The Vidalia Port Commission met in regular session on Tuesday, 10 October 2023 at 8:30 A.M. in the Port Commission office at 112 Front Street Suite B, Vidalia Convention Center.

Commissioners Randy Maxwell, President & Tanya Richardson, Secretary/Treasurer were present along with Commissioners Steve Weeks, Brannon Arthur, Helen Wyatt. David Yates, Vice President & Commissioner Richard Young were absent. Wyly Gilfoil, executive director, Bryant Killen, deputy port director, Mayor Buz Craft, & Hiram Copeland (BH&A) were also present.

Mr. Maxwell called the meeting to order. The minutes from the September meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Weeks and second by Mrs. Wyatt.

Mr. Killen presented the board with a financial statement which was approved with a motion by Mr. Arthur and a second by Mr. Weeks.

Mr. Killen presented a report on Slip & Bulk Pad-Public Notice Comment Period ended 3 Nov 2020, but LA Wildlife & Fisheries requested an extension for further review. Pending comments and responses, and proof of wetland credits purchased, the Permit will be issued. It was further stated that we are waiting on the USACE to submit their reviewed decision document to us to proceed. Expanded discussion was made detailing the criteria of which the USACOE will approve the permit application. A seepage analysis, slope stability analysis, and an independent peer review will have to be all completed, and pass before approval. It was stated that the seepage analysis came back favorably. It has passed through the USACE’s Jacksonville office for internal review. The USACE is preparing preliminary guidelines for a Risk Based Analysis for the project which this project will be one of the if not first to adhere to such guideline. The USACE has determined our slope to be 5.8:1. We are now working through required rip rap specs to take the project to full design. Mr. Killen stated that full design was submitted to USACE on 7/7/23 and it is still being reviewed by the USACE. The Commission approved the Project Report on a motion by Mr. Weeks and second by Mrs. Richardson.

In other business, updates were given on grant applications that are planning to be submitted on VPC’s behalf. PIDP which was submitted on April 28th is pending in senior review. Mr. Killen briefly gave an update on the relationship with the port and Syrah. Alternate Energy Development Copiah, a wood pellet producer, was discussed as a potential future port tenant. Fertilizer line construction was discussed after a potential future tenant made an inquiry regarding leasing land and building fertilizer tanks on the protected side of the levee, north of the access road. Further discussion was made regarding reconfiguring the current receiving pit to be able to unload trucks faster and more efficiently. Quotes were reviewed for said reconfigurement. Mr. Killen updated the board that a certificate of insurance was obtained by Pine Bluff Sand & Gravel, since it’s employees are parking at the port to complete USACE reventment work to the immediate north and south of our conveyor. It was also stated that the VPC’s D&O insurance had been renewed for another year with Reed Insurance. Mayor Craft gave a brief update regarding the TOV. A motion was made by Mrs. Arthur and a second by Mr. Weeks to approve Other Business.

The meeting adjourned at 9:55 on a motion by Mr. Arthur and a second my Mr. Weeks

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Randy Maxwell President

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Tanya Richardson

Secretary/Treasurer