

PROCEEDINGS OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE GREATER NEW ORLEANS EXPRESSWAY COMMISSION HELD ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2011, AT 5:00 P.M., IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF MANDEVILLE CITY HALL, 3101 EAST CAUSEWAY APPROACH, MANDEVILLE, LA.

PRESENT: Pat Brister, Chairman; Lawrence K. Katz, Vice Chairman; Lawrence M. Rase, Secretary; Stephen G. Romig, Member

OTHERS: Carlton Dufrechou; Debbie Lopreore; Cheryl H. Lambert; Chief Nick Congemi; Melissa M. Phillpott; Red Thompson; Robert Graham; Perry Daigrepoint; Stacie Heffker; Robert Brocato; Phil Meyers, Cary Bourgeois & Bob Boagni, GEC, Inc.; Bill Becknell, The Becknell Law Firm; Burgess McCranie, McCranie, Campbell, Sistrunk, Anzelmo, Hardy, McDaniel & Welch; James Lynch, Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management; John Lopez, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation; The Honorable Donald J. Villere, Mayor of Mandeville; John Shires, Professional Engineering Consultants Corp.; Franklin Kyle, Kyle Associates; Steve Phillippi; Suzanne LeBreton, St. Tammany News; Polly Greene, St. Tammany Farmer; Bob Warren, The Times-Picayune

ABSENT: James E. Ravannack, Treasurer

The Chairman called the meeting to order.

Mrs. Brister introduced and welcomed Steve Romig, who was appointed to the Commission by the Jefferson Parish Council.

**On motion by Katz, seconded by Rase, the minutes of the regular meeting held on August 10, 2011 were accepted as written. Mrs. Brister, Mr. Katz, Mr. Rase and Mr. Romig voted in favor of the motion.**

Mr. Dufrechou introduced Dr. John Lopez, Acting Executive Director of the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation. Dr. Lopez presented the August report. Of the forty water quality samples taken, thirty-seven samples (92%) met primary recreation criteria. There were no failures on the South Shore and three on the North Shore. Dr. Lopez stated the water quality in the Pearl River has returned because fresh water has flowed in from upstream. He stated meetings have been held with the president and vice-president of the papermill plant to express concern about future operations and safeguards to prevent another contaminating discharge. Dr. Lopez added International Papers

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is buying the papermill from its current owners and whenever there is a change of management, it raises concerns about the operation of a plant. He stated the river water is better but it will take a while for the species to populate and return.

On behalf of the Causeway Police Charitable Foundation, Mr. Phillippi reported a fall picnic is being discussed but has not been scheduled.

Mrs. Brister welcomed Mayor Villere of Mandeville and thanked him for allowing the Commission to use the Council Chambers for its meeting tonight. Mayor Villere stated the City is happy to have the Commission use the Chambers anytime.

Mr. Dufrechou reported for August fourteen vessel openings for the drawbridge, two drive fault incidents on the southeast leaf and three test openings. There were no fog operations. He stated the Police and MAP personnel responded to 285 breakdowns on the Causeway Bridge and 41 on the Huey P. Long Bridge.

Mr. Dufrechou stated on August 19, an eighteen-wheeler truck carrying corrosive material turned over on Jefferson Highway at Clearview Parkway. He stated the Causeway Police assigned to the Huey P. Long Bridge responded and coordinated throughout the event with the Jefferson Parish Fire Department and State HAZMAT.

Mr. Dufrechou reported on September 1, there was a late afternoon lightning strike that disabled the toll system and tolls had to be collected manually for about two hours.

Mr. Dufrechou stated on September 2 - 6, there were Tropical Storm Lee operations. He stated the staff annually goes through hurricane preparations. On Saturday, September 3, there were several brief closures due to periodic wind gusts. He stated that morning, in the lake, a barge broke loose that was part of the storm protection work for the East Jefferson Levee District. It ran aground near

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the Suburban Canal. Mr. Dufrechou stated the bascule operators had tug operators retrieve the barge, which ended up in the Suburban Canal later that afternoon. Mr. Dufrechou stated on Sunday, September 4, CLECO power was lost for several hours at the North Toll Plaza, the bascule and maintenance barn. The Causeway generators started automatically until the power came back on line. Mr. Dufrechou stated on September 12, the engineers and maintenance department started the annual bridge inspection. Completion is anticipated by late October.

