, CEO of The Hackett Group, and Mr. Alex Antrum, consultant. He also introduced in conjunction with the Flood Wall Report was Ricondo Airport Consultants and Frasca & Associates who is a major airport advisor in the United States.

Mrs. Hackett-Antrum started the presentation about flood protection for the airport and said that the lakefront airport is a jewel that is a unique general aviation facility and an intricate part of the New Orleans tourism infrastructure. This airport hosts the largest general aviation visitors in the state of Louisiana naming the Superbowl as the most recent large tourism event.

The airport faces significant flood risk because it is one of the only key parcels outside of Orleans Parish Levee Protection. Their report was compiled through several streams of information including interviews with politicians, stakeholders and tenants of this airport. She said they had also looked at past reports to guide the new report in the right direction.

She made several points regarding the airport's flood risk issues:

- Flooding is a major problem, and insurance continues to rise due to flooding risks
- The Airport itself may soon see insurance problems
- Flood mitigation saves up to 6x in recovery dollars
- FEMA may not continue to aid the airport without mitigation efforts

Flood Mitigation Solutions:

- Current major drainage projects (taking place now).
- Flood wall and barriers
- Elevation
- Storm water capacities increase
- Water proofing
- Relocation

Mrs. Hackett said that they all agreed that constructing a floodwall was the preferred solution for this airport.

Alex Antrum, Sr. Consultant talked about the current plan that was developed by Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority (SELFPA) in 2020. SELFPA authorized ARCADUS to put together (3) alternatives for flood protection for this airport. They ultimately chose Alternative 3A which is the best solution for this space because it protects the revenue generators like the FBO's but not the taxiways.

- Estimated cost over \$300 million (2020) (The Hackett Group recommended that another cost analysis be done to get a more current figure to build the flood wall)
- The flood wall would enclose 252 acres
- No protection for runways and taxiways
- The flood wall would protect the developed space and undeveloped land
- Includes movable barriers as well as floodwalls

Ms. Hackett said they felt that there is a great need for Community and Stakeholder Engagement. She felt it would be helpful for a project this magnitude.

- Gaining public support for flood wall construction is essential
- Local Partnerships could support the airport's projects
- Educational Programs through Southern University and the University of New Orleans to help develop a pilot program for aviation training and educational programs to increase knowledge and engagement
- Community Events
- Stakeholder Collaboration working with other tourism partners could be helpful

Tourism and World Class Events such as the Superbowl:

- The airport is a major component of New Orleans' ability to attract tourists during 'Big' events and general travel which drive New Orleans visitor's economy
- Collaborations with partners such as GNOInc. and New Orleans Incorporated to foster public engagement that will continue to build support behind this project

Future Opportunities that would require a Floodwall

- Leading in sustainability by adapting electric aircraft and drone technology
- Developing infrastructure for electric aircraft charging and operations
- Exploring advanced air mobility (AAM) and Unnamed Aircraft (UA)
- Proposing a state funded short-hop air ferry service using electric aircraft

Ms. Hackett felt that there is a real interest in revitalizing New Orleans East and that this transportation hub could be a vital part of the initiative.

Sources of Funding

- FEMA: recommends that LMA resubmit the hazard mitigation grant
- Finance Authority of New Orleans for Green Bonds
- State Funding
- Public Private partnerships

Chair Richard stated (for the record) that Commissioner Carr and Commissioner Thomas had both arrived. He called for questions for the presenters.

Commissioner Cohn asked it would cost more to build a new airport than the quoted \$3 million to build a flood wall.

Ms. Hackett replied that it would be substantially more to build a new airport.

Commissioner Cohn asked what would propel a congressman, state senator, or other stakeholders to commit supporting building a new flood wall.

Ms. Hackett said one of the initial arguments to FEMA was that as a result of Katrina, lives were saved because they were evacuated from here. Had there been a flood wall more lives could have been saved. This is also a portal for organ transportation. Pilots really like this airport because of its proximity to the city.

Commissioner Carr asked if there was a more current amount to build a floodwall than the \$ 3 million quoted years ago.

Mr. Antrum reiterated that The Hackett Group recommended that the LMA obtain another cost analysis for a more current figure to build the floodwall due to the rising supply costs post Covid.

Commissioner T. Scott commented that this was a very thorough report and asked how many hurricane seasons would we have to go through to get the flood wall built.

Mr. Antrum said the Hackett Group was not authorized to provide that information so their recommendation would be to go back the Flood Authority to recommission them to get an updated cost analysis and timeline to have the flood wall built.

Commissioner T. Scott asked for clarification on the slide referencing “no protection for the taxiways and runways.

Bruce Martin replied that the taxiways and runways are grooved specifically to help shed the water off. This would be a full approach to coincide with the pumpstation...he added that the FAA grants mainly focus is center line out of the taxiways and runways not on the buildings and hangars.

