

## **Abbeville Harbor & Terminal District Board of Commissioners Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** March 31, 2026

**Time:** 5:00 PM

**Location:** Abbeville Harbor & Terminal District Office, 124 North State Street, Suite 100, Abbeville, Louisiana

### **Call to Order**

President Patrick Duhon called the meeting to order and led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Attendance**

- Commissioners' Present: Michael Bertrand, Carlton Campbell, Patrick Duhon, James Steen
- Commissioner Absent: Bud Zaunbrecher
- Others Present: Executive Director Nick Gautreaux, Attorney Roger Boynton, Engineer Kim Touchet, Engineer Brian Touchet, Secretary Cheryl Broussard, and Paul Findlay with FINNCO

The Agenda was amended to include the minutes from the February 24, 2026, Public Hearing on Bond Issue Meeting, which were unanimously approved following a motion by Commissioner Carlton Campbell and a second by Commissioner Jimmie Steen.

### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the February 24, 2026, Public Hearing on Bond Issue Meeting were unanimously approved following a motion by Commissioner Michael Bertrand and a second by Commissioner Jimmie Steen.

The minutes from February 24, 2026, Regular Meeting were unanimously approved following a motion by Commissioner Carlton Campbell and a second by Commissioner Michael Bertrand.

### **Public Comments**

#### **Financial Reports**

Gautreaux provided financial reports, including the prior month's profit and loss, year-to-date profit and loss, budget vs. actual figures for the month and year to date, the accounts payable list for bill payments, accounts receivable, a summary of the balance sheet, and the profit and loss report.

A motion to accept the financial reports was unanimously approved, following a motion by Commissioner Jimmie Steen and a second by Commissioner Michael Bertrand.

Commissioner Jimmie Steen asked about cameras at Intracoastal City Boat Launch. Gautreaux said the cameras are working, but there is no internet out there at this time. Gautreaux suggested purchasing Star Link for internet service at the Boat Launch, noting that the service is much faster.

Gautreaux presented a letter from the Vermilion Parish Police Jury requesting that we enter into an agreement with Osprey Initiative, LLC, to perform maintenance on the recently installed debris barrier systems.

A motion to authorize Gautreaux to meet with the parties responsible for this maintenance agreement before we make any decisions was unanimously approved following a motion by Commissioner Michael Bertrand and a second by Commissioner Jimmie Steen.

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Gautreaux stated that, as you are all aware, Mr. Wayne LeBleu has submitted his resignation letter, effective February 27, 2026. Gautreaux asked whether the Commissioners wanted to send letters to the City of Abbeville and the Vermilion Parish Police Jury requesting his replacement.

A motion to table sending a letter to the City of Abbeville and the Vermilion Parish Police Jury for replacement of Commissioner Wayne LeBleu's seat was unanimously approved following a motion by Commissioner Jimmie Steen and seconded by Commissioner Carlton Campbell.

Gautreaux explained at a recent City of Abbeville meeting that concerns were raised about the fairness of the nomination process for the Abbeville Harbor and Terminal District (AHTD) Board of Commissioners. However, a careful review of the historical record tells a very different story, one rooted in balance, consistency, and locality.

As Nicholas Gautreaux explained to the Abbeville City Council and public, after examining 25 years of documented nominations, the facts show that the process has worked as intended. Of 26 instances in which both the City and the Parish were required to submit nominations, the City did not receive one of its selected candidates only once. This demonstrates a long-standing pattern of respect for local input and cooperation between governing bodies. For the Parish to say it is not fair is unfounded; in fact, they had 26 of 26 elected based on their nominations.

Equally important is the structure of the board itself. The AHTD board is deliberately balanced, with three commissioners representing the City of Abbeville and three representing Vermilion Parish. This equal representation ensures that no single entity dominates decision-making and that both city and parish interests are consistently protected.

Questions were also raised about term limits. While the idea may seem appealing at first glance, it's important to understand that the current system already provides built-in accountability. As AHTD President Patrick Duhon pointed out, both the City and the Parish retain full authority to either re-nominate an existing commissioner or select a new one when a term expires. In other words, turnover is always an option without the need for term limits that could disrupt continuity and experience.

Additionally, it's worth noting that these commissioners are not paid officials. They are unpaid public servants who volunteer their time, serving six-year terms, with one position coming up for nomination each year. This staggered system ensures both stability and regular opportunities for change.

