

CENTRAL LOUISIANA REGIONAL PORT

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

March 26, 2025

The Central Louisiana Regional Port Board of Commissioners convened at 8:03 AM, March 26, 2025, at the Port Central Office, 600 River Port Road, Alexandria, Louisiana.

Present were: Bo Douglas, Mike Grant, Gil McKee, Brannin Leglue, John Scott, Basil Smith, Terry Spruill, Larry Turner

Absent: Paul Coreil, Haywood Joiner

Also Present: Ben, Russo, CLRP Executive Director; Keith Hillman, MMLH; Luke Miller, MMLH; Landon Fewell, CLRP Intern; Stephanie Ryland, CLRP Executive Assistant

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 Basil Smith

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 M. Grant, seconded by Commissioner J. Scott, to approve the 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 February 26, 2025; motion carried.
- c. Financial - Motion by Commissioner G. McKee, seconded by Commissioner B. Smith to approve financial statements for February 2025; motion carried.
 - o Operating revenues are up about \$35,000 for the month and around \$380,000 for the year.
 - o There was no extraordinary income or expenses.
- d. Financial - Motion by Commissioner M. Grant, seconded by Commissioner B. Douglas approve **RESOLUTION 2025-02** for adoption of the 2025-2026 General Operating Budget as presented and certifying compliance of public input relative to the budget; motion passed.
 - o The budget presentation and public notice period were completed with no public comments.
 - o The fiscal year budget will start May 1.

A roll call vote was held for the approved motion with the following results:

Yays – Bo Douglas Mike Grant, Gil McKee, Brannin Leglue, John Scott, Basil Smith, Terry Spruill, Larry Turner

Nays – none

Absent – Paul Coreil, Haywood Joiner

Abstain – none

- e. Motion by Commissioner J. Scott, seconded by Commissioner B. Smith to approve the Nominating Committee's recommendations for president, vice-president and secretary/treasurer for the two-year term, May 2025-April 2027; motion passed as follows:
 - President – Terry Spruill
 - Vice-President – Haywood Joiner
 - Secretary/treasurer – John Scott
- f. Motion by Commissioner B. Leglue, seconded by Commissioner G. McKee to approve **RESOLUTION 2025-03** approving changes of bank signatories; motion passed.
 - o Dr. Joiner will be added as a signatory, replacing Mr. Lonsberry.
 - o The port uses Chase Bank due to its security measures and great customer service.
 - o When CLRP is awarded a grant, a separate checking account is opened so no monies are mixed with other monies in other accounts.
 - Ben explained the port must follow federal regulations when receiving federal money; it is preferred not to co-mingle funds with other projects.
 - Federal audits will be conducted this year due to grant money received.
 - Commissioner Turner prefers local banks because Chase doesn't do much in our community.
 - The main reason for using Chase is for regulatory and protection purposes.

A roll call vote was held for the approved motion with the following results:

Yays – Bo Douglas Mike Grant, Gil McKee, Brannin Leglue, John Scott, Basil Smith,
Terry Spruill, Larry Turner

Nays – none

Absent – Paul Coreil, Haywood Joiner

Abstain – none

- g. Motion by Commissioner B. Smith, seconded by Commissioner G. McKee to Change Order #1 to SkyPlex Construction for the 45-acre Tract Site Improvements project not to exceed \$97,014; motion carried.
- The project is located on the 45 acres acquired from Northport.
 - Funding is provided by Louisiana Economic Development (LED).
 - The change order increases the pad area to 3 acres to maximize the use of LED money.
 - The original plan was for a 1.5-acre pad.
 - The project involves removing clay and backfilling with select fill to create a construction-ready site.
 - The project is scheduled to start in the next one to two weeks and be completed by May 11, with a 45-day curing period.
- h. Motion by Commissioner B. Smith, seconded by Commissioner B. Douglas to approve **RESOLUTION 2025-04** authoring the Executive Director, Ben Russo, to submit an application with DRA for a Community Infrastructure Fund grant.

