

CENTRAL LOUISIANA REGIONAL PORT

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

August 27, 2025

The Central Louisiana Regional Port Board of Commissioners convened at 8:00 AM, August 27, 2025, at the Port Central Office, 600 River Port Road, Alexandria, Louisiana.

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

Absent: Brannin Leglue

Also Present: Ben, Russo, CLRP Executive Director; Keith Hillman, MMLH; Luke Miller, MMLH

Roll called by Ben Russo

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

The invocation was given by Commissioner Larry Turner.

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 Commissioner G. McKee, seconded by Commissioner B. Douglas, to approve the agenda as proposed; motion carried.
- b. Minutes - Motion by Commissioner B. Smith, seconded by Commissioner P. Coreil, to approve Minutes of the special meeting held on August 15, 2025; motion carried.
- c. Financial - Motion by Commissioner L. Turner, seconded by Commissioner J. Scott, to approve financial statements for July 2025; motion carried.
 - Executive Director, Ben Russo, reported the budget is doing well overall, with slight overages in lawn cutting and insurance, but these are expected to average out over the year.
- d. Motion by Commissioner P. Coreil, seconded by Commissioner M. Grant, to authorize the Executive Director, Ben Russo, to execute all documents associated with financing bond issuance for the Electrical Substation project, SPN: H.015981; motion carried.
 - Governmental consultants are evaluating proposals from Bank of Montgomery and Regions Bank.
- e. Motion by Commissioner B. Smith, seconded by Commissioner M. Grant to approve **RESOLUTION 2025-08** to award contract for the DRA Critical Industry Infrastructure Expansion project (DRA LA-54890) as recommended by MMLH.
 - Bids were opened, and the low bid with the additive alternate was under budget.
 - Remaining funds from the grant will be redirected to build hardstand for DISTRAN.

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

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

Nays – none

Absent – Brannin Leglue

Abstain – none

- f. Motion by Commissioner P. Coreil, seconded by Commissioner J. Scott to approve **RESOLUTION 2025-10** to award contract for Phase I of SPN H.015981(321) Electrical Substation Mfg. Facility – Mfg. and Assembly Buildings as recommended by MMLH, contingent upon LaDOTD concurrence, receipt of additional documents and successful completion of financing of bonds.
 - The original project estimate was \$11.8 million: however, after working with engineers and architects, the base bid estimate was reduced to \$10.5 to \$11.3 million.
 - Four groups submitted bids, but one was disqualified due to a submittal error. The lowest responsive bidder is Tudor, Inc.

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

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

Nays – none

Absent – Brannin Leglue

Abstain – none

- g. Motion by Commissioner J. Scott, seconded by Commissioner G. McKee to approve MMLH Task Order #2025-04 for the United States Department of Transportation Maritime Administration’s (“MARAD”) Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) Transloader project; motion passed.
- This grant was received in 2024 and will fund a transloader, which is a piece of equipment that will be able to be moved in under a rail car that can offload from a rail to a truck, truck to rail or truck to barge.
 - Initially intended for fertilizer, allowing for transport by rail if the river is inaccessible.
 - Includes a smart hopper for coating fertilizer with extended-release micronutrients.
 - Will upgrade the existing, inefficient truck dump for fertilizer.
 - The task order is for \$68,000.
- h. Motion by Commissioner B. Douglas, seconded by Commissioner G. McKee to approve **RESOLUTION 2025-11** authorizing MMLH to advertise the MARAD PIDP Transloader project.
- This is for advertising the public bid for the three pieces of equipment.
 - Estimated cost of around a million dollars for all three pieces of equipment.
 - Contracts must adhere to Buy American, Build American, and Davis Bacon requirements.

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

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

Nays – none

Absent – Brannin Leglue

Abstain – none

- i. Motion by Commissioner B. Smith, seconded by Commissioner L. Turner to approve MMLH Task Order #2025-02 for Phase 1 relative to SPN H.015970; motion passed.
- This is to cover engineering costs until June when a final decision is expected on this project.
 - An agreement is being worked on to ensure reimbursement of engineering costs if the company does not proceed with the project.
 - If the project proceeds, the money will be recaptured through a Cooperative Endeavor agreement with Red River Waterway Commission.
- j. Motion by Commissioner P. Coreil, seconded by Commissioner J. Scott to approve MMLH Task Order #2025-03 for Phase 2 relative to SPN H.015970; motion passed.

VVII. Comments:

- a. Comments by Executive Director:
- Avant Organics recently underwent a facility inspection, during which the port made extra efforts to ensure the exterior of the site was well-prepared.
 - Appreciation was expressed to the Commissioners for convening the special board meeting; the DRA Grant has since been submitted.
- 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, Commissioner J. Scott, motioned to adjourn, seconded by Commissioner G. McKee. This meeting of August 27, 2025, was adjourned by President T. Spruill at 8:34 AM.

Terry Spruill, President