

# West Calcasieu Port Board Meeting Minutes

200 Old Ferry Road, Sulphur, Louisiana 70665

August 2, 2022

1. **Call to order**

President Dick Kennison called to order the regular meeting of the West Calcasieu Port at approximately 3:00 p.m. on August 2, 2022.

2. **Invocation**

Wilmer Dugas led the invocation.

3. **Pledge of allegiance**

Chuck Stutes led the pledge of allegiance.

4. **Roll call**

Tim Dougherty conducted a roll call. The following persons were present:

Dick Kennison  
Wilmer Dugas  
Tim Dougherty  
Buddy Reams

Also present were Port Director Lynn Hohensee, Darla Perry, Oliver Schruppf, Chuck Stutes, and Joanne Coleman.

5. **Approval of minutes of the July 12, 2022 regular monthly**

President Dick Kennison entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2022 regular monthly meeting. A motion was made by Wilmer Dugas to approve the minutes of the July 12, 2022 regular monthly meeting, 2nd by Tim Dougherty. No opposition. Motion carried.

6. **Amendments, additions, and deletions to the proposed agenda**

A motion was made by Wilmer Dugas to amend the agenda to Item 7a. Approve audit and SOP engagement proposal from Steve Derouen, 2nd by Tim Dougherty. No opposition. Motion carried.

7a. **Approve audit and SAUP proposal from Steve Derouen**

Darla Perry stated that she received the engagement proposal from Steve Derouen, who has done the board's audit for the last three years. His audit fee remains the same.

President Dick Kennison entertained a motion to approve the audit and SAUP proposal from Steve Derouen. A motion was made by Wilmer Dugas to approve the audit and SAUP proposal from Steve Derouen, 2nd by Tim Dougherty. No opposition. Motion carried.

7b. **Review and adopt Resolution Requesting Authority to Advertise for bids for State Project no. H.014606(321) – bulkhead and crane pad, after meeting requirements listed in DOTD July 22, 2022**

Chuck Stutes read the resolution to the board.

President Dick Kennison entertained a motion to adopt Resolution Requesting Authority to Advertise for bids for State Project no. H.014606(321) – bulkhead and crane pad, after meeting

requirements listed in DOTD July 22, 2022. A motion was made by Wilmer Dugas to approve to adopt Resolution Requesting Authority to Advertise for bids for State Project no. H.014606(321) – bulkhead and crane pad, after meeting requirements listed in DOTD July 22, 2022, 2nd by Tim Dougherty. No opposition. Motion carried.

**8. Discuss and approve action to proceed with Facility Planning and Control – Capital Outlay Project 36-P05-22-01.**

Chuck Stutes stated that the legislature has approved this year’s capital outlay bill. This is a formal request for approval of project to send to Capital Outlay Project for bond commission approval. The project is for new property along Gulf Intercoastal Waterway.

After a brief discussion, President Dick Kennison entertained a motion to approve action to proceed with Facility Planning and Control – Capital Outlay Project 36-P05-22-01. A motion was made by Wilmer Dugas to approve action to proceed with Facility Planning and Control – Capital Outlay Project 36-P05-22-01, 2nd by Tim Dougherty. No opposition. Motion carried.

**9. Committee Reports**

President Dick Kennison stated that there were three candidates offered as a board replacement for Scott Foreman and they have submitted their recommendation.

**10. Port Director Report; Announcements/Reports (Legal, Financial, Engineer)**

- a. **Port Director:** Port Director Lynn Hohensee reported that there is a push from the DOTD to develop a maritime highway. He has been working with the Seed Center on the conceptual idea of the West Cal Port establishing a container port to support growth in this area.

He also stated that they are putting efforts to encourage maritime fueling operations on the back burner.

Mr. Hohensee also stated that he got word from Devall Southern that they feel that they can get through the winter without dredging the west barge basin so the port can concentrate on other projects.

- b. **Legal:** Jackson Schrupf sent a letter by e-mail to the board stating that Scott Forman is no longer eligible to be a board member.

He also stated that he would like to request the insurance company sign a waiver of prescription for the demolition of the VLS building. Darla stated she would contact the insurance company and request they sign the waiver.

- c. **Financial:** Darla Perry reported that the Port took in \$103K for the month of June. Notable expenditures were for Angelico, including payments for the carport, yellow house repairs, and part of the Orion building, 90% of which should be reimbursed. She stated that the port finished the fiscal year with 38,402 barge days, 6,015 less than the prior year. The only ramp usage was October 2021.

Additionally, Darla reported that they are continuing to work with insurance, FEMA, and state agencies on the open projects. They are still negotiating with FEMA on some Rita claims.

- d. **Engineer:** Chuck Stutes reported that the VLS project is on hold due to lack of an agreement with FEMA.

He additionally reported they were wrapping up plans on the maintenance dredging.

After a brief discussion, President Dick Kennison entertained a motion to accept the Port Director, Legal, Financia, and Engineer reports presented above. A motion was made by Wilmer, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Tim Dougherty. No opposition. Motion carried.

**11. Executive Session for Contract Accounting/Port Director Contract/Attorney Retainer**

President Dick Kennison entertained a motion to enter into Executive Session. A motion was made by Wilmer to enter into Executive Session, 2nd by Tim Dougherty. No opposition. Motion carried.

The board entered executive session at 3:50pm.

[Meeting Closed for Executive Session]

Wilmer Dugas made a motion to for the Board to come out of Executive Session, 2nd by Tim Dougherty. No opposition. Motion carried.

The board exited Executive Session at 3:56pm

President Dick Kennison made a recommendation for a 5% raise for Port Director Lynn Hohensee, and an increase for Darla to \$2,500 per month, Jackson for \$500 per month, and Joanne for \$350 per month.


Wilmer made a motion to accept the recommendation of President Dick Kennison for a 5% raise for Port Director Lynn Hohensee, and an increase for Darla to \$2,500 per month, Jackson for \$500 per month, and Joanne for \$350 per month, 2nd by Tim Dougherty. No opposition. Motion carried.


**12. Public Comments**

Woody Daigle, Regional Representative for Senator John Kennedy, stated that they are working with several entities in dealing with FEMA. They can't change the direction of anything, but they can make phone calls on behalf of constituents to try to help move things along. He stated that they are finally seeing some reimbursements being released for buildings. They realize there is a flaw in the system, and they are working to revamp the process. He also pointed out that FEMA issues were exacerbated by COVID.

**13. Adjournment**

President Dick Kennison adjourned the meeting at approximately 4:12 p.m.

  
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President

  
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Secretary