



Jeff Landry
Governor

State of Louisiana

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
LOUISIANA PORTS & WATERWAYS INVESTMENT COMMISSION

Marc Hebert
Chairman

Julia Fisher-Cormier
Vice-Chair

LOUISIANA PORTS & WATERWAYS INVESTMENT COMMISSION

July 17th, 2025; 2:00 PM

MINUTES

Call to Order

Marc Hebert, Chairman of the Louisiana Ports & Waterways Investment Commission, called the meeting to order at 2:00 PM.

Attendance

All members were present at the meeting except for Paige Carter.

Opening Remarks

Chairman Marc Hebert welcomed all physical and virtual attendees at the Port of New Orleans. He also welcomed the first delegate from the Louisiana Railroad Association, Tomeka Bryant, who will now serve on the executive board of this commission. Chairman Hebert and Commissioner Cormier restate the commission's vision, which includes a unified strategy between all ports and waterways of the state of Louisiana, to expand growth into international trade.

Update from Taskforce/Working Groups

Captain Wattigney, head of the Task Force on Navigation and Security, provided updates on ATON implementation and height sensor installation. He urged the commission to engage with the Army Corps of Engineers to clarify their responsibilities, particularly regarding the Pilot Town anchorage project, where the Corps claims it lacks authority to dredge anchorages. He also recommended working with DOTD to issue badges to boat pilots, enabling them to display authority and access restricted roads during emergencies. Mr. Kilshaw and Representative Wright are addressing this by exploring distribution methods for authorized placards.

Joe Toomy presented the commission's deep draft marketing strategy, which aims to promote Louisiana as home to one of the world's most diverse port complexes, contingent on statewide port collaboration.

Other Items/Resolutions

Two resolutions were presented at the meeting. The first, introduced by Chairman Hebert and Commissioner Cormier, established an investment program for major infrastructure projects, funded by the Port Priority Fund and the Deep Draft Port Marketing Fund. It was approved. The second, proposed by Ben Russo, requested funding to dredge the Red River due to sediment buildup. After discussion, the resolution was not approved; instead, a Dredging Working Group was formed to address similar issues.

Sister Ports Program

The Sister Ports Program is being pushed by the Trump Administration since the president's first term, and pairs port complexes around the world with U.S. ports to encourage international trade and cooperation. The Port of South Louisiana has been paired with the port of Duqm, Oman and commission member Paul Matthews has met with their respective representative to establish the start of a productive relationship.

Deputy Second Commander of Coast Guard New Orleans

Due to the nearby tropical storm, a Coast Guard representative assured the commission and attendees of the safety measures in place, including 24/7 storm monitoring and coordination with GOHSEP, the Army Corps of Engineers, and local governments.



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Board Member Q&A

Senator Connick thanked everyone in attendance for their participation in the discussions and is happy with house he and Mark Wright passed legislation concerning the commission. Commissioner Cormier also assured every port that the selection of commission-sponsored projects is not personal in any way and is strictly made in regard to their impact on the state's port complex.

Announcements

A date for the next LPWIC meeting will be released within the next week.

Adjournment

Chairman Hebert thanked everyone for their attendance and adjourned the meeting at 3:38 PM.

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Member Organization	Appointee/Designee	Present		
		Yes	No	Proxy
Chairman	Marc Hebert	X		
Vice-Chair, Office of Multimodal Commerce	Commissioner Julia Fisher-Cormier	X		
Louisiana Economic Development	Paige Carter		X	
Louisiana State Senate	Senator Pat Connick	X		
Louisiana House of Representatives	Representative Mark Wright	X		
Port of South Louisiana	Paul Matthews	X		
Port Fourchon	Chett Chiasson	X		
Port of Iberia	Craig Romero	X		
Port of Morgan City	Raymond "Mac" Wade	X		
Central Louisiana Regional Port	Ben Russo	X		
Lake Providence Port Commission	Bryant Killen	X		
Louisiana Railroads Association	Tomeka Bryant	X		
Louisiana Motor Transport Association	Randy Guillot	X		
	Total Present	12		
	Quorum Achieved			