The Madison Parish Port Commission met in a regular session on Tuesday, May 15, 2018 at the

Madison Parish Port Office. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Frazier and a roll call was taken as follows:

Commissioners present: Donald Frazier, Charles Vining, Robert Charles Brown, Jim Tucker, Isaiah Ross and Latasha Griffin

Commissioners absent: Harold Allen

Other members present: Mr. Terry Murphy, Director and Kimmeka Epps, Secretary/Treasurer

Visitors: Kevin Allen (Terral River Service) and Matt Prince (Continental Rail)

On motion given by Commissioner Griffin and seconded by Commissioner Tucker, on approving the previous meeting minutes on Tuesday, March 27, 2018. The minutes were approved with no necessary corrections. Motion carried unanimously.

Secretary Epps made suggestions to the board on several budget items to increase the amounts that are near the budgeted dollars. The board agreed to discuss the issues at the next scheduled meeting.

On motion given by Commissioner Tucker and seconded by Commissioner Vining, the financial reports were approved with no necessary changes. Motion carried unanimously.

Murphy explained the modified contract presented to the board for Revolution Rail Group. He explained that Don Walsh has worked with him on several projects without any monetary value. Walsh would work as a consultant for the Port by marketing the Port to interested person(s). Commissioner Griffin questioned the number of consultants hired at the Port. Murphy added that a consultant is needed to compete with the industry. Griffin stated that several consultants are hired but no jobs have been created as a result of hiring any of the consultants. Commissioner Vining questioned the purpose of hiring Walsh. Murphy added that Walsh has contacts that are interested in looking at the facility. Vining questioned whether there is another consultant in the state that does the same job. Matt Prince stated that in the transportation industry you will have contacts in various states. Vining wants a set amount of monies for the expense of the consultants. Commissioner Tucker asked if Revolution Rail Group has any information as to what his business is about. Murphy added that he does have a website for anyone to view.

Roll Call was taken.

YEA: 3

NAYS: 3

OBTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 1

On motion given by Commissioner Brown and seconded by Commissioner Tucker, on hiring Revolution Rail Group as a consulting group. The motion failed.

At the suggestion of the Secretary that the board table the item until the next schedule meeting.

Roll Call was taken.

YEA: 6

NAYS: 0

OBTAIN: 0

ABSENT: 1

On motion given by Commissioner Vining and seconded by Commissioner Ross, The item is tabled to the next meeting or a later date. The motion was carried unanimously.

Murphy inform the board of the railroad ties that have been located on Port property for years. Murphy has consulted with the attorneys at Crews-Grady law firm about contacting a company in Tensas Parish to accept the ties. The cost is $30 a ton to dispose of the ties. Murphy is unaware of the cost of getting the ties transported to the said area of disposal. He is looking into finding someone to transport the ties to the location of acceptance. Commissioner Griffin questioned Matt Prince on the disposal of ties at DSR. Prince added that he is also looking into the same project. Commissioner Vining responded by saying the ties should be removed. Commissioner Vining suggested checking with Chip Sullivan. The board conversed on the topic arriving at the suggestion of additional information should be furnished before a decision is made.

Commissioner Vining suggested to the board on implementing summer employment for teen students in the future. Vining stated that he thinks that would be a great opportunity for the students. Board agreed that is a good decision. Secretary Epps spoke with Workforce Investment on the topic. The Commissioners had lots of questions upon getting the Port implemented for the future. The board suggested the Secretary& Director look into the project for the future. Commissioner Ross added that he would like for the program to get underway as soon as possible.

Murphy discussed the lease intentions with Transportation Management Services. Secretary Epps provided information to the board on missing information concerning adding TMS as a subsidiary to the lease of Delta Southern Railroad. Matt Prince inform the board on the logistics of the operations of TMS. Prince added that while operations are underway at the Port, TMS is looking into building a location south of the Parish line for a permanent location of business. Commissioner Vining questioned whether the information was provided by Matt Prince. Secretary Epps read out loud the information to which Matt Prince provided. Commissioner Vining responded to the information the secretary read. The information is not what was required of the board for TMS to resume operations at the Port. Commissioner Vining questioned how the operations would resume under the conditions that was not provided by the company at hand. Murphy and Prince added that a separate lease is underway and hopefully it will be available the next meeting date.

Murphy informed the board of an industrial prospect that is interested in the vacant building at the Port. Murphy worked on getting the property presentable for the visit. If the tenant agrees to leasing the property it would be great for the area.

Murphy reported on the IPRT Conference. The conference was well established with speakers concerning the many issues that Ports and Harbors are facing due to government regulations and cut backs. During the conference Murphy established many contacts and resumed continued business with old contacts. Marcus Construction is a company that builds storage units for Ports around the world and should the Port of Madison require such a unit. Murphy stated he would definitely contact that company.

Murphy provided information on establishing an agreement with the Port of Plaquemines. The idea is to have the Port of Madison as a secondary Port for them to assist with the traffic up and down the Mississippi River.

Murphy suggested to the board to apply for another Delta Regional Authority Grant that will assist in building a dock near the far end of the Port. The second dock will assist in more loading and unloading off the Mississippi River.

On motion given by Commissioner Vining and seconded by Commissioners Brown & Ross, to approve the applying of a Delta Regional Authority Grant. Motion carried unanimously.

Murphy updated the board on the progression of the Transportation Grant. He stated that the chances look good for the approval of the grant monies due to the cross state lines contributors.

 **Public comments**: Matt Prince added that several exciting things are underway in the area and some coming from other parts of the country. He stated that he is excited about the opportunities at DSR and TMS.

On motion given by Commissioner Vining and seconded by Commissioner Ross, to enter into executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

On motion given by Commissioner Vining and seconded by Commissioner Ross, to enter back into regular session. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business brought before the board, Chairman Frazier declared the meeting adjourned.

Kimmeka Epps Donald Frazier

Secretary/Treasurer Chairman