PROCEEDINGS OF A REGULAR MEETING OF

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF**

**THE MORGAN CITY HARBOR AND TERMINAL DISTRICT**

**April 10, 2017**

The Board of Commissioners (“Board”) of the Morgan City Harbor and Terminal District (“District”) met in regular session at the District’s office at 7327 Highway 182, Morgan City, Louisiana on April 10, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. Duane Lodrigue, President, convened the meeting with Commissioners, Gary Duhon, Thomas Ackel, Deborah Garber, Tim Matthews, Sr., Adam Mayon and Lee Dragna in attendance. Ben Adams and Joseph Cain were absent. Also present at the meeting were Raymond Wade, Executive Director; Tori Henry, Office Manager; Cindy Cutrera, Manager of Economic Development; Gerard Bourgeois, Board Attorney; Michael Knobloch, Knobloch Professional Services; Captain Blake Welborn and Chief Clayton Franklin, United States Coast Guard (“USCG”); Tim Connell, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Clayton Breaud, GSE/Providence Engineering; Councilman Tamporella, Mike Lowe, GIS; Ancil Taylor, C.F. Bean; along with members of the media and general public.

The meeting was called to order and the presence of a quorum was noted. Mr. Wade led the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

It was moved by Mr. Mayon and seconded by Mr. Duhon that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of March 13, 2017 and the minutes of the Special Meeting of March 22, 2017 be approved and adopted, with said motion carrying unanimously.

It was moved by Mrs. Garber that the report of receipts and disbursements for the month of March, 2017 be received and accepted and that all invoices presented to the Board for the month of March, 2017 be paid. Mr. Ackel seconded that motion, which carried unanimously.

Dutch Vandenaardweg encouraged the Board to think outside the box to come up with solutions for Channel issues and believes Mr. Dragna will be of great assistance to the Port in this area.

Captain Welborn reported that: (i) vessel transits are down 13% from 2016; (ii) there was another bridge strike to the fendering system at the Bayou Boeuf rail bridge, which is an ongoing investigation; and (iii) he thanked Mr. Wade for the invite to visit with Congressman Higgins today.

Chief Franklin reported that: (i) once approved, the AXE will be moving aids around Mile Marker 142, which will be broadcasted to mariners.

Tim Connell reported that: (i) they have solicited for the award of contract for dredging of the upper Bar and lower Bay and only received four (4) bids, with only one (1) in the technical, awardable range. They did not have enough funds to award the base bid so they are currently working internally to acquire some more funds, which are expected to be received. With the hours available, they should be able to get 200’W x 20’D throughout the entire length of the Channel; (ii) The Corps and the Port, along with its consultants, had a productive meeting discussing a year-round 20-foot channel. A commitment has been made by the Corps to the dredging industry that a source solicitation notice will be released, in conjunction with an industry day, for a purpose-built dredge that will remain in Morgan City year long and operate on an intermittent basis as the Channel needs require. The amount of funding that has been received in previous years will be listed on the notice, but it will be stipulated that there is no guarantee that funding will continue, which will be a risk factor for anyone meeting this need. At this time, we will have an idea if the dredging industry is interested in meeting the needs of the Port, and if not, the Corps will work with the Port to come to the best possible arrangement to facilitate the federal government meeting its contracting requirements and still allowing for the dredging of the Channel to take place.

Mike Knobloch reported that: (i) FY15 Port Security Grant has one remaining project to be completed, which is maintenance of the NOAA stations by Encos; (ii) FY16 Port Security Grant PMCRCN maintenance and sustainability project received one RFP from American Integration Contractors in the amount of $54,000, which was within the budget figures. (iii) Congressman Higgins reported today that it could be another month before Congress could give a full budget or another CR, which tells us that the FY17 Port Security Grant program deadline could be pushed back to June; (iv) Under president Trump’s “Make America Great Again Budget Proposal”, two programs of significance that he plans to eliminate are the Economic Development Administration and the TIGER Grant, which he plans to combine with the FASTLANE Grant which carries a higher match at 40%.

On behalf of Chris Fetters, Mike Lowe thanked the Board for approving the contract and task order between the District and GIS. They will be working with Corps on the permitting process and with the port’s dredging contractors for the navigation maintenance.

Cindy Cutrera reported that: (i) last Thursday Gary Duhon, Joe Cain, Lee Dragna, Lou Tamporella, Jim McElroy, Mac Wade and herself rode the M/V Mississippi from Old River to Baton Rouge during the Mississippi River Commission’s High Water Inspection Trip. They had the opportunity to visit with several Corps officials and talk specifically about the Atchafalaya River and our effort to implement more cost-effective dredging techniques in the Bar Channel. On Friday, she and Mac traveled back to the Public Meeting aboard the M/V Mississippi, where Mac turned in a public statement but focused his public response to numerous people who had testified before him about changing the 70/30 split at the Old River structure to send more water down the Atchafalaya River rather than the Mississippi River. Afterwards he spoke with several landowners, who would like to discuss the issues further, with one of them even saying they may be able to help find funding for dredging; (ii) Mac attended Congressman’s visit to EMR in Amelia as well as returning to the Port office with him, where Mac gave a short presentation with our stakeholders before the Congressman spoke. Congressman Higgins stated his top priorities are to get Louisiana Channels dredged to their authorized depths and widths and to complete I-49. Mr. Wade reiterated the Congressman’s top priority was dredging.

Mr. Bourgeois reported that: (i) Coast Guard from New Orleans contacted Mr. Wade about possibly leasing office space; (ii) Mr. Wade and other members had suggested the addition of Dan Duplantis and Incat Crowther to the dredging effort, both on an hourly basis, and that the Board could delay formal retention to the following month, as it still had the $15,000 that was previously authorized to be used for other consultants, besides the contracted services of C.F. Bean and GIS; (iii) Charles Brittingham will be in town on Wednesday to discuss modification of the PPA for inclusion of the WRDA language in order for the Port to receive funds for dredging; (iv) we received an email from St. Benard Port requesting other Ports’ assistance with filing a brief in support of its expropriation of dock area. Mr. Duhon suggested that we did not have to take a stand on either side.

Mr. Bourgeois also presented a Resolution for Award of Contract for FY 2015 Port Security Grant project Port of Morgan City Regional Calibration Network (PMCRCN) Maintenance and Sustainability, solely bid by American Integration Systems for $54,000. Mr. Dragna moved to authorize Mr. Wade to execute the award of project and contract with American Integration Contractors, which was seconded by Mr. Duhon and carried unanimously.

**RESOLUTION FOR AWARD OF PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Morgan City Harbor and Terminal District (“District) has received bids on April 6, 2016 at 12:00 p.m. for its Port of Morgan City PMCRCN Maintenance Project, District Project No: EMW-2016-PU-00236-IJ3PMCRCN; and

WHEREAS, Knobloch Professional Services, L.L.C., the District’s Homeland Security consultant has recommended the award of the contract for this project to the lowest qualified bidder: American Integration Contractors, LLC.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Morgan City Harbor and Terminal District at a Regular Meeting, assembled on this 13th day of April, 2017, that the Bid in the Amount of $54,000.00 by American Integration Contractors, LLC be accepted and a contract be awarded to American Integration Contractors, LLC.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Duane E. Lodrigue, President, and Raymond M. Wade, Executive Director, individually, be and is hereby authorized and directed to do any and all acts and things on behalf and in the name of the District that he deems necessary, proper, or that may be required in regards to the award and execution of said contract.

With no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.

Attest:

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Thomas Ackel, Secretary