

STATE OF TEXAS }
COUNTY OF WILLACY }

THE BOARD OF NAVIGATION AND CANAL COMMISSIONERS OF THE WILLACY COUNTY NAVIGATION DISTRICT met in Regular Session Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 9:00 A.M., 400 W. Hidalgo, Ste 200, Raymondville, TX with the following members present:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:	CHAD KINNEY	CHAIRMAN
	STACY REYES	SECRETARY
	ALBERTO TREVINO	MEMBER
	STEVEN KENDRICK	MEMBER
	ERNESTO CAVAZOS	MEMBER

ALSO PRESENT:	RON MILLS	PORT DIRECTOR
	ALLISON RODRIGUEZ	ATTORNEY
	FRANK VASQUEZ	PORT SUPERINTENDENT
	DAVID MAYES	PORT POLICE CHIEF
	LETTY MARTINEZ	ADMINISTRATIVE
		ASSISTANT

Chad Kinney, Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.; upon conclusion of roll call, it was ascertained that a quorum was present. Kinney called for affidavits of conflict of interest, and there was none.

Item No. 1: REVIEW & CONSIDERATION OF PREVIOUS BOARD MEETING MINUTES: Upon review of the January 10, 2024 board meeting minutes, Commissioner Trevino made the motion to approve the previous board meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cavazos and vote unanimously carried.

Item No. 2: EXECUTIVE SESSION – ATTORNEY CONSULTATION PURSUANT TO SEC. 551.071, TEX. GOV'T CODE, TO PROVIDE ADVICE AND COUNSEL REGARDING THE LEGAL AUTHORITY GOVERNING PUBLIC SPEECH, COMMUNICATION, AND ENGAGEMENT PERTAINING TO WCND OFFICIAL ACTIONS, POLICIES, AND OTHER BUSINESS; AND THE WCND'S LEGAL RIGHTS, DUTIES, AND OBLIGATIONS RELATING TO SAME:

EXECUTIVE SESSION CLOSED at approximately 9:08 a.m.

Item No. 3: RETURN TO OPEN SESSION, at approximately 9:45 a.m. – COMMENTS OR ACTIONS AS APPROPRIATE.

Item No. 4: PUBLIC COMMENT:

James Dunks/Environmental issues: a retired Texas Game Warden Capt., discussed the importance of dredging the channel to Port Mansfield, it allows the Laguna Madre to breath. Dredging the channel isn't just important for Port Mansfield, it is extremely important to the sustainability of our fishery. Without the freshwater inflow, our bay system would basically just deplete itself, the seagrass and the shrimp would go.

Mr. Dunks also addressed to the board that he appreciates any type of commercial activity which requires having the channel open at all times, and stated "barge coming in pays the bills".

Miller Bassler/Container meeting: a 72, resident of Port Mansfield, spoke about the December meeting, having concerns regarding the container project. Mr. Bassler addressed to the board that he started fishing in Port Mansfield during the 1990s and is a resident on the harbor, "the water and the beauty of Port is addictive and the peace and quiet is very much appreciated". Mr Bassler, disagrees on how the flow should happen. The main concern is the barge traffic, immigration and drugs coming in from Mexico. Mr. Bassler is encouraging a meeting with Port and a moderator.

Mr. Bassler stated that many other people in Port Mansfield are concerned that the Willacy County Navigation District plans to transform the quiet fishing town into a commercial port and it makes no sense.

Kathy Bassler/Barge/Container project: addressed the board to keep the channel open and find another way for fishermen and duck hunters, not barges or shipping. Mrs. Bassler states that the container project will be a disaster, Port will be ruined

Patsy Nolte/Real Estate: a local real estate agent, warned the board that the barge traffic will drive residents away. Mrs. Nolte stated that she has already had buyers that come to look at Port Mansfield and then find out about the potential of barge traffic and they find no interest, residents are calling her and asking if they should sell their property, they are scared and don't know what to do. Property values are going to hit rock bottom, the residents don't want Port to be a commercial community. They had never had a problem until Mike Wilson had the bird sanctuary built.

