PROCEEDINGS OF A REGULAR MEETING OF

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF**

**THE MORGAN CITY HARBOR AND TERMINAL DISTRICT**

**December 9, 2019**

The Board of Commissioners (“Board”) of the Morgan City Harbor and Terminal District (“District”) met in regular session at the District’s office at 7327 Highway 182, Morgan City, Louisiana on December 9, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. Joseph Cain, President, convened the meeting with Commissioners Lee Dragna, Deborah Garber, Tim Matthews, Sr., Ben Adams, Pete Orlando, Steven Cornes and Troy Lombardo in attendance. Adam Mayon was absent. Also present at the meeting were Raymond Wade, Executive Director; Tori Henry, Office Manager; Cindy Cutrera, Manager of Economic Development; Gerard Bourgeois, Board Attorney; CDR Heather Mattern, United States Coast Guard (“USCG”); Tim Connell and Mayo Broussard, U. S. Army Corps of Engineers; Jeremy Meaux, Darnall, Sikes, Gardes & Frederick; Timothy Matte, St. Mary Levee District; Jon McVay, Brice Civil Constructors; Michael Knobloch, Knobloch Professional Services; Bryan and Clay Breaud, GSE/Providence Engineering; Councilman Louis Tamporello, City of Morgan City; along with members of the media and general public.

The meeting was called to order and the presence of a quorum was noted. Raymond Wade led the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

It was moved by Mr. Dragna and seconded by Mr. Lombardo that the minutes of the Regular Meeting of November 12, 2019 and that the minutes of Special Meeting of November 22, 2019 be approved and adopted, with said motion carrying unanimously.

It was moved by Mr. Orlando that the report of receipts and disbursements for the month of November, 2019 be received and accepted and that all invoices presented to the Board for the month of November, 2019 be paid. Mr. Matthews seconded that motion, which carried unanimously.

Jeremy Meaux presented Darnall, Sikes, Gardes & Frederick’s Audit Report to the Board for the year ending June 30, 2019 with an unmodified opinion on the District’s financial statements, which is the highest audit opinion. Mr. Meaux did report the previous finding has been resolved. Mr. Adams moved to accept said report, which was seconded by Mrs. Garber and carried unanimously.

Timothy Matte provided the commissioners a presentation on Bayou Chene Flood Control and Diversion Project.

Tim Connell reported that: (i) we currently have three dredges working in the Atchafalaya River, with a fourth one coming mid-January; (ii) with limited funding in Berwick Harbor, we are looking at dredging a 250’ access cut north that will give access to the docks and come out right above the railroad bridge. Once the Jadwin arrives, it will come up the south side; (iii) The RM White will likely complete the Bar Channel mid-January; (iv) Brice has arrived and is operational in the Bar Channel where he expects 200’ x 15’ within the next 90 days;

and (v) work on the Bayou Boeuf guide wall continues. Mr. Dragna asked Mr. Connell why we did not receive the anticipated dredge funding and Mr. Tim Connell stated they are perplexed at MVN at the lack of additional funding, also.

Heather Mattern reported that: (i) there is a couple of bridge projects going on but they have been able to work it out with the closure of Bayou Boeuf locks to minimalize navigational impacts; and (ii) they will host a high water meeting in January to discuss concerns for high water season and provide a refresher of best practices.

Mike Knobloch reported that we submitted a port priority grant application on December 2nd requesting a total of $700,000, with a reimbursement from the state of $552,091. He noted that once the state economist reviews and approves the cost benefits analysis, the joint transportation committee will vote on March 9th.

Bryan Breaud reported that: (i) plans for Phase III – East Dock Expansion are 90% complete; (ii) Phase II – Aggregate loading/unloading areas is basically complete except for some fine grading, seeding and fertilizing. He also presented Change Order No. 1 for four (4) additional days due to weather, No. 2 for overrun of sand of $41,107 due to the muck and Partial Payment Application No. 1 in the amount of $31,792.54. Mr. Dragna moved to authorize Mr. Wade to execute said change orders, which was seconded by Mr. Cornes and carried unanimously.

