COLUMBIA PORT COMMISSION April 20,2023`

 MARCH MINUTES MEETING:

COMMISSIONERS: Bruce Frazier, Monty Adams Jr, Mark McKee and Charles Hearns

DIRECTOR: GREG RICHARDSON

Meeting was called to order by Bruce Frazier at the Police Jury Meeting Room in the Caldwell Parish Courthouse.

READING OF THE MINUTES, **motion was made by Charles Hearns, and seconded by Monty Adams, Jr to adopt the minutes**

**Reading Bank Statements, motion was made by Charles Hearns, and seconded by Mark McKee to accept the bank statements motion passed.**

 ITEMS DISCUSSED DURING MEETING Greg informed the Commission of activities since last port meeting:

* Greg informed commissioners of grant opportunity for developing a Strategic Plan for the Entire Ouachita River which would beneficial with our goal of modifying our Charter. Greg Informed commission of technical issue which prevented our request for charter modification from being addressed this session of the Legislature. The performance of the study will assist with this effort as well as provide valuable information to assist with the growth of the Port. Greg stated that we did not need a budget for this application that we should be able to do the entire application in house without engineering support.
* Greg discussed work load with submitting filings associated with the various grants we have received and presented the commission with a proposal from KDC to assist with the PSPG. Greg stated that Karen had local ties to the community as well as a strong relationship with the other Ports in the state which were participating in the PSPG program**. Charles made the motion to hire KDC to assist with filing reports after questions about limiting scope of work , Bruce Frazier seconded motion and motion passed.** Greg stated that each filing should not take more than 8 hours.
* Greg notified the Port Commissioners of Rep Letlow’s selection of our grant for the FY2024 Community Funding Projects Appropriation (earmarks) as one of the projects she plans to fund. The potential project is for the construction of a dock at the Port with an estimated award of $5 million.
* Greg informed commissioners of activities with USDA, DRA and DHS pertaining to awarded grants as well as discussed submittals of quarterly reports and requested reimbursements.
* Greg is submitting change orders and reimbursement request to LaDOTD monthly; however, no payments will be received prior to October 2023.
* Progress report on RC Road Improvements, Progressive Construction and discussed payments.
* Greg discussed upcoming grant cycle, FY2023 PIDP is due April 28th and the Port plans on resubmitting our FY2022 PIDP applications with modifications the Port plans on requesting $11.25 million for the construction of a Dock and the Railspur and loading area. However, with the potential award of the $5 million for the Dock the PIDP will be modified to ask for $11.24 million to support the construction of the Railspur, purchase of an Electric Train Tug and Material Handler and the Electrification of the Port
* Greg has completed and provided all audit information to our accountant for submittal to the auditors, currently waiting on a response from them.
* Greg had the library to provide laptops to assist with commissioners taking their required Ethics Class, Bruce Frazier completed the class the other commissioner agreed to take the class at home.
* **Motion made by Charles Hearns and seconded by Bruce Frazier to pay all outstanding bills presented to the board motion passed.**

**Motion was made by Monty Adams to adjourn the meeting second by Charles Hearns motion passed meeting was adjourned.**