PROCEEDINGS OF A REGULAR MEETING OF

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF**

**THE MORGAN CITY HARBOR AND TERMINAL DISTRICT**

**August 10, 2020**

The Board of Commissioners (“Board”) of the Morgan City Harbor and Terminal District (“District”) met in regular session via teleconference on August 10, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. Raymond Wade, Executive Director, convened the meeting with Commissioners Joseph Cain, Lee Dragna, Tim Matthews, Sr., Ben Adams, Adam Mayon, Pete Orlando and Steven Cornes in attendance. Deborah Garber and Troy Lombardo were absent. Also present in the meeting were Tori Henry, Office Manager; Cindy Cutrera, Manager of Economic Development; Gerard Bourgeois & Jennifer Reasoner, Board Attorneys; Commander Ben Russell, United States Coast Guard (“USCG”); Tim Connell, United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE); Michael Knobloch, Knobloch Professional Services; Bryan Breaud, GSE/Providence Engineering; O’Neil Malborough, GIS Engineering; along with members of the general public.

The meeting was called to order and the presence of a quorum was noted.

It was moved by Mr. Dragna and seconded by Mr. Mayon that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 13, 2020 be approved and adopted, with said motion carrying unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. Cain that the report of receipts and disbursements for the month of July, 2020 be received and accepted and that all invoices presented to the Board for the month of July, 2020 be paid. Mr. Mayon seconded that motion, which carried unanimously.

Tim Connell reported that: (i) Dredge Ingenuity is set to arrive in the Berwick Harbor in late August. Mr. Dragna noted he spoke with the Morgan City Mayor and the City water intake pipe is next to Washburn Marine and needs to be cleaned out. Mr. Connell asked for a google snapshot of the area so that they can address it. He also noted that Pete Orlando and James Lafleur need to have a conference call prior to the dredge coming in, about getting their equipment out. (ii) The bid opening for Crewboat Cut, Bay and Bar is set for September 22nd, with a goal of awarding the contract by the end of September; (iii) the amount of slurry that Brice has pumped is over 20 million cubic yards, and new surveys will be done next week that will include the full width and length of the Channel; and (v) significant progress continues on the Bayou Boeuf guide wall project.

Commander Ben Russell reported that: (i) the major salvage effort to happen at MARS has been delayed due to COVID until at least October. He questioned how the construction of the flood gate at Bayou Chene will affect these massive barges arriving and Mr. Wade noted he will contact St. Mary Levee District to attend next month’s meeting and provide an update; and (ii) On Friday, they removed the remaining high-water restriction on the VTS waterway but now have some low water concerns that the Aids to Navigation team has addressed.

Michael Knobloch reported that: (i) we are still waiting to hear if we are recipients of either the PORT Infrastructure Development or BUILD grants, which should be in late October or November; (ii) he met with MSU Morgan City to discuss our PMCRCN/TACCS network and have a scheduled a training within the next two weeks; and (iii) our quarterly FSP training/drill will be held later this month.

Bryan Breaud reported that: (i) on August 6th we had a DOTD Substantial Completion inspection for the Youngswood Yard Rehabilitation project, creating a minor punch list and kicking off the 45 day lien period. Mr. Breaud recommended substantial completion with Mr. Dragna moving, Mr. Mayon seconding and carrying unanimously; and (ii) the project will come in $5,000 under budget and he presented Partial Payment Application No. 2 in the amount of $378,443.53. Mr. Cain moved to authorize said payment, which was seconded by Mr. Dragna and carried unanimously.

O’Neil Malborough of GIS Engineering reported that: (i) a recognizance survey of potential Berwick Bay disposal sites was done last Thursday to verify the water depth and determine the approximate plus or minus 20% volume in cubic yards of the area. Mr. Wade noted that he will send this information to the Corps to see if we would be able to pump any of it during the next dredging cycle; and (ii) Mr. Bourgeois noted that he spoke with Avoca, who will want to meet with Mr. Malborough to discuss possible sights, not going in the “sunglasses”, but further south.

Cindy Cutrera reported: (i) as Louisiana remains in Phase II, all meetings and seminars we participated in were virtual; (ii) she was selected as a panelist for a virtual navigation stakeholder meeting, along with IRPT board members, industry members, Corps headquarters, USDA and Departments of Energy and Transportation. Key themes were discussed and then comments were requested, which she submitted several; (iii) we submitted videos and pictures of shoaling to the Corps, commissioners and stakeholders, along with posting drone footage on YouTube and presenting affected stakeholder letters to them. Mac will also present this information to the new General out of Vicksburg, as well as Mississippi River Commission at the public meeting later this month. Mr. Cain thanked Cindy for sending out the drone footage, as well as photos and detailed information; and (iv) Charles Brittingham is unable to participate in tonight’s meeting, but did send his report which outlines the House and Senate’s Energy and Water appropriations, which include $5 billion O&M and $655 million specifically to address disasters. With all of the shoaling in Berwick Bay and Stouts Pass, there is a major concern of others wanting to shift more of the flow through Old River Structure and Morganza. In WRDA 2020, there is recommended a study of Mississippi River System from Old River Structure to Gulf of Mexico, which Charles has been monitoring, but the study requires approval from Congress and no changes could be made without that approval.

Gerard Bourgeois reported that the Coast Guard requested a door between the common hall and VTS for security reasons. Because of Fire Marshall concerns, Mr. Blum designed and the project was advertised for bid, with DelCon being the low bidder of $6100. Mr. Dragna moved to authorize said work, which was seconded by Mr. Cain and carried unanimously.

Raymond Wade reported that EcoServe has vacated the property next to the Port terminal facility, which is now for sale and he recommended that the Port have the property appraised at a cost of approximately $2200. Mr. Dragna noted that we could use that area to moor barges when we start receiving ships again, with Mr. Cain and Mr. Orlando agreeing. Mr. Wade also noted we have three potential funding mechanisms including Capital Outlay, Port Priority and federal grants. Mr. Dragna moved to have that property appraised, which was seconded by Mr. Mayon and carried unanimously.

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

Attest:

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Timothy Matthews, Sr., Secretary