

## NATCHITOCHEES PARISH PORT COMMISSION

October 17, 2022, Regular Meeting

Present were Nettles Brown, Ralph Ingram, William Allen and K. David Zachary Commissioners. Absent was Dan Simmons. Also, present were Travis Tyler, Executive Director of the Port, Mickey Chambers, Assistant to the Executive Director of the Port, Ronnie Blewer and Mark A. Begnaud of McCoy Roberts & Begnaud, Ltd., legal counsel to the Commission.

After a request for public comments, Mr. Blewer asked questions regarding the meeting notice and procedures.

Minutes for the regular meeting on September 19, 2022, were unavailable due to an equipment issue. The minutes will be presented at the November meeting.

As part of the Director's Activity Report, Mr. Tyler reported: 1) over 485,000 tons of material have moved through the Port through the end of September; 2) the Port loaded out soybeans for Great Lakes; 3) no new information regarding Project Green. An appraiser looked at the Blewer and Cason tracts; 4) the Port was is one of two sites in the CLECO territory to qualify for Project Deuce, which is a CLECO based project with approximately \$700 to \$800 million in capital investment and would provide 50 to 100 jobs. It needs approximately 50 acres of the Northport tract; 5) BioMass is still interested in locating at the Port; 6) Project Milton is still in the planning stages; 7) Tenants are still looking at expansion; and 8) there is still interest in the Port by grain exporters and pipe companies.

Also, as part of the Director's Report, Mr. Tyler reported: 1) Barge traffic has slowed due to low water on the Mississippi River 2) he met with the CDC regarding water supply issues. An engineering group has been hired to review options of a treatment facility out of river, a treatment facility by the aquifer or a pipeline under the bridge. All the options are related to the waterline

being attached to the bridge; 3) the Natchitoches Events Center is not available for the end of the year update/report meeting. He has received one bid and will continue to look at options and alternative dates for the meeting; 4) a company is coming in to look at maintenance the Port's large locomotive. There seems to be an issue with gaskets and they continue to try to locate a new locomotive.

After reviewing the September 2022 Treasurer's Report, a motion was made by Mr. Ingram, seconded by Mr. Allen and duly carried to accept the report, a copy of which was available for review.

In Old Business, Mr. Tyler reported the following: 1) regarding elevation of the Northport tract, he submitted materials to DEQ related to the stormwater pollution prevention plan. He is waiting on DEQ approval before resending to the National Guard; 2) regarding the rail spur on the Northport tract, a conceptual plan was done some time ago. He continues to work on finalizing a plan. The Port and is looking at a potential Port Priority Grant for the siding and an additional warehouse; and 3) regarding the Dock 3 repairs, Coastal Marine Construction has reviewed the issues and seem optimistic.

In New Business, Mr. Tyler reported that American Soda Trans Load has been working with Custom Commodities. American Soda is having trouble with losing material in the transload purchases. Currently the drivers are self loading. It has requested that the Port provide transload services that would include the Port preloading trailers. This could be an opportunity to hire a new full time employee for the Port. American Soda is willing to commit to a three year deal. He will explore terms with American Soda.

A motion was made by Mr. Allen<sup>7</sup>, seconded by Mr. Ingram and duly carried that the meeting be adjourned.