

**THE NEW ORLEANS PUBLIC BELT RAILROAD COMMISSION  
FOR THE PORT OF NEW ORLEANS  
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR COMMISSION MEETING  
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2022**

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**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 2:26 P.M.**

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

**STAFF:** B. Christian, Chief Executive Officer  
T. Bryant, General Manager  
C. Kocur, Vice-President, Engineering  
A. Ferrand-Rodgers, Director, Organization Development  
I. McPherson, Director, Operational Planning  
L. Hensley, Trainmaster

**GUESTS:** R. Wendel, Port of New Orleans  
J. Escudier, Port of New Orleans  
L. Mellem, Port of New Orleans  
G. Brown, Port of New Orleans  
J. Mansour, Port of New Orleans  
C. Coats, Port of New Orleans  
R. Aragon Dolese, Port of New Orleans  
S. Gauthier, Port of New Orleans  
C. Labat, Port of New Orleans  
M. Scelson, Port of New Orleans  
G. Palermo, Port of New Orleans  
B. McManus, Port of New Orleans  
Chief M. Montroll, Harbor Police Department  
Captain C. Turner, Harbor Police Department  
Lieutenant C. Smith, Harbor Police Department  
A. Lopez-Salazar, Port of New Orleans  
M. Cloos, Port of New Orleans  
J. Ragusa, Port of New Orleans  
M. Naquin, Port of New Orleans  
M. Singley, Port of New Orleans  
K. Howells, Port of New Orleans  
A. Johnson, Port of New Orleans

**I. Roll Call & Determination of Quorum**

Following a roll call, Chairman Ponstein confirmed a quorum and called the meeting to order at 2:26 p.m.

**II. Report of the General Manager**

Ms. Bryant presented the General Manager's Report. She first gave an update on the labor dispute between railroad companies and unions. Afterwards, she reported on August volumes and productivity statistics. She also announced that the Commission had just welcomed its first intern from Delgado Community College, currently in the Logistics Program.

**III. Public Comment**

Chairman Ponstein called for any agenda-related or general public comments, but there were none.

**IV. Approval of Meeting Minutes for August 2022**

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

Commissioner Toomy moved to approve the minutes and Commissioner Langenstein seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**V. Actions Items:**

**A. Acceptance of the Financial Statement for August 2022**

Mr. Wendel presented the Commission's financial statement for the month of August. Copy of this statement is made a part of these minutes. Commissioner Leger moved to accept the financial statement and Commissioner Williams seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**B. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the Chief Executive Officer to Enter into an Agreement with the State of Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to Receive a Louisiana Class II and III Rail Infrastructure Improvement Program Grant Award of up to \$1,500,000 for the NOPB Trans-Loading Industrial Park and Grade Crossings Improvements Project.**

Mr. Kocur presented and recommended approval of a resolution. Following a brief discussion, including questions from Commissioner Leger and Chairman Ponstein regarding the total cost of the project and the extent of the work to be performed,

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

**C. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the Chief Executive Officer to Submit an Application to the United States Department of Transportation for the Railroad Crossing Elimination Grant Funding Program.**

Mr. Kocur presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Following a brief discussion, Commissioner Williams moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Langenstein seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**VI. Election of Board Officer Vacancy**

Chairman Ponstein announced that per Article VII(i) of the Commission's Bylaws, and subsequent to the election of officers at today's Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans' Regular Board Meeting, the Commission must elect a commissioner to fill the vacancy for the position of Chairman. This officer would serve as Chairman solely for the New Orleans Public Belt Railroad Commission, effective at the conclusion of this meeting through June 2023. Chairman Ponstein opened the floor for nominations.

Vice-Chairman Langenstein nominated and moved to elect outgoing Chairman Ponstein to fill the vacancy as the Commission's Chairman. Commissioner Leger seconded.  
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Ponstein accepted the nomination and appointment.

**VII. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Chairman Ponstein called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Langenstein moved and Commissioner Leger seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** and Chairman Ponstein adjourned the meeting at 2:40 p.m.