With respect to the North Channel emergency Span Motors project, Mr. Dufrechou reported the work should be completed late September.

Mr. Dufrechou reported the Bridge Modifications at the South Toll Plaza - Hurricane Protection Work - CORPS project will be ongoing for another year. He stated Mr. McCranie and Mr. Bourgeois continue to seek federal and state reimbursement for the Commission's expenses.

On the North Channel Bascule - Bascule Span Repairs, Mr. Dufrechou stated there is a request to add forty-one days, no cost extension to the project. He stated the project came in on budget. He explained the reason for the extension is the contractor is waiting for spare parts to come in. Mr. Dufrechou stated the work was completed on time and he is pleased with the contractor.

With respect to the North Channel Bascule Trunnion Bearing Maintenance project, Mr. Dufrechou stated there is a request to add forty-five days, no cost extension to the assembly period. Boh Brothers Construction Co. is the contractor. Mr. Dufrechou stated Boh was asked to do some work on the West Approach at Skipper Drive, which added \$35,000 to the cost.

Mr. Dufrechou stated the VMS/Call Box/HIL System Migration project is to be completed this month. The only remaining task is to provide backup communications path to the VMS using radio frequency. Mr. Bourgeois mentioned there has been concern that there is a leak in the housing for

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the generator, which is being addressed.

Mr. Dufrechou reported on projects approved but not yet underway. The South Channel Fender Repair project design will be completed in December 2011. On the Resurface Pavement - South Marine Crossing project, Mr. Dufrechou stated there was only bid one submitted in the amount of \$347,000, which is significantly above the engineering estimate. He stated they are recommending rejection of the bid. On the Florida Triangle/Turning Lanes on the West Approach, Mr. Dufrechou stated six bids were received, with the lowest being \$217,000, which is significantly above the engineering estimate of \$130,000, therefore the project is on hold. On the Fiber Optic/Cable Tray Lease RFP, Mr. Dufrechou stated only two disappointing proposals were received. Staff, engineers and attorneys are recommending rejection of the proposals and trying again next spring. Mr. Dufrechou stated on the North Plaza Trench Drain Repair, the temporary work has been completed by maintenance personnel. He added the long-term repair will be incorporated with the TEA-21 North Plaza 5<sup>th</sup> Lane work. Mr. Dufrechou stated the Hurricanes Katrina/Rita Emergency Relief projects are part of the Federal Highway Administration funding and will be bid out by LA DOTD. Mr. Dufrechou stated the TEA-21, Transportation Equity Act, is the 5<sup>th</sup> toll lane on which the design will be complete this month. Mr. Dufrechou stated the Discretionary Bridge Program is the South Channel repairs, the bascule control system and piling encapsulation, on which the design work is underway and scheduled for completion in December 2011.

With respect to the North Channel Bascule - Bascule Span Repair project, the following resolution was adopted. **On motion by Katz, seconded by Rase, based upon the recommendation of the Staff and its Consulting Engineers, the Commission accepted Plan Change No. 1 on the North Channel Bascule - Bascule Span Repair project. Plan Change No. 1 provides for additional**

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**forty-one calendar days to the assembly period at no additional cost to the Commission. The General Manager is hereby authorized to complete the execution of Plan Change No. 1 with C.E.C., Inc. Mrs. Brister, Mr. Katz, Mr. Rase and Mr. Romig voted in favor of the motion. With respect to the North Channel Bascule - Bascule Span Repair project, Mr. Dufrechou stated the work is complete and the staff and engineers recommend acceptance. On motion by Katz, seconded by Rase, based upon the recommendation of the Staff and its Consulting Engineers, the Commission accepted the project titled North Channel Bascule - Bascule Span Repairs. The General Manager is hereby authorized to complete the execution of the certificate of acceptance with C.E.C., Inc. Mrs. Brister, Mr. Katz, Mr. Rase and Mr. Romig voted in favor of the motion.**

