

Proceeding of the Regular Meeting of the Greater New Orleans Expressway Commission (GNOEC), Wednesday, August 11, 2021, 10 AM, via video conference

Present: Wanda Theriot, Chair; Joy Zainey, Vice Chair; Red Thompson, Treasurer; Cary Cooper, Secretary

Absent: Col. Evans Spiceland, Assistant Secretary/Treasurer

Others: Carlton Dufrechou, Melissa M. Phillipott, Robert Graham, Curt Franz, Mike Kelly, Thea Andras, Eileen Barthe, Stacie Heffker, and Crystal Scott, GNOEC; Craig Watson, Blue Williams; Liz Lambert, Reiss LeMieux; Cary Bourgeois, GEC; Jim Martin, DEI; Bob Schmidt, Huval; Jan Evans and Hossein Ghara, Volkert; Babak Naghavi, Hardest and Hanover; Nathan Junis, Linfield, Hunter, and Junis; Cullen Ledet, Modjeski and Masters; and the Whitmans.

Chair Theriot called the meeting to order.

On a motion by Chair Wanda Theriot, seconded by Mr. Red Thompson, the minutes of the June 30, 2021, regular meeting were accepted as written. Chair Theriot, Mrs. Joy Zainey, Mr. Thompson and Mr. Gary Cooper voted in favor of the motion.

General Manager's report for June and July 2021:

- Drawbridge: During June we had 5 vessel openings, 2 test openings, and 0 incidents. During July, we had 17 vessel openings, 7 test openings, and 0 incidents.
- Fog Ops: N/A
- July 2, 2107 to 2147, both CW bridges closed due to severe weather.
- July 26, 0800 to 0845, SB bridge exit blocked due to 2 car crash with injuries backed up traffic for 8 miles.
- Breakdowns: During June, we responded to 318 on the CW (189 mechanical and 129 debris) and 52 on the HPL (39 mechanical and 13 debris) for a total of 370 for the month. During July, we responded to 286 on the CW (182 mechanical and 104 debris) and 24 on the HPL (18 mechanical and 6 debris) for a total of 310 for the month.
- Accidents: During June we responded to 9 on the CW (6N, 3S) 2 involved breakdowns or debris and 14 on the HPL (5E, 9W) for a total of 23 for both bridges. During July we responded to 6 on the CW (1N, 1S, 3TPN) and 14 on the HPL (7E, 7W) 1 involved a breakdown for a total of 20 for both bridges.

Regarding the Emergency Repairs to Northshore Exit Lane Due to Erosion, GNOEC Res #2021-09, staff, engineers, and attorneys recommended ratifying the agreement with Boh Bros. On a motion by Mrs. Zainey, seconded by Mr.

Cooper, on July 6, 2021, the GNOEC became aware of erosion affecting the Northshore Exit Lane of the Lake Pontchartrain Causeway necessitating the emergency procurement of repairs due to the imminent threat to the public health, welfare, safety and/or public property. The GNOEC contacted Boh Bros. Construction Co., LLC to possibly undertake the work. After review and discussion of Boh's proposal, Boh's capacity and pricing to undertake the work was determined to be reasonable and the best interest of the GNOEC and therefore Boh was selected to perform the emergency repairs. Accordingly, the selection of and contract with Boh to perform emergency repairs to the Northshore Exit Lane due to erosion in the amount of \$80,000.00 is hereby ratified. Chair Theriot asked the audience if anyone had comments or questions for the Commission regarding this resolution. There were no additional comments or questions from the audience. Chair Theriot, Mrs. Zainey, Mr. Thompson, and Mr. Cooper voted in favor of the motion.


Regarding Authorization to contract for equipment for the Communications Satellite Office, GNOEC Res #2021-10, staff recommend approval. On a motion by Mr. Cooper, seconded by Mr. Thompson, the GNOEC desires to procure equipment, including computers, radios, and monitors, for the Communications Satellite Office in order to replace the current equipment which has reached the end of its useful life. The GNOEC hereby authorizes its General Manager to contract with the approved state contract vendors under contract with the State of Louisiana, pursuant to La. R.S. 39:1701, et seq., to provide for the equipment. The GNOEC hereby further authorizes the General Manager to procure supplemental replacement equipment not sold by a state contract vendor and installation services, subject to his authority. Chair Theriot asked the audience if anyone had comments or questions for the Commission regarding this resolution. There were no additional comments or questions from the audience. Chair Theriot, Mrs. Zainey, Mr. Thompson and Mr. Cooper voted in favor of the motion.

Regarding Authorization to Supplement Employee Benefits Services, GNOEC Res #2021-11, staff and attorneys recommend approval. On a motion by Chair Theriot, seconded by Mr. Thompson, the GNOEC is currently under contract with Benjamin Frank and Harold Pesses and their associated entities to assist the GNOEC in procuring employee benefit services. To mitigate the effects of health insurance premium increases, the GNOEC staff and its consultants recommend the GNOEC supplement the employee benefit services through ratifying a subcontract with Donald Massad, a Professional Corporation. The GNOEC hereby ratifies the Subcontract Agreement between Benjamin B. Frank and Donald Massad, APC to provide employee benefit services. Further, the General Manager is hereby authorized to execute all necessary documents in connection with these services. Chair Theriot asked the audience if anyone had comments or questions for the Commission regarding this resolution. There were no additional comments or questions from the audience. Chair Theriot, Mrs. Zainey, Mr. Thompson and Mr. Cooper voted in favor of the motion.


Regarding Budget Approval, GNOEC Res #2021-12, staff recommended approval. On a motion by Mr. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Cooper, the GNOEC accepts and approves the Amended Budget for the fiscal year November 1, 2020 – October 31, 2021 and the Proposed Budget for fiscal year November 1, 2021 – October 31, 2022 as presented. The GNOEC also accepts and approves the Toll Covenant calculations made of the net worth requirements in accordance with Section 6.15 of the Bond Indenture. Chair Theriot asked the audience if anyone had comments or questions for the Commission regarding this resolution. There were no additional comments or questions from the audience. Chair Theriot, Mrs. Zainey, Mr. Thompson and Mr. Cooper voted in favor of the motion.

Chair Theriot reminded everyone that the next GNOEC meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, September 1, 2021, 10 AM, via video conferencing.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

for 

Wanda Theriot
Chair

for 

Gary Cooper
Secretary