

WEST ST. MARY PARISH PORT, HARBOR AND TERMINAL DISTRICT

MEETING MINUTES

AUGUST 1, 2017

6:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Willie Peters, President of the Port Commission. Mr. Peters gave an invocation. Mr. Tad Blevins led in the Pledge of Allegiance. A roll call resulted in the following:

Present:

Phil Bell  
Tad Blevins  
Calvin Deshotel  
Ralph Longman  
Willie Peters  
Wayne Stevens  
Will Terry

Absent:

Greg Paul  
Joseph Tabb

Also present at the meeting were Louisiana State Representative Sam Jones, Mr. Paul Naquin, St. Mary Parish Councilman, Ms. Marguerite Robinson of Teche Talk, Mr. Casey Collier of the Franklin Banner, Mr. Eric Duplantis, Port Attorney, Mr. Reid Miller of Miller Engineers, Mr. David Allain, Executive Director and Ms. Rebecca Pellerin, Office Manager of the Port Commission.

A motion was made by Mr. Deshotel to dispense with the reading of the July 11, 2017 meeting minutes and to accept the same. The motion was seconded by Mr. Longman and carried unanimously.

Mr. Peters asked if there was any public comment. Representative Sam Jones reported that he, along with some help from other individuals, was able to secure \$450,000.00 in Priority I in the Capital Outlay Budget to continue building the Industrial Park on the Charenton Canal. Mr. Jones also stated that it is very beneficial that Governor Edwards supports the idea and concept of port development and has doubled the Port Priority funds from \$19 million to \$38 million. Mr. Jones further stated that when applying for these funds, certain criteria must be met, such as having a client for the project, job creation and job retention. He added that this particular allocation is to finish building what was originally started fifteen years ago. Mr. Jones highly recommended that the Port Commission continue to build the Industrial Park and to continue their marketing efforts to locate business. He also noted the importance of having representation in Baton Rouge looking out for the Port.

Mr. Paul Naquin inquired about the Aids to Navigation in the Jaws. He requested that the Port consider having Miller Engineers look into some type of light or reflector. Mr. Miller said that any Aid to Navigation would need to be permitted with the Corps of Engineers and with the Coast Guard. Mr. Stevens said that he and Mr. Allain had discussed options for the Aids to Navigation as several that were placed by the Port Commission have been destroyed due to extreme weather conditions. Mr. Allain said that he would continue to look into replacing the Aids to Navigation.

Mr. Allain reported that the Industrial Park sign is ready to be installed. He contacted the Louisiana Department of Transportation regarding a permit for the installation of a culvert from the service road to the site where the sign will be installed and was informed that the individual who was in charge of issuing the permits was part-time and that it would take approximately two weeks to have the permit issued. Mr. Allain asked Mr. Jones for his assistance with obtaining the permit. The St. Mary Parish government has offered to install the culvert once the necessary permit is obtained.

Mr. Allain reported that he has been contacted by the South Louisiana Technical College regarding proposals for the construction of a welding school and a mechanic school at one time at the Industrial Park. The latest request is for a back-up pad for their CDL license and instruction in Morgan City. Once the classroom instruction is completed, the students have to drive to Thibodaux for training in the trucks. The required pad is approximately 180 feet wide by 310 feet long and would be constructed of cement. Mr. Allain said they have discussed possible funding options and have contacted the Economic Development Administration. He was informed that there is funding that can be applied for. Mr. Allain stated that one issue that he has is the size of the footprint and he does not feel that the specifications of the Back Up Pad would be near the specifications of an industrial site, building or something later in the future. Mr. Jones asked if there was an area in the back of the property that could be used for the project. Mr. Allain stated that there are approximately 80-90 acres of property and few pipelines that need to be avoided, but the issue with drainage of the property still remains an issue. He continues to negotiate with the Privat family for a servitude to install the drainage pump to drain that property. Another option would be to purchase the property from the Privat family and he has ordered an appraisal of the property to determine what the property is worth and then the Port can make an offer to purchase it. Mr. Allain requested that Mr. Miller look at possible locations for the Back Up Pad at the Industrial Park. Mr. Allain also reported that Mr. Duplantis is looking into possible legal issues with some of the matches that the college would have to match the EDA funds being tied up on servitudes and rights of way and almost ownership of the property. Ownership of the property is not possible. Once again, Mr. Jones offered his assistance.

Mr. Allain reported on the LA Port Construction and Development Priority Program application recently submitted. He spoke with someone last week and was informed that they were reviewing the Cost Analysis Benefit section of the application and so far, the application looks favorable. Mr. Jones asked if this application was being submitted with the St. Mary Parish Government and Mr. Allain explained that it was not, but was for a tenant at the Port. The request is for improvements to an existing site being leased at the Port. Mr. Allain said that he would keep Mr. Jones informed of the progress of the application.

Mr. Jones added that with regards to the Port Construction, he was also speaking for Senator Allain, because there are two sides to the legislative process and as Senator, Mr. Allain's job is to usher the Bills through. He commended Senator Allain for a job well done. Mr. Jones also reported that he contacted Mr. Bo LaGrange, CEO of the St. Mary Parish Government, regarding the application for funding for the Industrial Park. He was informed that the paperwork has been sent back to access the money and Mr. Allain said that he would follow up with the St. Mary Parish Government.

Mr. Deshotel asked if there was anything new from the potential carbon black prospects. Mr. Allain responded that he emailed them today and has not heard from them. He said that he had not spoken with them recently, but in their last conversation they were very interested and were looking for the funds to build the plant.

Mr. Peters asked Mr. Allain if efforts to bring natural gas to the Port have ended. Mr. Allain said efforts have not been successful in getting Columbia Gulf to remove the high surcharge (maintenance charge) and that the surcharge would go on forever and continue to increase. Mr. Jones asked if the Commission had contacted the Louisiana Public Service Commission and Mr. Allain responded, yes and was informed that the surcharge was a standard procedure. The fees are not standard, but having a surcharge was.

Mr. Duplantis reminded the Commission that those who had not completed their online Ethics Training, to please do so before the end of the year and to send a copy of the Certificate to the Port Commission office.

There being no further business to be discussed, a motion was made by Mr. Terry to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Deshotel and carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m.

Signed Wilson Terry  
Wilson Terry, Secretary