**On the North Channel Bascule - Trunnion Bearing Maintenance project, Mr. Dufrechou recommended a forty-five day extension for no cost. On motion by Romig, seconded by Rase, based upon the recommendation of the Staff and its Consulting Engineers, the Commission accepted Plan Change No. 1 on the project. Plan Change No. 1 provides for additional forty-five calendar days to the assembly period at no additional cost to the Commission. The General Manager is hereby authorized to complete the execution of Plan Change No. 1 with Boh Brothers Construction Co., LLC. Mrs. Brister, Mr. Katz, Mr. Rase and Mr. Romig voted in favor of the motion.**

**Mr. Dufrechou presented the TransCore, LP Software Maintenance Support Agreement for the upgraded toll tag store customer service center. He stated the contract amount is \$63,000 for one year and the staff, engineers and attorneys are recommending approval. On motion by Rase, seconded by Katz, the Commission resolved to enter into a Software Maintenance Support**

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**Agreement with TransCore, LP in connection with software installed for Project No. 817, Software Maintenance Support Agreement for the Upgraded GNOEC Toll Tag Store Customer Service Center, effective as of November 1, 2011, and that Carlton Dufrechou, its General Manager, be and he is authorized to execute the agreement on behalf of the GNOEC, such agreement contains such terms and conditions as he in his discretion deem necessary and proper.** In response to Mrs. Brister's inquiry regarding the \$10,255.56 credit, Mr. McCranie explained the Causeway was on a month-to-month basis for \$2,600 per month. He stated when the contract for \$63,000 was accepted, it was anticipated that it would start in April. From April to August, the monthly amount paid was not per the new \$63,000 contract of \$4,395.37 per month, so the difference was paid resulting in the \$10,255.56 credit. Mr. McCranie stated in further negotiations, the contract was made effective November 1, 2011. In response to Mr. Katz's inquiry as to other options, Mr. Dufrechou and Mr. McCranie explained it is TransCore's software. **Mrs. Brister, Mr. Katz, Mr. Rase and Mr. Romig voted in favor of the motion.**

On the fiber optic/cable tray lease RFP, Mr. Dufrechou stated two proposals were received and neither one offered consideration sufficient to justify leasing the fiber. He stated the staff is recommending rejecting the two proposals and trying again at a later time. **On motion by Romig, seconded by Rase, based on the recommendation of the Staff and its Consulting Engineers, the Commission rejected all proposals received on July 19, 2011 for the use of excess fiber optic strands and/or cable tray space in existing facility. The General Manager and Consulting Engineers are hereby authorized to revise the RFP documents and re-advertise at a time that is advantageous to the Commission. Mrs. Brister, Mr. Katz, Mr. Rase and Mr. Romig voted in favor of the motion.**

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Mr. Dufrechou stated on the Resurface Pavement at South Marine Crossing project, which is at the top of the eight-mile hump, only one bid was received and was significantly higher than the engineering estimate. He stated because of this, they are recommending rejecting the bid and looking at combining this project with other work to be done on the bridge. **On motion by Rase, seconded by Romig, based upon the recommendation of the Staff and Consulting Engineers, the Commission rejected all bids on this project. All bids received on July 21, 2011 for Project No. 422, Resurface Pavement at South Marine Crossing, exceeded the budgeted amount available for construction. Mrs. Brister, Mr. Katz, Mr. Rase and Mr. Romig voted in favor of the motion.**

Mrs. Brister recognized and congratulated Red Thompson who was reelected to the St. Tammany Parish Council without opposition.

Mrs. Brister announced the next meeting is scheduled for October 4, 2011, which is only two weeks away, and may be rescheduled.

There being no further business, on motion by Rase, seconded by Katz, the meeting was adjourned.

  
LAWRENCE M. RASE  
SECRETARY

  
PATRICIA P. BRISTER  
CHAIRMAN