A roll call vote was held for the approved motion with the following results:

Yays – Bo Douglas Mike Grant, Gil McKee, Brannin Leglue, John Scott, Basil Smith,
Terry Spruill, Larry Turner

Nays – none

Absent – Paul Coreil, Haywood Joiner

Abstain – none

- The DRA co-chair visited and encouraged a grant application.
 - The plan is to use the money to increase hard stand and road access to the port.
- i. Motion by Commissioner B. Leglue, seconded by Commissioner L. Turner to approve the proposed insurance coverage from Travelers for CLRP property, inland marine, marine general liability, and hired/non-owned auto liability policies; motion carried.

VII. Comments:

a. Comments by Executive Director – Ben Russo

Ben Russo provided the following updates which reflect the continued progress and strategic efforts being made across multiple projects at the port:

Distran Project and Corps of Engineers Permit

- Corps of Engineers permit: working through the New Orleans office, anticipate finishing permitting by mid-summer.
- Finalizing phase one, main building plans: working with DISTRAN to close out, bid packages set up for bidding this summer.

Lacred Money, LED Money, and Beaver Lake Project

- Legislative session begins in a couple of weeks, will be spending a lot of time on that.
- Beaver Lake project: president and executive vice president were in for the governor's discussions.
- Project wise: starting out at about 400,000 tons on the river annually, now at 500 plus.
 - Optimizations in design phases led to better output.
- FE3 feasibility study started permitting, engineering, final engineering, with the ultimate decision in the second quarter next year.

Beaver Lake Project Discussions

- Everything seems to be going well with the Beaver Lake project.

Hyundai Project

- The Hyundai project was initiated by Entergy due to its huge electric loads.
- It will be located on a 17,000-acre tract of land developed by the state.
 - It will produce steel for Hyundai vehicles and other car manufacturers in the United States.
 - The project boasts an extremely low carbon footprint with its electric furnaces.

Indirect Jobs and the Job Pyramid

- Indirect jobs, such as trucking and supply chains, are important.
- The focus should be on the bottom part of the job pyramid, providing good jobs with good benefits to meet the requirements of the people.

City Property Acquisition

- Everything for the city's property acquisition is complete except for signatures.
- Agreements are being mailed back and forth for signatures due to the location of parties involved (some in North Carolina).
- CLRP attorney John Ryland is holding the documents until all signatures are in place for closing.
- There is an agreement between Martin Marietta, the city of Alexandria, and the port.

Helm Contract

- Ben met with Scott Shirk, the president of Helm, to discuss Helm Fertilizer's contract that is ending in less than four years and what their plans are.
- The agreement with Helm is a 60-day notice to vacate or renew.

Facility Retrofitting and Community Needs

- The conveyors were improved because the fertilizer is very corrosive.
 - Other things you could use the conveyor for.
 - Possibly an exporting terminal for grain.
- The fuel terminal helps the community.
 - Lance Harris said that it cost him 3 cents a gallon to move fuel from Opelousas to central Louisiana.
- The fertilizer helps the farming community.
 - Grow crops and forestry.

Skyplex Aggregate Project

- Aggregate for the five acres awarded to Skyplex.
- Department of Defense did not accept the categorical exception for the NEPA.
- Anticipate that starting up in about middle of April and it'll take about three weeks to put that out.
- Won't be finished for the download on military rotation starts on April 28th.

Military and DRA Grant

- Working from a military standpoint to meet facility requirements.
- Master plan in place, working with minor to upgrade numbers.
- DRA grant will help increase hard stand.

Green Methanol and Synergies

- Green methanol can be used for more than just fuel, it's a building block.
- Can be used for low carbon plastic production.
- Waste product could be elemental sulfur, which Avant needs for their production.

Synergies and Project Attention

- Synergies are being recognized for a potential second project, improving the position for future endeavors in the United States.
- There's a shift towards more attention on projects north of I-10.

Meta Project

- The Meta project is considered transformational, estimated at \$10 billion.
- Phase one is 1500 megawatts, 15 times larger than Alexandria's electric load.
- Worker camps are being built in Winnsboro and Delhi to keep construction within Richland Parish.

- 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 – none

There being no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner J. Scott motioned to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner M. Grant. This meeting of April 23, 2025, was adjourned by Vice President T. Spruill at 8:40 AM.

Terry Spruill, Vice President