

CENTRAL LOUISIANA REGIONAL PORT

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

July 23, 2025

The Central Louisiana Regional Port Board of Commissioners convened at 8:00 AM, July 23, 2025, at the Port Central Office, 600 River Port Road, Alexandria, Louisiana.

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

Absent: Haywood Joiner, Larry Turner

Also Present: Ben, Russo, CLRP Executive Director; Jeffrey Hess, Helm; Keith Hillman, MMLH; Luke Miller, MMLH; Stephanie Ryland, CLRP Executive Assistant

Roll called by Stephanie Ryland

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

The invocation was given by Commissioner B. Smith; the prayer was dedicated to Dr. Haywood Joiner.

Pledge of Allegiance led by President Terry Spruill

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

VI. Action Items:

- a. Agenda - Motion by G. McKee, seconded by J. Scott, to approve the agenda as proposed; motion carried.
- b. Minutes - Motion by P. Coreil, seconded by B. Leglue, to approve Minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting held on June 25, 2025; motion carried.
- c. Financial - Motion by B. Leglue, seconded by M. Grant, to approve financial statements for June 2025; discussion was held; motion carried.
- d. Motion by G. McKee, seconded by B. Smith, to approve **RESOLUTION 2025-7** authorizing a replacement agreement and designation of person authorized to sign documents with LaDOTD relative to State Project No H.015981, Electrical Substation Manufacturing Facility.
 - B. Russo stated that \$13,830,000 was allocated as part of the Port Priority Project for the Distran project
 - There is a time frame for funding based on legislative approval and project queue position.
 - The project is receiving funding sooner than expected, with \$1.28 million credited this year.
 - This credit reduces the need for bonding and accelerates project payout.
 - The agreement outlines the reimbursement phase, where funds are provided upon meeting requirements.

ROLL CALL VOTE was held for the approved motion with the following results:

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

Nays – none

Absent – Haywood Joiner, Larry Turner

Abstain – none

VVII. Comments:

- a. Comments by Executive Director:

Red River Navigation Issues

- The Red River moves of a substantial amount of silt per cubic yard of water.
- River flows dropped rapidly after the Fourth of July causing a decrease of the water depth at Lock Two from 10 feet to 4.6 feet.
- The river was completely shut down on July 6, causing tugs and barges to cease movement.
- Fuel barges were stuck, leading to a fuel shortage in 32 parishes around Central Louisiana.
- Emergency permits were obtained to clean out the channel which was offered by Luhr Brothers using their spud barge.
- Dialogue ensued regarding payment for work done for the government.
- The channel was reopened within a day and a half, allowing barges carrying fuel and aggregate to be delivered to ATC and Helm.

Dredging Issues

- The Corps of Engineers lacks sufficient dredging funds.
- A resolution addressing ongoing dredging issues was discussed by the Ports and Waterways Board.
- A committee will compile recommendations for dredging money needs, considering the impact on lock maintenance funds.
- The goal is to present a unified request for the state's needs to representatives like the Speaker of the House, Kennedy, and Senator Cassidy.

12-Foot Channel

- A study is being conducted by the Corps to increase the river to a 12-foot channel instead of a 9-foot channel.
- Expanding to a 12-foot channel would enable each barge to carry more material per trip, increasing efficiency
- If dredged to 12 feet, it ensures the river maintains a 9-foot channel year-round.

Strategic Marine Highway Designation

- Efforts to designate the Red River as a Strategic Marine Highway began four years ago.
- The goal is to prevent prolonged closures that can severely disrupt commercial operations.

Grant Updates

- The MARAD grant is progressing including approvals related to the grant awarded through an earmark from Congressman Letlow
- The PIDP grant will help with an increased truck dump and transloading equipment.

Projects

- The Electrical Substation project will go out for bids on Aug. 1st.
- A permit application for the Beaver Lake project has been submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and engineering work is currently underway.
- The port is waiting for the Lieutenant General to sign off on all the additional paperwork for the military grant; the environmental documentation is expected to be completed within the next month.
- A meeting is scheduled for the end of August with the new Garrison Commander to present the updated master plan.
 - As part of the capital outlay project, they have secured permits to add five additional acres at the lower end of the dock site.
 - Plans include constructing a new road near the Rinker Construction that would cross the levee, providing improved access for military movement.
 - The long-term vision also includes installing a permanent pavilion near the general cargo dock and constructing a new operations center off the bluff, which would allow the current office to be dedicated to the transit building

- b. 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, G. McKee motioned to adjourn, seconded by P. Coreil, this meeting of July 23, 2025, was adjourned by President T. Spruill at 8:27 AM.

Terry Spruill, President