**PROCEEDINGS OF A REGULAR MEETING OF**

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF**

**THE MORGAN CITY HARBOR AND TERMINAL DISTRICT**

**September 12, 2016**

The Board of Commissioners (“Board”) of the Morgan City Harbor and Terminal District (“District”) met in regular session at the District’s office at 7327 Highway 182, Morgan City, Louisiana on September 12, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. Duane Lodrigue, President convened the meeting with Commissioners Gary Duhon, Deborah Garber, R. Scott Melancon, Tim Matthews, Sr., Ben Adams and Joseph Cain in attendance. Thomas Ackel was absent. Also present at the meeting were Raymond Wade, Executive Director; Tori Henry, Office Manager; Cindy Cutrera, Manager of Economic Development; Gerard Bourgeois, Board Attorney; Representative Sam Jones; Parish President David Hanagriff and Parish Councilman Gabe Beadle; Mayor Boo Grizzaffi; Michael Knobloch, Knobloch Professional Services; Tim Connell, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Captain Blake Welborn and Executive Officer John Miller, United States Coast Guard (“USCG”); Terrel Martin, GSE/Providence Engineering; Mike Lowe, GHD Services; Craig Noel and Todd Mouton, American Integration Contractors, LLC; along with members of the media and general public.

The meeting was called to order and the presence of a quorum was noted. Mr. Wade led the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

It was moved by Mr. Duhon and seconded by Mr. Matthews that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of August 8, 2016 be approved and adopted, with said motion carrying unanimously.

It was moved by Mrs. Garber that the report of receipts and disbursements for the month of August, 2016 be received and accepted and that all invoices presented to the Board for the month of August, 2016 be paid.

Captain Welborn reported that: (i) high water is still being experienced on the Port Allen Route and a navigation bulletin has been issued due to shoaling at the lower Atchafalaya reach. (ii) July and August were pretty much the same concerning total transits. He also introduced his new Executive Officer John Miller.

Mr. Wade reported on behalf of Chief Franklin that they will be placing temporary buoys at Mile Marker 142.

Tim Connell reported that: (i) they surveyed the area where the temporary buoys are being placed and there is plenty of depth, however it was only dredged to 250’, which is where mariners are having the problems. (ii) Dredging for this fiscal year is complete but with the same problem, little funding for big problems but are trying to optimize with the funding we get to keep the channel open. (iii) Last week they gathered post-dredging Reotune data for the agitation demonstration, which was completed on August 14th and the final report should be completed by December 31st. Mr. Wade thanked the Corps for allowing the Port to use their Reotune while our pressure switch is being repaired. Mr. Cain thanked the Corps for their hospitality during the Mississippi River Commission’s Low Water Trip.

Mike Knobloch reported that: (i) the deadline for the FY14 Port Security Grant was August 31st and as the work was able to be completed by that date, the extension requested was not needed. On August 19th we received the Corps Letter of No Objection and was able to immediately begin implementing the projects. (ii) FY15 Port Security Grant’s maintenance continues and should be completed by February 2017; (iii) we were advised that we have been awarded $444,750 through the FY16 Port Security Grant, with a local match of $148,250. Of the three investment justifications submitted, two were either partially or fully funded, with projects including special systems and radios equipment, one year of maintenance and sustainability for the MET stations and one year of maintenance for Port of Morgan City Regional Collaboration Network (PMCRCN). An environmental and historical preservation form must be completed on these projects and submitted to FEMA. He thanked Jackie Price of BEARS for helping to identify the radio needs and providing cost estimates.

Craig Noel of American Integration Contractors made a presentation to the Board on the significance of the PMCRCN, which allows other local agencies to share critical information for enhanced response capabilities within the District and the Touch Assisted Control Command System (TACCS), the backbone of IBM’s “Intelligent Operations Center for Emergency Management”.

