

**THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF  
THE NEW ORLEANS PUBLIC BELT RAILROAD CORPORATION  
MINUTES OF THE DIRECTORS BOARD MEETING  
THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2020**

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**A PROPERLY NOTICED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE NEW ORLEANS PUBLIC BELT RAILROAD CORPORATION, AUTHORIZED IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 4 OF THE GOVERNOR'S MARCH 16, 2020 PROCLAMATION 30 JBE 2020, WAS CONVENED REMOTELY VIA ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE AT 9:57 A.M. ON THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2020.**

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**DIRECTORS**

**PRESENT:**

Tara C. Hernandez, Chair  
Darryl D. Berger, Vice-Chairman  
William H. Langenstein, III, Secretary-Treasurer  
Arnold B. Baker, Member  
Charles H. Ponstein, Member  
Joseph F. Toomy, Member

**STAFF:**

B. Christian, Chief Executive Officer  
M. Stolzman, General Manager  
T. Haver, Vice President, Industrial Development  
J. Escudier, Executive Counsel  
M. Scelson, General Counsel  
G. Palermo, Assistant General Counsel  
C. Smoot, Informational Technology

**GUESTS:**

M. Ganon, Vice President, Public Affairs  
A. Fant, Vice President, Planning and Facilities  
B. Landry, Vice President, Commercial  
R. Wendel, Chief Financial Officer  
A. Evett, Director, Engineering  
C. Coats, Director, Real Estate  
R. Aragon Dolese, Director, Marketing and Communications  
J. Guidry, Director, Maintenance  
M. Gresham, Director, External Affairs  
J. Ragusa, Communications  
A. Pellegrin, Director, Sustainable Development  
C. Alfonso, Manager, Community Engagement  
Chief R. Hecker, Harbor Police Department  
M. Verderame, Director, Records  
E. Pansano, Director, Internal Audit  
T. Carter, Director, Procurement  
M. Steib, Technical Support Specialist  
J. Sholar, Director, Human Resources  
J. Mansour, Director, Commercial  
J. Crist, Deputy Director, Real Estate  
L. Lofton, Internal Audit

N. Newton  
V. Roberts  
D. Coffee  
J. Davis  
J. Evans  
R. Reinhold-Canneto  
L. Bryan

**I. Determination of Quorum and Call to Order**

Following a roll call of Board members, Chair Hernandez confirmed a quorum and called the meeting to order at 9:57 a.m.

**II. Briefing & Action Items:**

**A. Consider Approval of a Resolution Ratifying Action Taken by the President and Chief Executive Officer in Declaring an Extreme Public Emergency in Connection with the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19).**

Ms. Christian presented and recommended approval of the resolution. She stated that on March 24, 2020, acting under her authority as Chief Executive Officer of the NOPB, and in connection with national, state, and local emergency declarations regarding the public health emergency, Ms. Christian issued a Declaration of Public Emergency Due to Coronavirus Disease 2019 (“COVID-19 Emergency Declaration”). The COVID-19 Emergency Declaration broadens Ms. Christian’s authority in accordance with the Bylaws, particularly in relation to entering into agreements and contracts relative to the emergency. She noted that the NOPB provides an essential service within the transportation infrastructure, and the continued operation of NOPB is critical during this time.

Director Langenstein noted he would like the resolution language to be amended to include an expiration of Ms. Christian’s authority, as discussed during the proceeding Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans’ Regular Board meeting.

Director Langenstein moved to approve the resolution as amended and Director Baker seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**B. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the Chief Executive Officer to Renew the Corporation’s Property and Casualty Insurance Policies for Primary and Excess Liability Insurance, Huey P. Long Property Insurance, Railroad Pollution Insurance, and Business Automobile Liability Insurance, and to Pay its Reasonable Share of the Consolidated Property, Public Official’s Liability Insurance, Government Crime Insurance, Cyber Insurance, Terrorism, and Business Automobile Liability Insurance, at a Cost of \$ 1,496,097, all Arranged through Arthur J Gallagher Risk Services, Inc.**

Mr. Wendel presented and recommended approval of the resolution. He provided an overview of annual coverages and premiums, as well as noting any significant changes from the previous year's costs and coverages. The new insurance coverage will be effective April 1, 2020.

Director Langenstein asked if the state covered any of the insurance premiums associated with the Huey P. Long Bridge ("Bridge"). Mr. Wendel stated that, in connection with NOPB's Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the State of Louisiana, Department of Transportation and Development ("DOTD"), some of the maintenance costs for the bridge are covered by the DOTD. Costs associated with the liability insurance premiums for the Bridge are covered approximately 98% by the Class I railroads who use the Bridge.

Director Langenstein moved to approve the resolution and Director Toomy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **III. Report by the General Manager**

Mr. Stolzman noted NOPB is operating at full capacity during the COVID-19 pandemic, and that the Class I railroads are also maintaining regular operational capacity. He provided a summary of car shop and transportation operations, as well as storage and switching volumes. He noted a decrease in switching volumes for the month of February, attributable to operational curfews in connection with the Mardi Gras holidays. He noted dwell time remains below 14 hours. There was a decrease in storage in February, but he anticipates a steady increase in March. For intermodal, Mr. Stolzman noted an overall decrease for both imports and exports during the month of February.

Engineering and maintenance productivity overall continues to increase, with a slight dip in February. Car shop repairs increased in volume in February, and the locomotive fleet availability remains under 80%.

Director Langenstein asked for an anticipated timeline for arrival of the new leased locomotives. Mr. Stolzman noted he traveled to St. Louis, Missouri to inspect the first two (2) locomotives, which he anticipates to be delivered to NOPB in the next few weeks.

Chair Hernandez expressed well wishes for everyone's safety during this time, and Director Langenstein echoed her comments.

### **IV. Adjournment**

Chair Hernandez called for public comment, but there was none. There being no further business to come before the Board, Chair Hernandez called for a motion to adjourn. Director Langenstein moved, and Director Baker seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** and Chair Hernandez adjourned the meeting at 9:56 a.m.