Mrs. Nolte urged the board to meet with Port Mansfield residents.

Melissa Murphy/Community open meeting: asked the board to have an open meeting. Murphy addressed the board that they had voted to have 1 board meeting a year at Port Mansfield, and would also like to put a recording of the meeting on the website.

Item No. 5: CONSIDERATION AND APPROPRIATE ACTION REGARDING A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH NORTH AMERICAN STANDARDS FOR GENERAL WCND DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES: After discussing the Memorandum of Understanding with North American Standards for General WCND Development purposes. Commissioner Trevino made the motion to Table this item for the purpose to address the lessee to include a clinic. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cavazos and vote unanimously carried.

Item No. 6: DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON RESOLUTION 2024-001 PERTAINING TO TXDOT BULKHEAD REPAIR FUNDING AS REQUIRED UNDER TEXAS STATE GUIDELINES: After discussion, Commissioner Kendrick made the motion to adopt the Resolution 2024-0001 pertaining to TXDOT Bulkhead repair funding as required under Texas State Guidelines. The motion was seconded by Secretary Reyes and vote unanimously carried.

Item No. 7: DISCUSSION ON PMPUD REVIEW AND WITHDRAWAL FROM OPTION 2 TO OF THE NEW PORT SUBDIVISION WATER AND SEWER INSTALLATION PLAN. TO MAKE MORE EFFECTIVE UPGRADE TO THE SYSTEM THROUGH DIFFERENT MEANS: Port Mansfield Public Utility District took responsibility of Option 2 of the New Port Subdivision water and sewer installation plan.

Item No. 8: PORT POLICE CHIEF MONTHLY SUMMARY REGARDING LAW ENFORCEMENT OPERATIONS, INVESTIGATIONS, CRIME REPORTS AND STATISTICS, ARRESTS, CRIMINAL OR SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY, MIGRANT ACTIVITY, LAND AND WATER RESCUES, PUBLIC SAFETY RELATED INFORMATION, PERSONNEL MATTERS AND EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY MATTERS: Mayes, Port Police Chief did not have much to report, its off season. Duck hunters are in. Mayes attended special training to understand better public safety organization and they are upgrading their technology.

Item No. 9: PORT DIRECTORS REPORT:

- Contractor advised to proceed with the installation of seawall and backfill as needed for the airboat ramp and parking lot: Mills, advised the local contractor to restore Port of the seawall original proposal. Asked to represent another proposal for vinyl sea wall.
- Will have paperwork completed and will advertise an auction by sealed bid for excess property to be opened on March 29, 2024 at the main office. Bid forms will be available at the Harbor office and the materials will be available for viewing at the property adjacent to the WCND warehousing behind the church: action dump truck, police cars and cut up old tanks. Sealed bid for any item on March 29, 2024, the forms will be at the Harbor office.

- TXDOT Maritime updated paperwork for submittal of airport expansion and repairs for the 25-26 legislative funding projects.
- Been 8 years since we painted the Post Office so will be refreshing the building in the next month or so depending on personnel availability.

Item No. 10: REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF BUILDING AUTHORIZATIONS ISSUED FOR THE MONTH OF DECEMBER, 2023: The building authorizations issued for the month of December, 2023 were reviewed and discussed.

Item No. 11: REVIEW & CONSIDERATION OF RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, CANCELLED LEASES AND COLLATERAL TRANSFER OF LEASE: Upon review and discussion of each described and itemized leases, a letter to a lessee has been mailed to modify their home or lease will be canceled. Secretary Reyes made the motion to accept and approve the leases as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cavazos and the vote unanimously carried.

Item No. 12: REVIEW & CONSIDERATION OF CHECKS AND VOUCHERS: After review of the checks and vouchers, Commissioner Trevino made the motion to accept the issued checks and approve the transactions for payment of the Willacy County Navigation District and to accept the transactions January 11, 2024 through February 14, 2024. The motion was seconded by Secretary Reyes and the vote unanimously carried.

Item No. 13: Meeting adjourned at approximately 10:25 a.m.