

CENTRAL LOUISIANA REGIONAL PORT

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

April 10, 2024

The Central Louisiana Regional Port Board of Commissioners convened at 8:02 AM, April 10, 2024, at the Port Central Office, 600 River Port Road, Alexandria, Louisiana.

Present were: Paul Coreil, Mike Grant, Daniel Lonsberry, Gil McKee, John Scott, Basil Smith, Terry Spruill, Larry Turner

Absent: Haywood Joiner, Brannin Leglue,

Also Present: Ben, Russo, CLRP Executive Director; Stephanie Ryland, CLRP; Bill Fontenot, CLEC; John Pickles, AQRRL

Roll called by Stephanie Ryland

Upon establishing a quorum, the meeting was called to order by President Daniel Lonsberry.

Invocation was given by Commissioner Basil Smith

Pledge of Allegiance led by President Daniel Lonsberry

President Lonsberry offered a Public Comment Period Pursuant to LRS 42:14; there were none.

VI. Action Items:

- a. Agenda: Motion by Commissioner T. Spruill, seconded by Commissioner M. Grant, to approve agenda as proposed; motion carried.
- b. Minutes: Motion by Commissioner G. McKee, seconded by Commissioner B. Smith, to approve Minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting held on March 21, 2024; motion carried.

8:05 AM Commissioner Larry Turner arrived.

- c. Financial: Motion by Commissioner T. Spruill, seconded by Commissioner G. McKee, to approve **RESOLUTION 2024-03** for adoption of the 2024-2025 General Operating Budget as presented and certification of compliance of public input relative to the budget.

Roll Call Vote was held for the approved motion as follows:

Yays: Paul Coreil, Mike Grant, Daniel Lonsberry, Gil McKee, John Scott, Basil Smith, Terry Spruill, Larry Turner

Nays - none

Absent: Haywood Joiner, Brannin Leglue,

- d. Motion by Commissioner T. Spruill, seconded by Commissioner M. Grant to approve the Personnel Committee's recommendations as presented; motion carried without opposition.

VII. Comments:

- a. Comments by Executive Director, Ben Russo – CLRP was awarded EDA grant, bid was award for the Bridge project, going out for public bid for DRA Avant,
- b. Comments by Legal – Absent
- c. Comments by Economic Development – none
- d. Comments from Elected Officials – none
- e. Comments by public– President Lonsberry acknowledged Mr. Bill Fontenot and Mr. John Pickles as representatives AQRRL (Association for Quality Red River Living).

In summary, Mr. Bill Fontenot urged the Port to "cease and dismiss any and all efforts to build a port between mile markers 83-84." He emphasized that this location is directly across the river from 18-20 residents of River View Acres, who believe that the Beaver Lake Renewables project would disrupt their quality of life. Mr. Fontenot insisted that alternative sites be thoroughly evaluated.

Mr. John Pickles was acknowledged, and he emphasized the importance of distinguishing between demanding and simply requesting customers to explore alternative sites.

President Lonsberry concluded the public comment session.

f. Comments / Questions by Commissioners – none

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner T. Spruill motioned to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner M. Grant. This meeting of April 10, 2024, was adjourned by President Lonsberry at 8:38 AM.

Next meeting scheduled for May 22, 2024.

Daniel Lonsberry, President