COLUMBIA PORT COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
Date: September 26, 2024
Location: Schepis Museum Meeting Room

Commissioners Present:

* Darron McGuffee
* Charles Hearns
* Mark McKee

Port Director:

* Greg Richardson

1. Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM by Chairman Darron McGuffee.

2. Adoption of Previous Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made by Charles Hearns and seconded by Mark McKee to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Financial Report:

The financial statements for the period were presented. A motion to accept the bank statements was made by Charles Hearns, seconded by Mark McKee, and passed unanimously.

4. Items Discussed:

4.1 Capital Outlay Request & Land Acquisition

Greg Richardson provided an update on the upcoming capital outlay request for the next fiscal year. He discussed modifying the Port’s land acquisition request to include CV Power Tech, with plans to allocate funding to upgrade the existing 30,000 sq. ft. grain elevator to support CV Power Tech's solar manufacturing facility.

4.2 Port Director's Updates:

* CV Power Tech Solar Manufacturing Facility:
Greg informed the Commission about a potential new tenant, CV Power Tech, which is interested in establishing a solar manufacturing plant at the Port. He is actively working with CV Power Tech on grant and loan applications, including meetings with USDA, DRA, LED, and CDBG to explore funding opportunities.
* LaDOTD PPP Grant Application:
Greg submitted a grant application to LaDOTD for a 5MW solar farm and a 20,000 sq. ft. warehouse.
* Louisiana Green Fuels (LGF) Project Update:
Greg provided updates on ongoing developments related to LGF.
* RAISE Grant for Truck Parking Facility (TPF):
The Port has contracted with Geosyntec to assist BHA with meeting NEPA requirements as part of the grant, in collaboration with LGF.
* Rail Project:
BHA has contracted Hatch, LGF’s design engineer, to finalize the rail spur design for submission to Union Pacific.
* MARAD Dock Project:
Greg informed the Commission that $25,000 in grant funds have been approved for the NEPA process. However, the contract award for the dock project will not proceed until the NEPA for the TPF is completed.
* EDA Grant & Engineering Services:
BHA was awarded the contract for engineering services. Greg is coordinating with DRA to determine the next steps for grant implementation.
* Riverton Campground Road:
The project remains on hold due to permitting issues with Union Pacific.
* Security Fence Project:
The contract for the security fence has been awarded, and materials are being ordered.
* Regional Strategic Planning and Master Plan Development:
Greg met with Andy Ryan and NNP to discuss a regional strategic plan with other ports. A motion was made by Charles Hearns, seconded by Mark McKee, to allocate $5,000 towards developing a workshop and grant application for Port planning. The motion passed unanimously.

4.3 Tenant Updates:

* Guerrero Farms:
Soybean harvesting will be completed before the fence construction begins.
* McClanahan:
McClanahan has not provided payment for August, September, or October.
* Terral RiverServices:
Terral is moving significant volumes of aggregate but may face limitations due to issues with the Columbia Lock and Dam.
* LGF:
LGF continues to push forward with dock design, permitting, and construction collaboration.

5. Approval of Invoices:

Greg reviewed all outstanding invoices. A motion to pay all outstanding bills was made by Charles Hearns and seconded by Mark McKee. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Charles Hearns and seconded by Mark McKee. The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned.