

PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREATER NEW ORLEANS EXPRESSWAY COMMISSION HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 3, 2013, AT 10:00 A.M., IN THE GNOEC CONFERENCE ROOM, VOLUNTEERS OF AMERICA BUILDING, 3939 NORTH CAUSEWAY BOULEVARD, SUITE 400, METAIRIE, LA

**PRESENT:** Lawrence M. Rase, Chairman; Michael R. Lorino, Jr., Vice Chairman; Stephen G. Romig, Treasurer; Lawrence K. Katz, Secretary; Anthony V. Ligi, Jr., Assistant Secretary Treasurer

**OTHERS:** Carlton Dufrechou; Debbie Lopreore; Cheryl H. Lambert; Chief Nick Congemi; Melissa M. Phillpott; Eileen Barthe'; Georgie Bagnetto; Robert Graham; Stacie Heffker; Perry Daigrepoint; Cary Bourgeois, James Martin & Bob Boagni, GEC, Inc.; Burgess McCranie, McCranie, Campbell, Sistrunk, Anzelmo, Hardy, McDaniel & Welch; Bill Becknell & Mike Power, The Becknell Law Firm; Denis Milliner, Bank of New York; Patrice McNeal, Chase Bank; Bill Murhammer; Jim Lynch, Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Svc.; John Poche, Raymond James & Associates; Andrea Calvin, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation; Rene Chopin, Burk Kleinpeter, Inc. Steve Bowes & Kent Schexnayder, Sisung Investment Management Services; Robert Rhoden, The Times-Picayune

The Chairman called the meeting to order.

**On motion by Ligi, seconded by Romig, the minutes of the regular meeting held June 5, 2013 were accepted as written. Mr. Rase, Mr. Lorino, Mr. Romig, Mr. Katz and Mr. Ligi voted in favor of the motion.**

On behalf of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation, Dr. Calvin reported for June of the forty water quality samples taken, thirty-four (85%) met primary contact recreation standards. Two areas exceeded on the South Shore and four on the North Shore. Dr. Calvin stated the Foundation is receiving calls from citizens about patches of algae, adding the Foundation does not know the source of the algae but they are being watched. Mr. Rase mentioned he was crossing one day last week and there was a large patch about three miles off the North Shore. Mr. Rase asked if Mayor Cooper is working with the Foundation. Dr. Calvin stated yes, he is aware of the concerns. Mr. Katz stated Allan Pizzato of WYES mentioned again that he is interested in doing something with the Foundation. He added Mr. Pizzato is serious about coastal erosion and someone should call him.

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On behalf of the Causeway Police Charitable Foundation, Mr. Murhammer stated there is nothing to report at this time. Mr. Rase stated he met the CEO who has taken over Southeast Hospital and he is interested in continuing with the Foundation. Mr. Rase stated the concern is Southeast is now a "for profit" hospital and he does not think the Foundation can give to it. Mr. Murhammer stated the Foundation cannot give the hospital money; it may possibly be able to give gifts to the residents but cannot give the hospital a check. Mr. Murhammer added it is a complex area of IRS regulations and codes. Mr. Murhammer explained in the past the Foundation did not give the money to Southeast Hospital; it was under an auxiliary because if given directly to the hospital, it would have rolled into its general fund. Mr. Rase stated Mr. Kramer would like to talk with the Foundation. Mr. Murhammer stated he will discuss this with Mr. Romig to get to a conclusion on it.

For June, Mr. Dufrechou reported twenty vessel openings, three drive fault incidents and one test opening for the bascule.

Mr. Dufrechou reported Police and MAP responded to 317 breakdowns on the Causeway Bridge and 78 breakdowns on the Huey P. Long Bridge. He reported 10 accidents on the Causeway - 4 southbound, 1 at the North Toll Plaza, and 6 northbound - all in dry weather. He reported 13 accidents on the Huey P. Long - 2 westbound, 5 eastbound, and 6 on the east bank - all in dry weather. Mr. Dufrechou stated Chief Congemi and Sgt. Jacob are correct - while the overall number of accidents may have gone down, the damage that is happening is actually increased.

Mr. Dufrechou stated on June 8, 2013, the Corps of Engineers erected the truss on the South Shore. He stated the northbound bridge was closed that night from midnight to 4:00 a.m.

Mr. Dufrechou stated on June 11, 2013, the truss at the North Toll Plaza was finally erected. He stated the southbound bridge only was closed from midnight to 2:00 a.m.

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Mr. Dufrechou showed slides of two turtles being rescued trying to cross the road at the North Toll Plaza. They were relocated to wetlands.

Mr. Dufrechou showed a video of an incident that happened on June 5 just before 7:00 a.m. of an overturned vehicle. He stated the northbound bridge was closed for just a few minutes; there were three injuries but everybody is okay. In response to Mr. Rase's inquiry, Mr. Dufrechou stated the vehicle in front was decelerating and the vehicle behind it was not paying attention, adding the tailgating signs on the bridge are there for a reason; he was following too closely.

