

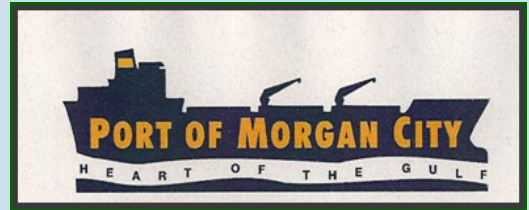
The WayPoint

News From

Volume 2, Issue 1

May 2010

MORGAN CITY, LOUISIANA



GREETINGS From The Executive Director

The year 2009 was a year of change for your Port. As we look back we can see significant milestones for the Port. We bought property from the H & B Young Foundation which marked the first time they had sold property and only the second time the Commission had purchased property.

In retrospect the ability of the Commission to re-establish a relationship with the H & B Young Foundation was one of the highlights of 2009. This one act of mutual cooperation between two institutions with the same economic goal insured that InterMoor, a local international company, will remain in the District. InterMoor will not only remain but will increase its already sizeable presence. When all is said and done the InterMoor facility will approach 20-million dollars in total investment. A job well done and a pat on the back are in order for the Commission and the H & B Young Foundation.

The over 20-year quest to have Crewboat Cut designated as the natural course of the Atchafalaya and abandoning the Horseshoe has finally culminated in success. All that is left is the necessary signatures from the Corps of Engineers to make it official. Hopefully this will be done within the next few months and work can begin. The Corps of Engineers scope of work includes a small amount of dredging and installing rock on the Eastern side of the waterway to protect the land from erosion caused by wave action. It is worthy of note that this successful venture could not have been accomplished without the cooperation of local citizens and civic groups all pulling together for a common cause.

The Commission made a historic decision to provide \$300,000.00 towards a Value Engineering Assessment for the purpose of exploring new dredging methods capable of maintaining our Bar and Bay Channels at the Congressional mandated 20-feet. This decision came about with the realization that what has been done over the past few decades is simply not working. It was determined by the Commission that due to the uniqueness of Atchafalaya River fluff the chances of eliminating the phenomenon were zero and the other alternative was devising ways to manage the problem. The Commission contracted with the reputable engineering firm of Moffatt and Nichol who has international experience in helping other Ports with similar problems. The Commission also partnered with the Corps of Engineers who brought their expertise and vast array of assets to the group effort. Meetings between all three groups have taken place and certain progress has been made. The problem is not solved as of yet, but it is the general feeling among the Commission that an economical solution will be found.

PORT CURRENTS (What's New at the Port of Morgan City)



NEW COMMISSIONER (Pictured left)

A swearing-in ceremony was held in January to install Joe Jones of Morgan City as a member of the Morgan City Harbor and Terminal District board. Jones replaced Willie Tezeno, whose term expired. Administering Jones the oath was board attorney Gerard Bourgeois.



NEW EMPLOYEE (Pictured right)

Welcome, Tori Henry, Port of Morgan City Administrative Assistant!

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OUR PREPARATIONS FOR HURRICANE SEASON ARE ALMOST COMPLETE

A 150-kw generator has been installed (pictured at right) and a new roof for the office has been completed. New storm shutters have also been installed on the building. The Emergency Operating Center will be completed soon, and we will be ready for emergencies which we hope will never come.

For more information on hurricane readiness and emergency preparedness visit getagameplan.org.



PRESENTATION TO TOWN OF BERWICK

The Board presented the Town of Berwick with a check in the amount of \$50,000 to assist in upgrading of the wharf and dock located between the two bridges on the Berwick waterfront. Mayor Louis Ratcliff accepted the funds on behalf of the Town of Berwick. Pictured from left are Commissioners Joe Jones, Thomas "Matt" Ackel, William "Billy" Pecoraro, Commission President Raymond "Mac" Wade, Mayor Ratcliff, Board Secretary Greg Aucoin, Commissioner Duane Lodrigue and Board Vice-President William "Bill" New.

PLOTTER DONATED TO YOUNG MEMORIAL

The Board declared an HP Design Jet Plotter as surplus property and by Cooperative Endeavor Agreement delivered the plotter to the LTCS Young Memorial Campus. Young Memorial will utilize the plotter in the training of mariners and shipbuilders and will provide use of the plotter to the POMC as needed for the facilitation of navigation within the District. Pictured are (from left to right) Young Memorial Campus Administrator Karl Young, Port of Morgan City Manager of Economic Development Cindy Cutrera and Young Memorial Drafting Instructor Tom Mewherter.



