

# ***West Calcasieu Port Board Meeting Minutes***

July 5, 2016

## **I. Call to order**

President Dick Kennison called to order the regular meeting of the West Calcasieu Port at approximately 3:00 p.m. on July 5, 2016, at West Calcasieu Port, 200 Old Ferry Road, Sulphur, Louisiana.

## **II. Invocation**

Chuck Stutes led the invocation.

## **III. Pledge of Allegiance**

Pledge led by Wilmer Dugas and recited by all board members and guests.

## **IV. Roll call**

Tim Dougherty conducted a roll call. The following persons were present:

- ✓ Dick Kennison
- ✓ Wilmer Dugas
- ✓ Dave Aguiard
- ✓ Tim Dougherty

Scott Foreman was absent.

(Others also present at the meeting were: Lynn Hohensee, Darla Perry, Glen James, Chuck Stutes, Francis Andrepont and Sheila Burton.)

## **V. Approval of minutes of the June 7, 2016 regular monthly meeting**

President Dick Kennison entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2016 regular monthly meeting. A motion was made by Wilmer Dugas to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2016 regular monthly meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tim Dougherty. No opposition. Motion carried.

## **VI. Amendments, additions and deletions to the proposed agenda**

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

## **VII. Discuss and take action on mowing**

Darla Perry told the Board she has the map that Mark Kibodeaux brought out that outlines the areas of mowing, bush hogging and spraying herbicide. Darla reviewed the map with the Board. Darla stated that Tim Dougherty brought Mr. Dronnette and Mr. Kibodeaux together to work out a plan to have Mr. Dronnette covered under Mr. Kibodeaux's workers' comp where he will be able to still do bush hogging and bailing of hay for the neighbors of the port. There was discussion regarding the mowing. Darla told the Board that the mowing will only take place 5 times per year. There was further discussion regarding the bush hogging and mowing. President Dick Kennison asked Darla to get a clarification on the costs of each item before action is taken. Darla reminded the Board that they were not going to take action or reward a contract today, that they were just getting a mapping of what all is being covered.

## **VIII. Committee Reports**

There were no Committee Reports at this time.

## **IX. Port Director Report**

*{NOTE: The following report is a copy of the original sent out by Lynn Hohensee.}*

*{NOTE: Port Director Lynn Hohensee told the Board he spoke with Mike Boies of River Barge Works last week regarding possibly relocating from their current location to a location on the Intracoastal between the Rhodes property and Orion. Lynn said he gave Mr. Boies the price per linear foot that the port would need on the waterfront and cost Per acre on the acreage property. Lynn said Mr. Boies told him he would get back to him. Lynn said he will continue to work with River Barge Works on the idea of relocating.*

*Lynn reminded the Board of their discussion with Jay Delafield at the June meeting regarding the bond issue. Lynn stated that Chuck Stutes has estimated that 2 ½ to 3 million could cover both the new road construction and the maintenance dredging of the barge basin. President Dick Kennison asked if the State at some point would be reimbursing the Port for part of the road construction. Lynn answered that at some point they should be reimbursed on 90% of the construction costs on the 2 projects by the State. Lynn said they anticipated getting reimbursed in 4 to 5 years; however, it may be sooner since the Governor has doubled the money that the State will be putting into the DOTD Port Priority Fund raising it from 19.8 to 39 million per year.*

*There was a brief discussion regarding River Barge Works and their monthly rent payments and also the property where Tubal-Cain is located. Lynn said he received a call from a gentleman representing Driftwood LNG saying they are in need of installing a*

*natural gas line that will go across the Port property located by Southland Airfield. Lynn said Driftwood LNG spoke with the airport director who told them he would need to get with the Southland Airfield attorney to discuss the issue. Lynn told the Board that according to all of the legal documents, that that is still West Cal Port land that they will be crossing. Lynn said he gave Driftwood LNG permission to do the survey. Lynn stated if and when that project moves forward to install a natural gas line, there will be some negotiating on the Port's part with the company for some right-of-way crossing the Port's property. Darla Perry stated they will have to look at the legal as far as if it is the port or the airport because the port is the sponsor of the airport, but the airport supposedly has that property. Darla said there were grants that went to the airport for additional properties that were bought. However, if it is original property, it was donated by Citgo for dedication to the airport. Darla explained that since the Port was the sponsor, that's how the titling went. So there will be an issue as to whether it's the airport or the port. Darla further discussed the issue with the Board.*

*Lynn told the Board he and Chuck Stutes met with the vice president of business development for Callan Marine last week at Meyer & Associates to discuss project development and dredging issues at the port. Lynn said he felt they could be an excellent candidate to lease some port property to park their dredge barge along the shore line. Lynn said that would give them the availability to clean up the short line and possibly do some light bulk heading. Lynn stated he will continue to keep the Board posted on the issue. There was a brief discussion regarding the Coast Guard's location and changing command along with safety issues in the barge basin.}*

#### **Marketing/Business Development/Retention –**

- Port director and port engineer met with VP-Business Development for Callan Marine (Galveston, Texas) initially to discuss port dredging needs. During meeting, discussion turned to Callan's possible needs for a satellite operations facility in Southwest Louisiana. Talks are continuing.
- Received information from River Barge Works that the company remains interested in relocating on port property to a site east of Orion Marine Group.
- The port director continues to meet with Devall Towing and the Port of Vinton re: early discussions for possible movement of construction soil by barge from western Calcasieu and Cameron Parishes to industrial sites planned or under construction on the Calcasieu River Waterway. The WCP would play an instrumental role in the movement of dirt by barge.
- Port director received call from Miami businessman inquiring about ability to offload aggregate at the WCP. He was referred to Devall Towing and Orion Marine Group.

