

**THE NEW ORLEANS PUBLIC BELT RAILROAD COMMISSION
FOR THE PORT OF NEW ORLEANS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 2022**

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE NEW ORLEANS PUBLIC BELT RAILROAD COMMISSION FOR THE PORT OF NEW ORLEANS, HELD IN THE FIRST FLOOR AUDITORIUM OF THE PORT OF NEW ORLEANS' OFFICES, LOCATED AT 1350 PORT OF NEW ORLEANS PLACE, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN CHARLES H. PONSTEIN AT 1:07 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Charles H. Ponstein, Chairman
William H. Langenstein, III, Vice-Chairman
Joseph F. Toomy, Secretary-Treasurer
Walter J. Leger, Jr., Member
James J. Carter, Jr., Member

MEMBER ABSENT: Darryl D. Berger, Member

STAFF: B. Christian, Chief Executive Officer
M. Stolzman, General Manager
C. Kocur, Vice President, Engineering
A. Ferrand-Rodgers, Director, Organization Development
T. Bryant, Manager, Marketing and Sales
T. Banks, Manager, Engineering

GUESTS: M. Ganon, Port of New Orleans
R. Wendel, Port of New Orleans
A. Evett, Port of New Orleans
J. Escudier, Port of New Orleans
M. Scelson, Port of New Orleans
R. Aragon Dolese, Port of New Orleans
M. Gresham, Port of New Orleans
E. Pansano, Port of New Orleans
G. Palermo, Port of New Orleans
B. McManus, Port of New Orleans
C. Coats, Port of New Orleans
G. Brown, Port of New Orleans
C. Gilmore, Port of New Orleans
M. Verderame, Port of New Orleans
S. Gauthier, Port of New Orleans
J. Mansour, Port of New Orleans
G. Rose, Port of New Orleans
C. Labat, Port of New Orleans
A. Taylor, Port of New Orleans
J. Gommel, Port of New Orleans
J. Ragusa, Port of New Orleans
C. Falgoust, Port of New Orleans

P. Jackson, Port of New Orleans
D. Feraci, Port of New Orleans
M. Singley, Port of New Orleans
C. Calkins, New Orleans Terminal, LLC
J. Nee, Moran Towing
W. Evans, GIS

I. Roll Call & Determination of Quorum

Following a roll call, Chairman Ponstein confirmed a quorum and called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Ponstein asked Commissioner Carter to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Approval of Meeting Minutes for February 2022

Chairman Ponstein called for a motion to approve the public meeting minutes for February 2022, as previously circulated.

Commissioner Leger moved to approve the minutes and Commissioner Carter seconded.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

IV. Public Comment

Chairman Ponstein asked Ms. Verderame to provide an overview of the Commission's process for submitting public comment. Chairman Ponstein called for any agenda-related or general public comments, but there were none.

V. Acceptance of the Financial Statement for February 2022

Mr. Wendel presented the Commission's February financial statement, a copy of which is made a part of these minutes. He provided an overview of the monthly and fiscal year-to-date revenues and expenses for the period ending February 28, 2022. He reported that switching and storage volumes remained very strong this month resulting in a monthly operating revenue \$178,000 over budget and \$3.8 million over last year's numbers at this time. Expenses were in line with the budget resulting in an overall operating income \$215,000 over budget this month and \$1.9 million higher than last year at this time.

Commissioner Langenstein moved to accept the financial statement and Commissioner Toomy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

VI. Report of the General Manager

Mr. Stolzman presented the General Manager's Report. He confirmed that all three (3) major revenue sources were strong in February. Local customer numbers were 50% higher than in February 2021 and Class I switching volumes were 12% higher than last year.

Railcar storage remained strong, with a daily average of 992 cars for the month. Mr. Stolzman added that faster storage turnover resulted in a lower overall income but the increase in switching revenue offset that deficit. Storage capacity will continue to grow after the completion of current storage expansion projects. Import and export volumes for intermodal containers decreased in February but should increase in the next quarter as additional partnership opportunities are being pursued. Despite some congestion issues, dwell time continued to improve in February, averaging 12.4 hours.

Roadway tie replacement remained strong and above projections in February. However, bridge tie replacements continue to be negatively affected by supply shortages. Track surfacing productivity decreased slightly in February but is still in line with the production goals. Tie mill production increased in February as lumber supplies became more available and that trend is expected to continue in the next months. The car shop generated profits in February thanks to more effective management of the repair process.

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chairman Ponstein called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Leger moved and Commissioner Carter seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** and Chairman Ponstein adjourned the meeting at 1:17 p.m.