WEST ST. MARY PARISH PORT, HARBOR & TERMINAL DISTRICT

OFFICIAL MINUTES

MAY 3, 2011

6:00 P.M.

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

Present: Absent:

Tad Blevins Calvin Deshotel

Ralph Longman Greg Paul

Willie Peters John Lockett

Wayne Stevens

Phil Bell

Wilson Terry

Also present at the meeting were Ms. Marguerite Robinson of Teche Talk, Mr. Roger Stouff of the Franklin Banner, Mr. Eric Duplantis, Port Attorney, Mr. David Allain, and Ms. Rebecca Pellerin, Office Manager of the Port Commission.

A motion was made by Mr. Peters to dispense with the reading of the April 5, 2011 meeting minutes and to accept the same. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bell and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Stevens to resolve that the millage rate of 3.75 mills be hereby levied on the 2011 tax roll on all property subject to taxation by the West St. Mary Parish Port, Harbor and Terminal District.

Be it further resolved that the proper administrative officials of the Parish of St. Mary, State of Louisiana, be and they are hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to spread said taxes, as hereinabove set forth, upon the assessment roll of said Parish for the year 2011 and to make the collection of the taxes imposed for and on behalf of the District, according to law, and that the tax herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject to taxation as herein set forth, and collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law.

The foregoing resolution was read in full, the motion was seconded by Mr. Longman, the roll was called on the adoption thereof and the resolution was adopted by six yeas, zero nays and three absent.

Mr. Allain gave the following Executive Director’s report:

* Mr. Allain presented a rate study that was performed for the Port of West St. Mary on the rates of the Port’s water system. It was determined that the current water rates are not sufficient to cover the expenses of the water system operations. After comparing water rates to rates of surrounding water districts, it was reported that the Port’s rates were substantially lower. After reviewing several options, a motion was made by Mr. Stevens to suggest an adjustment to the

 water rates as follows: for residential customers - $8.00 for the first 0 – 2,000 gallons and $2.25 per thousand gallons after 2,000 gallons; for commercial customers $13.00 for the first 0-2,000 gallons and $2.25 per thousand gallons after 2,000 gallons. A public hearing will be held prior to next month’s Port Commission meeting to discuss the proposed adjustments and will be voted on at the regular Port Commission meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Longman and carried unanimously.

Mr. Peters recommended that the Commission consider installing a back-up pump for the water distribution system. Mr. Allain reported that after reviewing engineering plans for the water system, it is his understanding that the system is set up for two electrical pumps on one well. Mr. Allain said that he would contact Mr. Miller of Miller Engineers regarding Mr. Peters’ request and report back to the Commission at next month’s meeting.

Regarding removal of the spoil bank, Mr. Allain reported that he was in receipt of two quotes with a price range of $50,000 to $80,000. Mr. Allain suggested that the Commission postpone spreading of the spoil bank until a possible tenant is secured for the site. He said that he would contact a local farmer and ask him to chop the area to make it easier to maintain.

Mr. Allain reported that supplies have been ordered for the repair of the building occupied by National Oilwell Varco. The Port and National Oilwell Varco will share the cost of the repairs.

Regarding Port infrastructure, Mr. Allain reported that he has been approached several times by tenants at the Port about the possibility of securing broad band internet access for the Port. Mr. Allain has been in touch with Mr. Ed Meyers of Gulf Coast Broad Band who has purchased a tower that would be suitable for the port. Mr. Meyers is requesting that the Port of West St. Mary supply the property to locate the tower, help to build the slab and supply the electricity for the tower. The tower is 250 feet tall and is free standing. The commissioners authorized Mr. Allain to continue negotiations with Mr. Meyers.

Mr. Allain reported that he has also been asked to look into the possibility of supplying natural gas to port tenants. He has spoken with Columbia Transit and their engineers are working on cost estimates to run natural gas from their line that is on port property. The line on port property is high pressure gas and there is no metering station within miles of the port. A metering station would be required. Mr. Allain said that he would report to the Commission as information is received.

Mr. Allain reported that he received a phone call from Mr. Joel Chaky of Encos, Inc. Encos is working with the Audubon Society performing salinity and temperature tests in the Vermilion Bay and are requesting permission to install a water level and salinity station on the Port’s Channel Marker Day Board #6 in the Jaws. Mr. Duplantis has prepared an Indemnification Agreement which has been signed by Mr. Chaky of Encos. A motion was made by Mr. Terry to grant Encos permission to install the salinity stations on Channel Marker Day Board #6. The motion was seconded by Mr. Stevens and carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Stevens to issue a letter of no objection to the Corps of Engineers on behalf of A T & T COE as requested. The motion was seconded by Mr. Terry and carried unanimously.

Mr. Duplantis reminded the Port Commissioners that the deadline for submitting Financial Disclosures is May 15th.

There being no further business to be discussed, a motion was made by Mr. Longman to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Mr. Peters and passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

 Signed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

 Ralph Longman, Secretary