PORT OF MORGAN CITY WILL RECEIVE OVER \$1.6 MILLION TO IMPROVE SECURITY

The Port of Morgan City will receive over \$1.6 million, approximately \$563,000 for FY 2009 and approximately \$1.2 million for FY 2010, in federal grant assistance from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Port Security Grant Program (PSGP) to assist in improving security for the Port Wide area. The Port Security Grant Program provides funding to port areas for the protection of critical port infrastructure from terrorism.

In the United States, port security is handled jointly by the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), both components of the Department of Homeland Security. The U.S. Coast Guard is responsible for evaluating, boarding, and inspecting commercial ships as they approach U.S. waters, for countering terrorist threats in U.S. ports. CBP's primary responsibility is the inspecting of cargo, including containers that commercial ships bring into U.S. ports. CBP is also responsible for the inspection of ships crews and passengers aboard a vessel. The Morgan City Harbor & Terminal District is proud to join forces with both agencies, as well as state and local law enforcement agencies in providing improved port security and will act as fiduciary agent for the Port Security Grant Program.

With the security grant funding, the Morgan City Harbor & Terminal District will enhance the port's Maritime Domain Awareness regarding communications by expanding and upgrading already implemented communication programs to adequately communicate with all federal, state and local law enforcement agencies and by adding an Emergency Operating Center of which, the Port of Morgan City would operate during times of an emergency. During non emergency times the Emergency Operating Center would double as a Port Security training and exercise facility. Various security classes would be offered to Facility Security Officers, Security Guards and First Responder Units. Port Security grant funds will also be utilized to reduce vulnerabilities and deficiencies in existing security plans by strengthening landside perimeters, increasing video surveillance monitoring and improving vehicle inspection sites.

Currently, the MCHTD is in the Risk Mitigation Management Plan (RMMP) development stage of the program. The plan is required and must be approved by the Department of Homeland Security prior to funding security projects. Knobloch Professional Services was contracted to assist the District in the development of the management plan. The draft RMMP plan will be submitted to the Department of Homeland Security for approval in the summer of 2010.

"MOOR" NEWS

YOUNGWOOD SITE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

In 2009 InterMoor discovered they had outgrown their present location in Amelia and began looking for sites to construct their new facilities. This search included Louisiana sites and also several Texas locations. During their search the news that they were contemplating moving to another State trickled to the Port of Morgan City, and the rest is history. The Port, through the State Port Priority Fund, was able to provide \$6.6 Million in State funding. Another \$1.5 Million in funding is being provided by the Louisiana Department of Economic Development through their EDAP program. The Port was also able to acquire from the Federal Economic Development Agency a \$3.5 million matching fund Grant.

By DOTD and the LDED reacting immediately and decisively, a large company was convinced to stay in the State of Louisiana, not only preserving jobs but a way of life as well. The District and InterMoor were able to enter into a lease agreement which would provide for the construction, development and operation of an oil and gas fabrication, materials and equipment handling, storage and transfer facility at 101 Youngwood Road, Morgan City.

More than 80 guests were on hand for the groundbreaking ceremony which was held in November 2009. Guests who spoke at the event included Governor Bobby Jindal, Morgan City Mayor Tim Matte and Port of Morgan City President Mac Wade. InterMoor President Tom Fulton, Vice President of Finance Scott Thomas, and Quality Assurance and Quality Control Manager Chuck Fontenot also addressed the guests.

Since that time, bids have been received and contracts awarded on both the Yard Improvements and Buildings phases of the project. The completion of the facility is projected to be September 2010. The over \$16.0 million dollar project is the biggest construction project to hit the Morgan City area since the construction of Oceaneering's state of the art facility.

According to InterMoor statistics, not only will they retain 212 jobs over the next few years, but approximately 300 new jobs will also be added.



Pictured above with Governor Jindal (third from left) at Groundbreaking are InterMoor Officials Vic Mitchell, Brad Adkins, Kelly Moor, Tom Fulton, Chuck Fonenot, Scott Thomas and Larry Puckett.

Pictured Bottom of Page:
Far Left: (from left to right) Commission President Raymond "Mac" Wade, POMC Executive Director Jerry Hoffpaur (standing), InterMoor Vice President of Finance Scott Thomas and Commission Secretary Greg Aucoin at official signing of lease.

