

**THE NEW ORLEANS PUBLIC BELT RAILROAD COMMISSION
FOR THE PORT OF NEW ORLEANS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 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 118 JBE 2020,
CONVENED REMOTELY VIA ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE ON THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 24, 2020 AT 2:34 PM.**

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
M. Stolzman, General Manager
C. Kocur, Vice President, Engineering
A. Moore, Controller
J. Escudier, Executive Counsel
M. Scelson, General Counsel
C. Smoot, Information Technology

GUESTS: A. Fant, 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
J. Guidry, Port of New Orleans
M. Verderame, 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
M. Gresham, Port of New Orleans
D. Cordell, Port of New Orleans
J. Sholar, Port of New Orleans
H. Horan, Port of New Orleans
J. Mansour, 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
E. Federer, Port of New Orleans
R. Bylsma, Port of New Orleans
M. Cloos, Port of New Orleans
M. Singley, Port of New Orleans
Chief Hecker, Harbor Police Department
Capt. M. Montroll, Harbor Police Department
C. Hill
K. Galloway
N. Junius
J. Ming
J. Tumminello
K. Price
B. Adams
K. Calkins

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 2:34 p.m.

II. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes for August 2020

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

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

III. Briefing on Status of Commission Transition

Mr. Escudier stated that on June 12, 2020, Governor John Bel Edwards signed Act No. 359 into law, establishing the New Orleans Public Belt Railroad Commission for the Port of New Orleans (“Commission”). The subsequent transfer of assets, obligations and operations from the New Orleans Public Belt Railroad Corporation (“Corporation”) to the Commission will occur effective October 1, 2020. At that time, and upon transfer, the Corporation will cease operations, but will remain in existence administratively in the event that post-transfer obligations arise.

IV. Consider Approval of a Resolution Declaring *The New Orleans Advocate* as the Official Journal of the New Orleans Public Belt Railroad Commission for the Port of New Orleans.

Ms. Scelson presented and recommended approval of the resolution. She stated in accordance with La R.S. 43:171 *et seq.*, as an independent political subdivision of the State of Louisiana, the Commission must declare an Official Journal for the purposes of publishing various legal notices, including minutes of Board meetings, procurement notifications, and financial statements. *The New Orleans Advocate* is the sole qualifying publication, and this designation

will be effective October 1, 2020 through the remainder of the Commission's fiscal year to June 30, 2021.

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

V. Report of the General Manager

Mr. Stolzman provided a summary of transportation operations, car shop operations, and storage and switching volumes. He noted a significant decrease in local customer switching volume, attributable to the continued effects of COVID-19, market shifts, and impacts to operations caused by weather events. Class I switching volume is below last year's numbers, but remains better than expected given the circumstances. Both volumes are showing a promising increase so far in the month of September.

Mr. Stolzman stated that railcar storage volume continues to be very strong, while intermodal volumes show an increase of almost 20% in the month of August. Railroad dwell time continues to remain low, reflecting fluid and efficient movement on the NOPB's network.

Mr. Stolzman provided an overview of engineering productivity, noting that, on the mechanical side, bad order repairs significantly decreased in August. He attributes these lower numbers to COVID-19 impacts to crew staffing, which caused an estimated loss of approximately ten (10) working days in August. With the arrival of all eight (8) leased locomotives, NOPB's locomotive fleet availability is expected to reach 100% by the end of September.

Commissioner Toomy inquired as to the status of the old locomotives that were previously approved for surplus and auction, subsequent to the arrival of the leased locomotives. Mr. Stolzman stated that two (2) locomotives have been sold, and three (3) more sales are currently pending.

Chairman Berger asked about the locomotive sales prices in relation to competitive market value. Mr. Stolzman confirmed that the locomotives have been selling at, or above, fair market value.

Commissioner Langenstein wondered if railroad traffic is expected to increase in the near future. Mr. Stolzman responded that he anticipates growth over the remainder of the year.

Commissioner Ponstein inquired as to the process for auctioning the old locomotives. Mr. Stolzman responded that the locomotives were individually listed on a public auction website at the fair market/appraisal prices, and sold to the highest bidder.

VI. Adjournment

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