#### **Port Operations –**

- Efforts continue to move forward with effort to obtain additional bonding dollars for the port.
- Tubal-Cain efforts move forward with wetland delineation documentation with the USA Corps of Engineers.
- S.T.A.R. Concrete Pumping Company continues to work on plans for improving exterior driveways.
- Port engineer continues to work with barge loading ramp manufacturer, Orion Marine Group (ramp installer) and Devall Towing to initiate upgrades to the equipment.
- Tubal-Cain continues to make improvements on the old Devall Diesel Building and is moving forward with site improvements west of the west barge basin.
- Water damaged at WCP board building was minor and will be repaired.

#### **Professional Organizations & Networking –**

- In June, the WCP director (and/or board members) represented the port at:
  - a. PAL monthly board meeting

- b. Chamber/SWLA meeting w/SWLA legislative delegation
- c. Meeting with USCG Captain/Port hosted by Devall Towing
- d. Calcasieu River Waterway Harbor Safety Committee meeting
- e. Chamber/SWLA business after hours and two ribbon cuttings
- f. Meeting with Chamber/SWLA and Port/LC to discuss new state transportation committee
- g. Petrochem meeting
- h. BV board meeting

**News Media & Community Relations–**

- Presentation to Sulphur Kiwanis
- Ongoing media relations continue through the Lake Charles Ad/Press Club and other networking opportunities.

**X. Announcements/Reports (Legal, Financial, Engineer)**

**LEGAL:** There was no legal report given at this time.

**FINANCIAL:** Darla reported year to date the barge days are 33,504 going through May. Darla stated the Port finished the year last year with 43,754. Darla said she predicts they will finish out this year 15% down on total barge days. Darla reported the ramp revenue for May was \$2,250. Darla said Devall shows 2 months' rent on the cash flow. Utility Revenue is the water revenue of \$7,655.30. Darla said Cemex is using a lot of water. Darla reported there was nothing unusual about the expenditures for May.

Darla said she received great news last week. She said GOHSEP finally agreed to reassign the Port's FEMA request case. Darla told Chuck they may have to go to Baton Rouge again to meet with the representative that will be more favorable to the Port.

Tim Dougherty told Port Director Lynn Hohensee he read on his report something about Devall having someone that possibly wants to use the ramp. Lynn said he did receive a call from someone in Miami, Florida that was an agent representing someone else. He thought the Port could be involved with a certain number of tons of aggregate coming into the Port. Lynn said he explained to the gentleman that the Port is in shallow water and not deep water and gave him the phone numbers to Devall and Orion Marine Group. Tim Dougherty made a motion to approve the financial report as presented, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dave Aguillard. No opposition. Motion carried.

**ENGINEER:** Chuck Stutes stated he has had 2 or 3 telephone conversations with Gulfport Energy, who is, according to the Devalls, the biggest user of the ramp. Chuck said they were not able to give him any specific vehicle information. Chuck said they went out to a trucking company in east Lake Charles to look at trucks and trailers and found out there isn't anything to sample because everything is different. Chuck stated when they also went to Hay Brothers, all of the trucks and trailers were all different. Measurements and photos were taken to try to document some of the issues with the ramp. Chuck went into further detail explaining the problems with the ramp. Chuck stated they forwarded all of the information they gathered to the manufacturer of the ramp, in Houston, and they will do their own evaluations to try to come up with a solution. There was a brief discussion comparing the problems on the previous ramp with the problems on the new ramp.

Port Director Lynn Hohensee explained that one of the aspects of economic development in the region that could play a role on how the ramp is used is through the big contractors and supporting subcontractors bringing in materials and supplies through the port within the next 2 years when they are unable to use the 210 bridge. Lynn said they would be able to drive their trucks right onto the barge and drive it off the ramp. Dave Aguillard suggested creating some specifications for allowable types of vehicles and trailers, along with some measurements, that could be used on the ramp. Lynn also suggested putting parameters of what are good/bad barge loading days. There was further discussion regarding the issues with the ramp. President Dick Kennison explained they will need to table the conversation until Chuck hears back from the ramp manufacturer and work out a solution. Chuck said that Mike Devall, Joe Devall and George Landry all have copies of what was sent to the ramp manufacturer.

Lynn asked for an update on the bulkhead replacement. Chuck reported that the Capital Outlay bill passed. It is \$200,000 for planning only and no trailing money for construction. A new cooperative endeavor agreement should be received in the next 30 days. Chuck said he will need to have a phone conference with them when the cooperative endeavor agreement is received because he doesn't know what matching money is expected and how it will be looked at if the money is spent but nothing is ever built.

Chuck reported that regarding the other bulkhead project, Orion is waiting for delivery off all of the materials before they start. Lynn asked what the start date would be. Chuck answered before July. Lynn told the Board that they made some advancement on termination of wetlands in the Tubal-Cain area to the west. Chuck said that Arabie finished the study, and it is about what was expected. Chuck said there was approximately 4 to 4 ½ acres that was not considered wetlands, and then the rest was considered wetlands. Chuck explained the study that Arabie did and the jurisdictional determination that the Corps of Engineers sent will be good for 3 years.

## **XI. Executive Session**

There was no executive session at this time.

## **XII. Public Comments**

There were no public comments at this time.

**XIII. Adjournment**

President Dick Kennison adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:46 p.m.

Acting Pres - W. Imc Fugas  
President

Jim Deryak  
Secretary