Center: Current photo of InterMoor yard

Right: (from left to right) signing a \$6.6 million Bond issue for the InterMoor development are Whitney Bank City President, Jim Corbett; Port of Morgan City Executive Director, Jerry Hoffpaur (standing); and Port Commission President, Mac Wade.



Congratulations to InterMoor for being awarded The Best of Morgan City Award by the U S Commerce Association for a second year in a row.

POINTS OF INTEREST

CHANGE OF COMMAND

Two individuals who have been very good friends to the Port of Morgan City, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (COE) New Orleans District Commander, Colonel Alvin B. Lee, and U. S. Coast Guard Commander of the Morgan City Marine Safety Unit, Captain J. Scott Paradis, will be leaving us this summer. U. S. Coast Guard Change of Command Ceremonies will be held in early June, and the COE Change of Command will take place in July. The Port of Morgan City Commissioners and staff would like to offer both of these gentlemen our well wishes in their new endeavors and express our sincere appreciation for everything you have done for us.

DATA COLLECTION

Industry continues to stress the need for a consistent 20 foot channel in order to avoid loss of business. And, like it or not, in order to obtain funding to maintain your channel we must provide certain information to the Navigation Data Center, the agency responsible for supplying the information that is used in the COE budget process. After working with this group for nearly two years, the NDC has allowed some flexibility in how we classify materials that are transported, but they still require certain information that makes it evident that their current reporting requirements are not fully aligned with daily offshore operations and procedures, including client confidentiality. In February, the Commissioners approved a one year trial subscription with Port Vision, a vessel tracking software package that will help us to provide pertinent information required by the NDC. We will continue to work with the NDC and hope to convince them to match their tonnage reporting criteria to information that can be reasonably provided.

GREETINGS FROM AIDS TO NAVIGATION TEAM MORGAN CITY

The past year has been a busy time for the crew of Aids to Navigation Team Morgan City. The Aids to Navigation started the Summer of 2009 by visiting each one of our 172 assigned aids to navigation located between Lake Cocodrie, and Freshwater Bayou, extending north to Krotz Springs, and South to the Gulf of Mexico. Crew members visited these aids to verify their GPS position. They also verified battery serial numbers for all lighted aids. This was done to ensure records were accurate and matched the Coast Guard's main aids to navigation data base.



As the end of summer approached, the unit was inspected by our parent command, Sector New Orleans and Coast Guard Headquarters to ensure compliance with Coast Guard Readiness and Operation standards. This grueling process included the administering of written test, a physical fitness assessment, evaluation of emergency drills conducted on unit boats, inspection of all protective equipment worn by unit personnel, material conditions of all Coast Guard boats assigned, and an administrative inspection of the unit's record keeping. Aids to Navigation Team Morgan City received a score of 46 out of a possible 50. This outstanding score earned the unit the Summer I. Kimball Readiness Award. This highly coveted award distinguishes Coast Guard units who have achieved excellence in Readiness and Operations. All Coast Guard units with boats assigned are evaluated on the standards every two years. Less than 10% of all Coast Guard units are awarded the Summer I. Kimball Readiness Award following their assessment every two years. This assessment was implemented for units like Aids to Navigation Team Morgan City in 2007 and the unit has established itself as one of the elite in the Coast Guard by earning the award two times in a row. The crew performed flawlessly and the outstanding teamwork has been a key to our success.

The crew of Aids to Navigation Team Morgan City has also been involved with volunteering at local schools. The crew painted the covered playground at M. E. Norman Elementary, cleaned/ pressure washed surfaces for painting at M. D. Shannon Elementary, and tutored students at schools located in Morgan City and Patterson, including Hattie Watts Elementary. The crew was honored by several schools at their Veterans Day ceremonies.

We had the opportunity to welcome three new members to our crew. BMI Nicholas Jones reported to us from his previous duty station in North Carolina and assumed the duties of Executive Petty Officer. SA Dylan Baker and FA Steven Williams reported to us from basic training to begin their careers with the Coast Guard.

As we head into Summer 2010, we plan to conduct scheduled servicing on our assigned aids to navigation and conduct training to get our newly reported personnel qualified in all of their assigned duties. We will also say goodbye to MK1 Krista Beck as she heads to Seattle, WA this summer. **Provided By: BMC Corey Fontenot, Officer in Charge**