Mike Lowe reported that: (i) they are continuing to support the dredge demonstration along with the Port’s consultants in modeling the data received and following up on the monitoring; (ii) they are currently exploring a pilot program for use in the Atchafalaya Bar Channel (ABC), similar to a system being used in a Houston Ship Channel, which was partially successful there but will be modified for use in the ABC. Some technical review has been completed and they will continue to work with the developer to see if it can be utilized in the ABC with less equipment yet more economical. (iii) They are collaborating with Coastal Ports for a contract with Fort Worth District for Homeland Security funding, which is not a grant but a contract for performing port security work. Upon approval from the Coast Guard, further work towards addressing the needs of the ports will commence.

Cindy Cutrera reported that: (i) final review of Dr. Richardson’s economic analysis of maintaining the Channel is complete and has been forwarded to local, state and federal delegation and agencies, including the Corps in New Orleans, Vicksburg and Washington, DC; (ii) she and Mac met with Brad Inhman and Sarah Bradley to discuss possible beneficial use projects funded outside of the normal O&M budget; (iii) the Mississippi River Commission low water tour and public meeting were a great success. Mr. Wade was a panel member during a stakeholder round-table and he testified before the Commission again on Friday about the demo project in detail, including the Port’s disappointment in the dredging company’s refusal to share information. General Wehr was unaware of the withholding of all information but assured Mac he would resolve it. Mac, along with the Levee District also addressed the Commission, also focused his comments on our land building potential and on the amount of material that was recently dredged from Berwick Bay and wasted or disposed of in open water. She also testified on behalf of Inland Rivers, Ports and Terminals with a focus on becoming more efficient in maintaining our rivers as well as the fact that one unreliable channel will kill navigation and local economies up and down the river system. She thanked all of the commissioners and local stakeholders who participated during these events, especially Garber Brothers for allowing the M/V Mississippi to moor at their Berwick dock due to high water conditions that would not allow the vessel to go under the 182 bridge safely. (iv) she attended CPRA on behalf of Mr. Wade and she spoke during the public comment session where she noted the availability of nutrient rich material from in land areas, in particular the Atchafalaya River, where several other people back up her testimony requesting CPRA to use more inland rather than offshore material. Mr. Wade has an upcoming field trip down the river to view the island at Mile Marker 142 and the bar channel area with Simone Maloze of Restore and Retreat and some CPRA personnel. (v) The Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council will be meeting in Morgan City on September 22nd to discuss and seek public comment on the draft 2013 Comprehensive Plan update, which Mr. Wade will be attending and urged any commissioners available to please attend as well. (vi) Mr. Wade attended the GICA Conference along with Admiral Callahan, Colonel Clancey, Mike Park, Captain Welborn and Tom Podany of Waterborne Commerce. (vii) She participated in a telephone interview on behalf of IRPT, scheduled by the Government Accountability Office. They were very interested in the details about the Atchafalaya River and the demo project and she furnished them a copy of Dr. Richardson’s report upon their request. (viii) PAL held its September Board meeting in our EOC, which was very well attended and they were extremely impressed with the layout, equipment and functionality of the building. Grow LA Coalition spoke to the group about the importance of the oil and gas industry contributes to coastal protection and restoration. Also this month Leadership St. Mary toured the facility, Senator Cassidy held a Town Hall meeting, Customs and Coast Guard held a Jones Act training and we have been asked to host the CWPPRA Regional Planning Team meeting in February, 2017.

Mrs. Garber moved to authorize the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire which was seconded by Mr. Duhon and carried unanimously.

Mr. Bourgeois reported that Swiftships recently contacted the Port regarding new contracts, which could have a substantial economic impact on the area and require an expansion to their yard(s), and that they had discussed the possibility of a Port Priority Program project for this expansion. Representative Jones noted that the Port Priority Program has been funded at $19 million per year in the Governor’s budget, which is double of prior administration and still insufficient to fund every application in pipeline, but it is an excellent program for the area and we should be looking at any projects that qualify. Mr. Wade noted that the Port’s priority is navigation but its mission includes economic development. He also noted that the project will improve our cost benefit ratio for funding for dredging. Mr. Duhon moved to authorize the drafting of the appropriate application(s) to the Port Priority Program for filing before December 1st, which motion was seconded by Mr. Matthews and carried by members on a vote of six to one against. Representative Jones noted that the Port Priority Program has never been used for dredging but he is trying to change that rule for our Port and others.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Attest:

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Thomas Ackel, Secretary