

CENTRAL LOUISIANA REGIONAL PORT

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

October 23, 2024

The Central Louisiana Regional Port Board of Commissioners convened at 8:01 AM, October 23, 2024, at the Port Central Office, 600 River Port Road, Alexandria, Louisiana.

Present were: Paul Coreil, Mike Grant, Gil McKee, Brannin Leglue, John Scott, Terry Spruill, Larry Turner

Absent: Haywood Joiner, Basil Smith

Also Present: Ben, Russo, CLRP Executive Director; Stephanie Ryland, CLRP Executive Assistant; Tommie Seaton, Senator Cassidy; Donna Howe, Congresswoman Letlow; Luke Miller, MMLH

Roll called by Stephanie Ryland

Upon establishing a quorum, the meeting was called to order by Vice President Terry Spruill

Invocation was given by Commissioner Larry Turner

Pledge of Allegiance led by Vice-President Terry Spruill

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

VI. Action Items:

- a. Agenda: Motion by Commissioner P. Coreil, seconded by Commissioner G. McKee, to approve agenda as proposed; motion carried.
- b. Minutes: Motion by Commissioner B. Leglue, seconded by Commissioner L. Turner, to approve Minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting held on September 25, 2024; motion carried.
- c. Financial: Motion by Commissioner J. Scott, seconded by Commissioner P. Coreil to approve financial statements for September 2024; motion carried.
- d. Motion by Commissioner G. McKee, seconded by Commissioner P. Coreil to accept the Fiscal Year 2023-2024 Audit Report as prepared by Nicholas Fowlkes with Kolder, Slaven & Company LLC; motion carried.
- e. Motion by Commissioner P. Coreil, seconded by Commissioner B. Leglue to approve MMLH's proposal to provide permitting services for two dock facilities located at N=280035.922', E=3315873.389 and N=279400.966', E=3316223.512 and access road to each facility; motion carried without opposition.
- f. Motion by Commissioner G. McKee, seconded by Commissioner J. Scott to authorize the Executive Director to execute a Right of Entry Agreement with the Red River Waterway Commission in regard to permitting dock facilities; motion carried.
- g. Motion by Commissioner P. Coreil, seconded by Commissioner M. Grant to approve **RESOLUTION 2024-13** authorizing the executive director to sign all documents related to the Department of Defense Grant # CIP 2168-24-01; motion carried unanimously.

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

Yays - Paul Coreil, Mike Grant, Gil McKee, Brannin Leglue, John Scott,
Terry Spruill, Larry Turner

Nays - none

Absent - Haywood Joiner, Basil Smith

VII. Comments:

a. Comments by Executive Director – Ben Russo

Ben Russo provided the following updates during the meeting:

- **Bond Issuance:** Attorneys and advisors have been hired to assist with the overall process of bond issuance.
- **Highwater Hardstand Project:** Bids have been issued to add stone to the highwater hardstand.

- **Bridge Project:** The bridge project is progressing well, with anticipated completion in early November.
- **Avant Production Facility & Drainage Ditch Project:** Expected to be completed in November.
- **FTZ Project:** The project is on track for completion in December.
- **Land Acquisition:**
 - The City of Alexandria has started the surplus process for the 9+ acres CLRP intends to purchase, with boring plans.
 - A small parcel of land (approximately 1 acre) between the old D&J Construction and Rinker Materials area is owned by Northport Properties. Discussions are ongoing with Steve Ayers and Bryan Bossier regarding acquisition to ensure levee access.
- **Funding Updates:**
 - Capital Outlay funds, once awarded, can be utilized immediately.
 - Port Priority funds will only be distributed when fully funded.
- **Audit:** CLRP received another clean audit. Special appreciation was extended to Executive Assistant Stephanie Ryland for her dedication to maintaining compliance with proper procedures throughout the year.

These updates reflect the continued progress and strategic efforts being made across multiple projects at the port.

- b. Comments by Legal Counsel – none
- c. Comments by Economic Development – none
- d. Comments from Elected Officials – none
- e. Comments by public– none
- f. Comments / Questions by Commissioners – P. Coreil complimented Ben on the continued improvements at the Port.

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner G. McKee motioned to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner L. Turner. This meeting of October 23, 2024, was adjourned by Vice President T. Spruill at 8:42 AM.

Terry Spruill, Vice President