Mr. Dufrechou showed a video of the North Toll Plaza on June 19. Mr. Dufrechou stated he got a call from Mr. Graham just before 6:00 a.m. about a depression in the roadway that should not have been there. He explained it had been filled in the night before with asphalt but sunk over a period of about twelve hours. Mr. Dufrechou stated within the next fifteen minutes, the guys were out there putting in asphalt. The contractor assured them it would not happen again.

Mr. Dufrechou stated on June 24, near the 4.5 mile marker, a Jeep Liberty that was swerving to avoid hitting another vehicle ended up on the rail of the southbound bridge. He stated the driver was fine.

Mr. Dufrechou stated for the past month there have been police officers at the North Toll Plaza helping with anyone cutting into lanes. He showed a video of an incident in which a vehicle in Lane 2 actually hit a stopped vehicle, proceeded through the toll plaza and kept going onto the bridge. He stated one of the police officers stopped him at the first turnaround.

Mr. Dufrechou showed a slide of a lightning bolt taken on June 19 about 8:00 p.m. from a boathouse on West End, adding he is not sure it hit the bridge but it shows the power of lightning. He stated the bascule gets hit several times a month. Mr. Dufrechou mentioned last Saturday a lightning strike caused the loss of five radios that have to be replaced.

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Mr. Dufrechou stated on June 20 the State Bond Commission approved the GNOEC's rebonding proposal. He thanked Mr. Murhammer, Mr. Martin, Mrs. Lambert and the Accounting staff, Mrs. Phillpott.

Mr. Dufrechou reported there was a severe weather closure on June 29 from 7:51 a.m. to 8:24 a.m. last Saturday.

Mr. Dufrechou stated on July 2, from midnight Tuesday morning to 1:00 a.m., the North Toll Plaza was dark/powerless for about one hour for the utility upgrades and transfer of power.

On the Realignment of Northbound Bridge Spans project, Mr. Dufrechou stated this is for repairs from Hurricane Katrina. He explained they are recommending concurrence with the LA Department of Transportation for bids received from four proposers, anywhere from \$709,000 to \$848,000; the engineering estimate was \$936,000. He recommended award to Gibson Construction in the amount of \$709,578; the staff and engineers concur. In response to Mr. Katz's inquiry as to why it takes so long, Mr. Dufrechou stated because they are dealing with the US Government and the State of Louisiana, adding on the positive side this is 100% federally funded. **On motion by Katz, seconded by Lorino, based upon the recommendation of the staff and the Consulting Engineers, the Commission concurs with the recommendation of the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) to award State Project No. H.005973 to the low bidder Gibson & Associates, Inc. in the amount of \$709,578. The Commission authorizes General Manager Carlton Dufrechou to execute any documents associated with the award of this contract on behalf of the GNOEC. Mr. Rase, Mr. Lorino, Mr. Romig, Mr. Katz and Mr. Ligi voted in favor of the motion.**

Mr. Dufrechou stated the official journal switches annually from Jefferson Parish to St. Tammany

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Parish, adding the official journal this year is on the North Shore so it switches back to the South Shore. He stated there were two proposals - one from the Times-Picayune and the other from City Business. Mr. Dufrechou stated the Times-Picayune proposal was \$2.50 per column inch; the City Business proposal was \$1.68 per column inch; the staff is recommending award to City Business.

**On motion by Rase, seconded by Katz, the Official Journal for the GNOEC is chosen for one year alternating between a publication located in the Parish of Jefferson or St. Tammany.**

**Based on a proposal received from the New Orleans City Business, which quoted a rate of \$1.68 per column inch, the Commission appoints The New Orleans City Business (Parish of Jefferson ) as the Official Journal for one year, effective July 3, 2013. Mr. Rase, Mr. Lorino, Mr. Romig, Mr. Katz and Mr. Ligi voted in favor of the motion.**

Mr. Katz stated in the past years the Causeway has donated vehicles to different police departments, primarily Franklinton, Madisonville and others. He stated the next time to salvage vehicles will be the end of this year and the beginning of 2014. He stated if there is a truck that has almost no value at the point of salvaging or, in lieu of that, maybe a cruiser, there has been a request by Camp Salmen, the Regional Scout Camp, asking that the Causeway would consider donating one of those to them - they would prefer a truck but if not, a cruiser could be modified to haul equipment. He stated Camp Salmen is the Regional Scout Camp for southern Louisiana and also part of Mississippi, with more than five hundred young men between the ages of five and sixteen who use it during the summer and then it is also used during the year for other programs. Mr. Katz stated it is a great thing and when the time comes if something is available, he would like the Causeway to consider donating one of them to the Camp. Mr. Dufrechou stated it will probably be early next year.

Mr. Rase stated he, Mr. Romig and Mr. Dufrechou will get together to talk about some of the grants

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that are going on.

Mr. Rase announced the next meeting is Wednesday, August 7, 2013, at 10:00 a.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



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LAWRENCE K. KATZ  
SECRETARY



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LAWRENCE M. RASE  
CHAIRMAN