

NATCHITOCHES PARISH PORT COMMISSION
May 19, 2025, Regular Meeting

Present were Nettles Brown, William Allen, K. David Zachary, Mary Ann Motter and J.W. Scarbrough, Commissioners. Also, present were Travis Tyler, Executive Director of the Port, Mickey Chambers, Assistant to the Executive Director of the Port, Josh Payne of PalmStar Energy and Mark A. Begnaud of McCoy Roberts & Begnaud, Ltd., legal counsel to the Commission

A motion was made by Mr. Allen, seconded by Ms. Motter, and duly carried to approve the minutes of the Regular Commission Meeting on April 21, 2025.

A presentation was given by Josh Payne of PalmStar Energy regarding a potential project that would capture the local areas chicken litter and other projects with co-location potential. The purpose of the projects is to use organic waste to create energy. Phase 1 would bring 100 tons of chicken litter per day (which would scale up to 400 tons per day) and would produce natural gas and certified organic fertilizers. Palmstar is partnering with the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, whose students would do research on site. The project would initially require 100 acres and start with 15 to 20 direct jobs and could eventually lead to 50 to 60 direct jobs. The project is funded and the plan is to be up and running by the summer of 2026.

As part of the Director's Activity Report, Mr. Tyler reported: 1) approximately 185,000 tons passed through the Port through the end of April; 2) high water has caused issues with Dock 3 repairs for the last month and a half. Dredging is almost complete and pilings have been driven. FEMA funds were frozen at one point but are starting to come through now; 3) the cost for the levee around the North Port Tract was anticipated at \$40,000.00 but has now increased to \$700,000.00 due to the requirement for a laydown yard and fuel. Issues have come up with the certification of the levee by FEMA, which could be a drawn-out process and the Port will need a 408 permit since work would be done in vicinity of an existing levee. The Port is working on a

path forward.

Also part of the Director's Activity Report, Mr. Tyler reported: 1) GWE project is still a potential tenant which would produce sustainable aviation fuel. He should have more information in the near future regarding potential site opportunities; 2) representatives of Project New Hope will be making a site visit in the near future; 3) the tax millage proposal was approved by the State and he is working on a presentation; and 4) he is applying for potential LED funding for the water treatment facility.

After the Commissioners reviewed the 2024 year end Treasurer's Report, a motion was made by Mr. Allen, seconded by Mr. Zachary and duly carried to accept the report. After the Commissioners reviewed January, 2025, through April, 2025, Treasurer's Reports, a motion was made by Mr. Allen, seconded by Mr. Zachary and duly carried to accept the reports. Copies of the Treasurer's Reports were available for review.

In Old Business: 1) no new information related to the rail spur on the North Port Tract; and 2) he now has a concept regarding additional enclosed storage.

In New Business: 1) motion was made by Mr. Allen, seconded by Mr. Zachary and duly passed for a resolution to approve a Short Term Lease Agreement with Kisatchie Chips for loading pad/facility for 6 months with a potential 6 month extension; 2) funding has been approved by Capital Outlay to update the conveyor system but funding will not be available until December; 3) motion was made by Mr. Allen, seconded by Mr. Zachary and duly passed for a resolution to approve an application to the Louisiana Port Construction and Development Priority Program Intergovernmental Replacement Agreement between State of Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development and Natchitoches Parish Port Commission for Natchitoches Port Conveyors, Tank, and Warehousing in Natchitoches Parish.

A motion was made by Mr. Allen, seconded by Mr. Zachary, and after a unanimous roll call vote, the Board entered executive session to discuss litigation matters.

After exiting the executive session, a motion was made by Mr. Allen, seconded by Mr. Zachary and duly carried that the meeting be adjourned.