

**THE NEW ORLEANS PUBLIC BELT RAILROAD COMMISSION
FOR THE PORT OF NEW ORLEANS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2020**

**A REGULAR MEETING OF THE NEW ORLEANS PUBLIC BELT RAILROAD
COMMISSION FOR THE PORT OF NEW ORLEANS, PROPERLY NOTICED AND
AUTHORIZED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PROCLAMATION 174 JBE 2020,
CONVENED REMOTELY VIA ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE ON THURSDAY,
DECEMBER 17, 2020 AT 2:39 P.M.**

MEMBERS Darryl D. Berger, Chairman
PRESENT: William H. Langenstein, III, Vice Chairman
Charles H. Ponstein, Secretary-Treasurer
Tara C. Hernandez, Member
Joseph T. Toomy, Member
Walter J. Leger, Jr., Member

STAFF: B. Christian, Chief Executive Officer
J. Oldham, Vice President, Transportation
C. Kocur, Vice President, Engineering
T. Bryant, Manager, Marketing & Sales
J. Escudier, Executive Counsel
M. Scelson, General Counsel

GUESTS: M. Ganon, Port of New Orleans
B. Landry, Port of New Orleans
R. Wendel, Port of New Orleans
A. Evett, Port of New Orleans
C. Coats, Port of New Orleans
S. Gauthier, Port of New Orleans
A. Pellegrin, Port of New Orleans
R. Aragon Dolese, Port of New Orleans
M. Verderame, Port of New Orleans
J. Guidry, Port of New Orleans
E. Pansano, Port of New Orleans
T. Carter, Port of New Orleans
J. Crist, Port of New Orleans
G. Palermo, Port of New Orleans
B. McManus, Port of New Orleans
M. Gresham, Port of New Orleans
J. Mansour, Port of New Orleans
L. Louviere, Port of New Orleans
D. Cordell, Port of New Orleans
J. Sholar, Port of New Orleans
A. Coates, Port of New Orleans
R. Bylsma, Port of New Orleans
J. Ragusa, Port of New Orleans
C. Alfonso, Port of New Orleans

A. Taylor, Port of New Orleans
C. Falgoust, Port of New Orleans
J. Woodward, Port of New Orleans
M. Sulser, Port of New Orleans
M. Cloos, Port of New Orleans
A. Madere, Port of New Orleans
P. Jackson, Port of New Orleans
M. Singley, Port of New Orleans
D. Collins, Port of New Orleans
E. Gondek, Port of New Orleans
Chief R. Hecker, Harbor Police Department
Capt. M. Montroll, Harbor Police Department
H. Chien
A. Colley
A. Coker
A. Haines
B. Adams
C. Haines
D. Benoit
D. Kearney
D. Heaphy, St. Bernard Port, Harbor, & Terminal District
F. McCormack
J. Schecter
K. Palmisano
K. Calkins
K. Galloway
K. Price
L. Traweek, *New Orleans City Business*
L. Jackson
M. McCormack
M. Nicoladis
N. Junius
R. Garofalo
T. Johnson
T. Hunter
W. Bergeron, St. Bernard Port, Harbor, & Terminal District

I. Roll Call & Determination of Quorum

Following a roll call of Board members, Chairman Berger confirmed a quorum and called the meeting to order at 2:39 p.m.

II. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes for November 2020

Chairman Berger called for a motion to approve the public meeting minutes for November, as previously circulated.

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

III. Public Comment

Chairman Berger called for all agenda-related or general public comment, but there were none. Ms. Verderame confirmed there were no public comments submitted in advance or via the Zoom Chat feature.

IV. Action Items:

A. Acceptance of the November Financial Statement

Mr. Wendel presented the November financial statement for the Commission, 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 November 30, 2020.

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

B. Consider Approval of a Resolution Awarding a Contract to Wheel Worx, LLC for the As-Needed Purchase and Delivery of Wheelsets for a Period of One Year with Two One-Year Renewal Options, in an Amount Not to Exceed \$1,500,000 for the Full Contract Term.

Mr. Oldham presented and recommended approval of the resolution. This contract is for the as-needed purchase and delivery of new and turned wheelsets for use by NOPB's repair shop. In response to an invitation to bid, Wheel Worx, LLC was the lowest responsive and responsible bidder of four (4) bidders. The contract term is for a period of one (1) year, with two (2) one-year renewal options. Funding for this contract is allocated in NOPB's Operating Budget.

Commissioner Ponstein moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Langenstein seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

V. Report of the General Manager

In Mr. Stolzman's absence, Mr. Oldham delivered the General Manager's Report. He provided a summary of transportation operations, car shop operations, and storage and switching volumes. He noted that local switching volume remained stable from October to November. Class I switching volume increased from the previous month, but remains -6% compared to November of last year.

Mr. Oldham stated that railcar storage increased in November with a daily average of 796 cars, and storage volume is anticipated to increase in December. Intermodal container volume for November reflects an 11.5% increase compared to November of last year.

Railroad dwell for November averaged 11.8 hours, demonstrating that the rail network remains fluid while operating efficiently.

Mr. Oldham reported that engineering and maintenance productivity remains on target. During November, there was a decrease in the volume of cross tie replacements and track resurfacing due to mechanical issues, which have since been resolved. The railcar shop had increased bad order repair volume for November, which should continue to increase in December.

Locomotive availability was 100% for the second consecutive month, and fuel savings consumption numbers were even better than expected.

V. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Berger called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Leger so moved and Commissioner Toomy seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** and Chairman Berger adjourned the meeting at 2:48 p.m.