

NATCHITOCHE PARISH PORT COMMISSION
March 20, 2023, Regular Meeting

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

Mr. Brown made a request for public comment. No public comment was made.

A motion to amend the agenda to add water treatment proposal in Old Business was made by Mr. Allen, seconded by Mr. Simmons and approved by unanimous roll call vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Simmons, seconded by Mr. Allen, and duly carried to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2023, Commission meeting.

As part of the Director's Activity Report, Mr. Tyler reported: 1) approximately 90,000 tons of material moved through the Port through end of February; 2) Project Deuce (CLECO based project) – representatives came for a site visit and expressed continued interest in the Port. The prospect has one existing facility and will need approximately 80 acres, 1.5 million gallons of potable water per day, provide approximately 120 jobs and utilize barge and rail. He is gathering additional information for the prospects; 3) Project Southport – wants to purchase property since the site is certified; 4) Project Milton – says funding is in place, but it has other items related to the project that need to be put in place; and 5) there is no new information on Project Green or Project Bighorn.

Also, as part of the Director's Report, Mr. Tyler reported: 1) Project Leopard – project needs approximately 60 acres, provide approximately 120 jobs, need access to barges and would have a capital investment of approximate \$20 million; 2) a Timber prospect is looking at loading logs into containers for shipping overseas; 3) Battle Lumber – an agreement should be ready for execution this week. It could utilize 2,000 +/- rail cars. The Port may need to extend the rail

spur to accommodate this prospect in the future; and 4) he continues to work with other prospects related to slag and cement.

After reviewing the February 2023 Treasurer's Reports, a motion was made by Mr. Simmons, seconded by Mr. Allen and duly carried to accept the reports, a copy of which was available for review.

In Old Business, Mr. Tyler reported the following: 1) the Port has sent the final application to the National Guard regarding leveeing of the Northport tract and hopes the project will start this summer; 2) the Port is continuing to work on possible funding for an additional rail spur on the Northport tract; 3) he is working with a potential designer for additional warehouse storage. Two smaller buildings could cost less than one large building; 4) contractors for the stabilization of Dock 3 say they are mobilizing to the site this week. Deadline for completion is mid-July; and 5) he received a proposal for \$15,000.00 for engineering for a water treatment facility. The Port received three proposals for engineering plans for a conceptual design, which would compare groundwater versus river water. EDA could a portion of the cost of the facility. The City of Natchitoches can't currently meet the Port's water demand with upcoming projects. A water facility could potentially be funded by Port Priority Project. A motion was made by Mr. Allen, seconded by Mr. Simmons and unanimously passed approving the engagement of Matrix New World Engineers to prepare a study for a water treatment facility.

In New Business, 1) the Board was presented with an Engagement Letter from Kenneth D. Folden & Company to perform as the Natchitoches Parish Port Commission's auditor. A motion was made by Mr. Simmons, seconded by Mr. Allen, and unanimously passed approving Kenneth D. Folden & Company as the Port's auditor; and 2) ELOS Environmental, LLC provided a funding strategy proposal. ELOS would advise as to potential sources of funding for projects.

A motion was made by Mr. Allen, seconded by Mr. Simmons and duly carried that the meeting be adjourned.