Cindy Cutrera reported that: (i) she traveled to Washington DC with IRPT to advocate for a grant program for small inland water ports through MARAD, such as Port of Morgan City. She also visited with our local delegation and they hosted a round table discussion with Maritime Administration, Waterborne Commerce and General Kaiser. He mentioned the potential for high water again this year is high, and she reiterated to him the dire situation we are in with not getting supplemental funding. (ii) She met with Charles Brittingham regarding upcoming funding in the workplan and next year’s budget. She noted we have been having weekly conference calls with him to provide updates for when he meets with Eddie Belk and Office of Management and Budget. Mr. Dragna suggested that dredge funding is the measure of success. Mr. Wade also prepared a note to R.D. James that he will hand deliver.

Gerard Bourgeois presented: (i) the following resolution and letter of support for the reappointment of Mr. Sam Angel to Mississippi River Commission board, which was moved by Mr. Adams seconded by Mr. Orlando and carried unanimously.

**R E S O L U T I O N**

A Resolution supporting the appointment of Mr. Sam Angel to the Mississippi River Commission

WHEREAS, the Mississippi River Commission (MRC) was established by an Act of Congress on June 28, 1879 and is charged with the mission to develop plans to improve the condition of the Mississippi River, foster navigation, promote commerce, and prevent destructive floods;

WHEREAS, the Morgan City Harbor and Terminal District (“District”) is the local sponsor to the United States Corps of Engineers (“Corps”), in regards to its Atchafalaya River and Bayou Chene, Boeuf and Black, Louisiana Project, which was authorized and approved by Act of Congress;

WHEREAS, the Mississippi River and Tributaries (MR&T) Project, which is overseen by the MRC, provides protection for more than four (4) million people that live in the Lower Mississippi Valley, impacts people in half the USA and since its creation in 1928, has saved thousands of lives, communities and more than half ($0.5) a trillion dollars in property damage/loss;

WHEREAS, beyond its flood control protection, the MR&T Project provides benefits crucial to the entire Mississippi Valley region, including stable and reliable drinking water supplies, power generation, navigation and commerce, economic development and recreation;

WHEREAS, the District believes it beneficial to the MRC, the citizens within the District and the entire nation to have uniquely qualified members who are familiar with its issues on the MRC;

WHEREAS, the District believes that Mr. Sam E. Angel of Lake Village, Arkansas is uniquely qualified to serve the MRC;

WHEREAS, the District believes that Mr. Angel, throughout his many years of public service, has provided good leadership, expertise and common sense service on the MRC;

WHEREAS, the District believes that Mr. Angel’s experience with navigation, flood control systems, and environmental projects on the Mississippi River makes him well qualified and suited for the MRC commission; and

WHEREAS, the Board of the Morgan City Harbor and Terminal District wholeheartedly supports the appointment of Mr. Sam Angel to the MRC.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Morgan City Harbor & Terminal District, that it requests the President of the United States to consider the appointment of Mr. Sam Angel to the MRC.

Mr. Bourgeois also: (ii) presented a Louisiana State Land Office water bottom lease for four (4) dolphin mooring piles at an annual cost of $2165. Mr. Dragna moved to authorize Mr. Wade to execute said lease, which was seconded by Mr. Lombardo and carried unanimously and (iii) reported that they are in the discovery stage with regard to the Crosby Marine damages to the Port’s Met Station.

Mr. Dragna nominated the current officers of the Board of Commissioners, namely, Joseph Cain, President; Lee Dragna, Vice-President; Deborah Garber, Treasurer; and Timothy Matthews, Sr., Secretary, for re-election to their posts for an additional year term. With no further nominations being offered, it was seconded by Mr. Orlando that the nominations for the election of the current officers to the Board of Commissioners be accepted and said motion carried unanimously.

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

Attest:

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Timothy Matthews, Sr., Secretary