COLUMBIA PORT COMMISSION FEB 16,2023 MINUTES MEETING:

COMMISSIONERS: DARRON MCGUFFEE, President; Bruce Frazier, and Charles Hearns DIRECTOR: GREG RICHARDSON Guest: Winn Nettles BHA

Meeting was called to order by Darron McGuffee, Port President at the Police Jury Meeting Room in the Caldwell Parish Courthouse.

READING OF THE MINUTES, **motion was made by Charles Hearns, and seconded by Bruce Frazier to adopt the minutes**

**Reading Bank Statements, motion was made by Charles Hearns, and seconded by Bruce Frazier to accept the bank statements motion passed.**

 ITEMS DISCUSSED DURING MEETING Greg informed the Commission of activities since last port meeting:

* Greg informed commissioners of discussion with USDA, DRA and DHS pertaining to awarded grants as well as discussed submittals of quarterly reports and requested reimbursements.
* Greg is submitting change orders and reimbursement request to LaDOTD monthly; however no payments will be received prior to October 2023.
* Progress report on RC Road Improvements, Progressive Construction and discussed payments.
* Greg discussed unresponsiveness of legislators pertaining to the Port’s charter modifications.
* Greg discussed upcoming grant cycle, RAISE FY 2023 is due by the end of February. Greg stated we have developed an application titled **Ouachita River and La Hwy 165 Multimodal Connectivity and Safety Project** which is the development of a truck parking facility with a total cost of $15.3 million dollars, RAISE Federal Share is $ 10.5 million and the required match will be $4.3 million from LaDOTD PPP and $0.5 million from DHS PSGP. The Project will have a minimum cost to the Port. The Port will be responsible for the O&M Costs which have been estimated to be $190,000 per year, should we move forward with the project. The Project will construct roads needed for LGF’s Overpass as well as assist with purchasing additional property. The development of a truck parking facility with EV charging stations with Administration /Amenities building will be beneficial to the overall project. LGF has concerns with the potential for excessive use of the Truck Parking Facility might have an adverse effect on their daily operation of trucks in and out of the Port. Greg met with Bob to discuss project and informed LGF that the Port would not building anything which would be determined by LGF to be detrimental to the proposed project. At this time Greg does not see this as a problem since the likelihood of receiving a RAISE grant is approximately 1 in 1000. In the event we are awarded the additional $10.5 million, I’m confident we will be able to incorporate LGF’s concerns into the Truck Parking Facility which will be viewed as beneficial to the Project as it will be for our region.
* Greg is working provide all audit information to our accountant in March to expedite our Audit.
* **Motion made by Charles Hearns and seconded by Bruce Frazier to pay all outstanding bills presented to the board motion passed.**

**Motion was made by Bruce Frazier to adjourn the meeting second by Charles Hearns motion passed meeting was adjourned.**