

**THE NEW ORLEANS PUBLIC BELT RAILROAD COMMISSION
FOR THE PORT OF NEW ORLEANS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2021**

**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 168 JBE 2021,
CONVENED REMOTELY VIA ZOOM VIDEOCONFERENCE ON THURSDAY,
SEPTEMBER 23, 2021 AT 2:08 P.M.**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: William H. Langenstein, III, Chairman
Joseph F. Toomy, Member

STAFF: B. Christian, Chief Executive Officer
M. Stolzman, General Manager
C. Kocur, Vice President, Engineering
F. Hasbun, Manager, Administration
J. Escudier, Executive Counsel
M. Scelson, General Counsel

GUESTS: M. Ganon, Port of New Orleans
R. Wendel, Port of New Orleans
A. Evett, Port of New Orleans
T. Rives, Port of New Orleans
R. Aragon Dolese, Port of New Orleans
C. Coats, Port of New Orleans
E. Pansano, Port of New Orleans
M. Verderame, Port of New Orleans
G. Brown, Port of New Orleans
M. Gresham, Port of New Orleans
C. Labat, Port of New Orleans
C. Gilmore, Port of New Orleans
D. Cordell, Port of New Orleans
G. Palermo, Port of New Orleans
E. Federer, Port of New Orleans
J. Mansour, Port of New Orleans
G. Rose, Port of New Orleans
C. Alfonso, Port of New Orleans
J. Ragusa, Port of New Orleans
A. Madere, Port of New Orleans
C. Falgoust, Port of New Orleans
A. Taylor, Port of New Orleans

J. Moran, Port of New Orleans
J. Woodward, Port of New Orleans
M. Singley, Port of New Orleans
Capt. Montroll, Harbor Police Department
Nmahoney123
P. Foley

I. Roll Call & Determination of Quorum

Following a roll call of Commission members, and in the absence of Commission Chairman Langenstein, Vice-Chairman Ponstein confirmed a quorum and called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m.

II. Approval of Meeting Minutes for August 2021

Vice-Chairman Ponstein called for a motion to approve the public meeting minutes for August 2021, as previously circulated.

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

III. Public Comment

Vice-Chairman Ponstein asked for any agenda-related or general public comments, but there were none. Ms. Verderame confirmed that no public comments were submitted in advance or via the Zoom Chat feature.

IV. Action Items:

A. Acceptance of the Financial Statement for August 2021

Mr. Wendel presented the Commission's August 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 August 31, 2021. He reported that, even though operating revenues are slightly under budget for the month, switching and storage revenue remain strong and year-to-date revenues are still more than \$1 million over the revenues at this time last year. Expenses are \$41,000 below budget for this month and \$289,000 under last year's numbers at this time. Overall, the August operating income is \$20,000 above budget and \$735,000 above last year-to-date's numbers.

Commissioner Leger moved to accept the financial statement and Commissioner Berger seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

B. Briefing on the Chief Executive Officer's Declaration of Extreme Public Emergency in Connection with Mitigating Impacts of Hurricane Ida.

Mr. Escudier briefed the Board on Ms. Christian's Declaration of Extreme Public Emergency, issued on August 30, 2021 (the "Declaration"), in accordance with the Board's

Bylaws, in response to the extensive damage caused by Hurricane Ida. Mr. Escudier noted that this Declaration is consistent with the proclamations issued by the Governor suspending the requirements of the Louisiana Public Bid Law and the Procurement Code.

V. Report of the General Manager

Mr. Stolzman presented the General Manager's Report. He reported that Hurricane Ida did not cause any significant damage to the Commission's facilities however, the loss of electric power interrupted operations for a few days. Normal operations resumed on September 8. Despite the loss of four (4) full days of work due to the hurricane, local customer and Class-I Switching volumes remained strong for the month of August with significant increases compared to August 2020. Storage volumes remain steady, averaging between 900-1100 cars per day with an average storage time per car of 72 days.

Vice-Chairman Ponstein inquired about the Commission's total storage capacity. Mr. Stolzman responded that operating capacity is 1,300 cars. He mentioned that the major storage customers are Exxon Mobil, Shell Oil Company, and Viper. Vice-Chairman Ponstein reminded everyone that the goal for storage cars used to be 800 cars per day.

Intermodal volumes remained steady in August, despite the lost days of operation, and should increase in September. Dwell numbers increased drastically as a result of the down time due to the hurricane. Ties and bridge ties replacement met goal expectations. Track surfacing volume was down due to equipment deficiencies but should improve as repairs are being completed. Tie mill productions remained below projections.

Chairman Ponstein inquired about reported track damage on the spillway section. Mr. Stolzman responded that this did not affect the Commission's tracks, however, some down power lines in the area did cause some congestion in the network.

VI. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Vice-Chairman Ponstein called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Berger moved and Commissioner Leger seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** and Vice-Chairman Ponstein adjourned the meeting at 2:19 p.m.