The Vidalia Port Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, 12 September 2023 at 8:30 A.M. in the Port Commission office at 112 Front Street Suite B, Vidalia Convention Center.

 Commissioners David Yates, Vice President & Tanya Richardson, Secretary/Treasurer were present along with Commissioners Steve Weeks, Brannon Arthur, Richard Young, Helen Wyatt. Randy Maxwell, President was absent. Wyly Gilfoil, executive director, and Bryant Killen, deputy port director, were also present along with Mayor Buz Craft & James Davis Jr.

 Mr. Maxwell called the meeting to order. The minutes from the July meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Weeks and second by Mr. Yates.

 Mr. Killen presented the board with a financial statement which was approved with a motion by Mr. Arthur and a second by Mr. Wyatt.

Mr. Killen presented a report on Slip & Bulk Pad-Public Notice Comment Period ended 3 Nov 2020, but LA Wildlife & Fisheries requested an extension for further review. Pending comments and responses, and proof of wetland credits purchased, the Permit will be issued. It was further stated that we are waiting on the USACE to submit their reviewed decision document to us to proceed. Expanded discussion was made detailing the criteria of which the USACOE will approve the permit application. A seepage analysis, slope stability analysis, and an independent peer review will have to be all completed, and pass before approval. It was stated that the seepage analysis came back favorably. It is currently in the USACE’s Jacksonville office for internal review. The USACE is preparing preliminary guidelines for a Risk Based Analysis for the project which this project will be one of the if not first to adhere to such guideline. The USACE has determined our slope to be 5.8:1. We are now working through required rip rap specs to take the project to full design. Mr. Killen stated that full design was submitted to USACE on 7/7/23 and it is still being reviewed by the USACE. Mr. Killen discussed the need to acquire an option on the property south of the eventual slack water slip for future development. The Commission approved the Project Report on a motion by Mr. Arthur and second by Mr. Young.

In other business, updates were given on grant applications that are planning to be submitted on VPC’s behalf. PIDP which was submitted on April 28th is pending in senior review. Mr. Killen briefly gave an update on the relationship with the port and Syrah. Alternate Energy Development Copiah, a wood pellet producer, was discussed as a potential future port tenant. Fertilizer line construction was discussed after a potential future tenant made an inquiry regarding leasing land and building fertilizer tanks on the protected side of the levee, north of the access road. Further discussion was made regarding reconfiguring the current receiving pit to be able to unload trucks faster and more efficiently. A resolution was passed by a motion by Mr. Yates and second by Mrs. Wyatt for approval to submit an application to LADOTD Port Construction & Development Program for railroad reconstruction from Waterproof, LA to Vidalia, LA. A resolution was passed on a motion by Mr. Arthur and a second by Mr. Young that approves the commission to submit a Capital Outlay request for future port expansion to the Division of Administration. A motion was made by Mrs. Richardson and a second by Mr. Weeks to approve Other Business.

 The meeting adjourned at 9:55 on a motion by Mr. Arthur and a second my Mr. Yates.

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 Randy Maxwell President

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Tanya Richardson

Secretary/Treasurer