Commissioner T. Scott also asked what could be the maximum amount of funding projected to be received from FEMA.

Mr. Antrum said given the recent changes at FEMA they would not be able to answer that question.

Ms. Hackett said one of the things we anticipate is Flood Protection has committed some funds between 75 and 100,000,000 million dollars to this project. The other part could come from issuing a debt of bonds to be paid back over a long period of time. However, bonding authority does not lie with the LMA board but with Flood Protection Authority.

Commissioner Odinet asked if ownership of the floodwall will reside with SELFPA.

IX. New Business

- 1) **Motion to accept the report on the Impact of Flood Protection at the New Orleans Lakefront Airport prepared by The Hackett Group LLC.**

A motion was offered by Commissioner Cohn and seconded by Commissioner Williams.

Commissioner Heaton offered an amendment to the motion to read as follows:

“Whereas The LMA Board directs the Executive Director to provide this report to the S.E. LA Flood Protection Authority East as a critical flood protection project for Orleans Levee District.”

Commissioner Carr felt that there was more work to be done before submitting the report to SEPFPA.

Commissioner Heaton delineated in the MOU that flood protection would be under SELFPA. LMA does not have the bonding capacity to fund a project of this magnitude. LMA has done all it could, and this report would go to great lengths to assist SELFPA to seek additional funding.

Chair Richard called for a vote on the motion as amended.

A motion was offered by Commissioner Heaton and seconded by Commissioner Cohn.

Hearing no questions or comments, Chair Richard called for a vote. Commissioner Carr abstained. The motion passed.

- 2) **Motion to approve the Donation of a Fire Truck as surplus property to the Fort Pike Fire Protection Department as authorized under Article VII, Section 14 (E) of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974.**

A motion was offered by Commissioner Heaton and seconded by Commissioner Drouant.

Bruce Martin, Director of Aviation, informed the board a fire truck was donated to us in 2022 due to ARFF Crash truck trouble. MSY just bought (2) new ARFF trucks and wants to donate a truck to us.

Hearing no questions or comments, Chair Richard called for a vote. All were in favor. The motion passed.

- 3) **Motion to approve an amendment of the Lease with Robichaux Law Firm L.L.C. for Suite 230 in the Terminal at the New Orleans Lakefront Airport to change the term of the Lease and reduce the square footage of the Leased Premises.**

A motion was offered by Commissioner Williams and seconded by Commissioner Rodgers.

Hearing no questions or comments, Chair Richard called for a vote. All were in favor. The motion passed.

A motion to enter into executive session was offered by Commissioner Cohn and seconded by Commissioner Drouant at 6:25PM

Gerry Metzger explained that the executive session was needed to discuss pending litigation.

X. Executive Session

- 1) **Lakefront Management Authority, Formerly The Non-Flood Protection Asset Management Authority v. The Lathan Company, Inc., and The Guarantee Company of North**

America USA, No. 2014-6983, Div. B-11, CDC Orleans
Parish, Louisiana MAPS No. 25C120 Date of
Mediation: April 29, 2025

A motion to exit executive session was offered by Commissioner Rodgers and seconded by Commissioner Cohn at 6:52PM

Commissioner Heaton left the meeting at 6:50 pm.

XI. Director's Report

Mr. Capo presented the board with the financial profit and loss spreadsheet and discussed LMA's financial position over the last (9) months.

- LMA has received \$1.2 million in ad valorem taxes for Flood Protection.
- The LMAP account balance is currently at \$2.5 million
- (2) properties losing money
 - Airport
 - South Shore Harbor
- He reported on the Easter weekend cadence
- Coaxum is
- The LMA Safety meeting /Employee Appreciation Luncheon will be on May 9th. The board is invited to participate.

Commissioner Williams commented that Mr. Capo and staff did a fantastic job over the Easter weekend.

XII. Committee Reports

Airport Committee – Chair Heaton: Canceled

Marina Committee – Chair Clinton: *Deferred*

Commissioner Clinton stated that staff has moved into Orleans the Marina office. Mr. Coaxum is working on a giant assembly hall.

Recreation Committee – Chair Thomas: stated that there were no action items in the Recreation committee meeting. They received an

extensive report on Easter weekend cadence that will be repeated for Mother's Day.

Legal Committee – Chair Drouant: Deferred
Commercial Real Estate Committee – *Deferred*
Finance Committee – Chair Egana: Deferred

Chair Richard announced the next board meeting and called for a motion to adjourn.

XIII. Announcement of the next Airport Committee Meeting
1. Tuesday, **May 22**, 2025, at 5:30 PM

XIV. Adjourn

A motion to adjourn was offered by **Commissioner Rodgers**, and seconded by **Commissioner Drouant**.

Hearing no questions or comments, Chair Richard called for a vote. All were in favor. The motion passed.

The meeting adjourned at 7:22 pm.