Importantly, the City Council itself recently considered whether any changes to this process were necessary. Councilman Brady Broussard introduced a motion to change the nomination process, but it did not receive a second. Councilman Plaisance then offered a substitute motion to keep the process as it is, noting that it has worked effectively for 25 years based on the documented information presented. That motion received a second and was adopted unanimously, with only Councilman Campbell abstaining.

When viewed in full context, the AHTD board is not only fair and balanced but also a model of local governance that has functioned effectively for decades. The recent Council vote reinforces what the historical record already shows: the current system is working. Rather than being broken, it reflects cooperation, accountability, and a continued commitment to serving the best interests of the entire community.

### Port Business Update

1. Sewer Plant
2. Old Trelleborg site – refurbish and repair electrical
3. AC Training Center
4. GCMF Paint Booth

The Commissioners discussed the application for the Port Priority for the building of the paint booth at the Port of Vermilion.

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Engineer Kim Touchet updated the commissioners on the Emergency Dredging of the North Slip at the Port of Vermilion. We are about 92% complete. We are monitoring the spoil site.

Engineer Kim Touchet asked for approval of Patriot Construction Pay App 2 in the amount of \$192,310.87.

A motion to approve payment of \$192,310.87 to Patriot Construction Pay App 2 was unanimously approved following a motion by Commissioner Carlton Campbell and a second by Commissioner Jimmie Steen.

Engineer Kim Touchet updated the Commissioners on the Clean Gulf interior building project and requested approval of Diversified Construction Pay App No 3 in the amount of \$62,017.70 and Pay App 4 in the amount of \$118,940.00.

A motion to approve payment of \$62,017.70 to Diversified Construction for Pay App 3 was unanimously approved following a motion by Commissioner Michael Bertrand and a second by Commissioner Jimmie Steen.

A motion to approve payment of \$118,940.00 to Diversified Construction for Pay App 4 was unanimously approved following a motion by Commissioner Carlton Campbell and a second by Commissioner Jimmie Steen.

Engineer Kim Touchet updated the Commissioners on the Hwy 690/Schriefer Drive project. Engineer Touchet presented change order No 1 for Glenn Lege in the amount of \$44,339.20.

A motion to accept change order 1 for Glenn Lege Construction for the Hwy690/Schriefer Drive project was unanimously accepted following a motion by Commissioner Jimmie Steen and a second by Commissioner Michael Bertrand.

Engineer Kim Touchet requested approval for payment of \$84,263.44 to Glenn Lege Construction for Hwy 690/Schriefer Drive project.

A motion to approve payment for Partial Payment 1 in the amount of \$84,263.44 to Glenn Lege Construction was unanimously approved following a motion by Commissioner Michael Bertrand and a second by Commissioner Carlton Campbell.

Engineer Brian Touchet presented Change Order No 2 in the amount of \$28,800 from Patriot Construction for the Emergency Dredging of the North Slip at the Port of Vermilion.

A motion to accept Change Order No 2 in the amount of \$28,800 from Patriot Construction to remove the hydro seeding portion of the project was unanimously accepted following a motion by Commissioner Carlton Campbell and a second by Commissioner Jimmie Steen.

Attorney Roger Boynton stated that he has been working on a lease for FINNCO and is sending a letter to the Auditor as requested.

Gautreaux requested ratification of the GCM Resolution to be included in the revised packet for the Louisiana Port Construction Program for the GCM project at the Port of Vermilion.

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A motion to ratify Resolution 2026.1.27.2 for the Port Construction and Development Program for the GM/MT project at the Port of Vermillion was unanimously approved following a motion by Commissioner Carlton Campbell and a second by Commissioner Jimmie Steen.

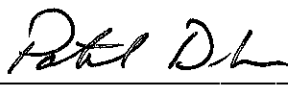
Gautreaux presented the Port of Vermillion Sewer Plant Report.

Gautreaux updated the Commissioners on the new tenant at the Port of Vermillion FINNCO. They signed their lease today. They will be wiring us a lump sum of \$83,876.13. We are working to have Entergy reinstall the meter, and then Electrician Jamie Broussard will begin getting power to the Shore power part. Then the electrician will work on fixing wiring inside the building and repairing the office. We will contact the crane company to get the crane recertified.

A motion to approve maintenance and electrical repairs to Lots 20 and 21 was unanimously carried following a motion by Commissioner Jimmie Steen and a second by Commissioner Carlton Campbell.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was unanimously approved following a motion by Commissioner Michael Bertrand and seconded by Commissioner Carlton Campbell.

  
Carlton Campbell  
Secretary-Treasurer

  
Patrick Duhon  
President