

STATE OF TEXAS }
COUNTY OF WILLACY }

THE BOARD OF NAVIGATION AND CANAL COMMISSIONERS OF THE WILLACY COUNTY NAVIGATION DISTRICT met in Regular Session Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at 9:00 A.M., 400 W. Hidalgo, Ste 200, Raymondville, TX with the following members present:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:	ERIC KENNEDY	CHAIRMAN
	STACY REYES	SECRETARY
	STEVEN KENDRICK	MEMBER
	ALBERTO TREVINO	MEMBER
	ERNESTO CAVAZOS	MEMBER
ALSO PRESENT:	RON MILLS	PORT DIRECTOR
	ALLISON RODRIGUEZ	ATTORNEY
	DE LEON	PORT POLICE OFFICER
	LETTY MARTINEZ	ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
SPECIAL GUEST(S):	MATHEW MONTEMAYOR – CPA, CARR, RIGGS & INGRAM	

Eric Kennedy, Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.; upon conclusion of roll call, it was ascertained that a quorum was present. Kennedy 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 February 12, 2025 board meeting minutes, Commissioner Trevino made the motion to approve the previous board meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Secretary Reyes and vote unanimously carried.

Item No. 2: PUBLIC COMMENT(S):

John Walker: addressed the board that on March 01, 2025, Chad Kinney approached him and told him he is not welcome at his marina his fuel dock, bait store or restaurant (Blues), due to critical statements he had made from this podium against him. Mr. Walker is requesting for this board or its legal counsel to inform him within the next 30 days whether a commercial leaseholder in Port Mansfield can refuse service to him on the basis of protected political speech, (free speech). Mr. Walker, also addressed Commissioner Kendrick to please ask the board's legal counsel to cite the boards authority and hold the April meeting in Port Mansfield and the May meeting in Lasara.

Patrick Tyler: stated that after 75 years of Port Mansfields' existence, the biggest issue before this board, according to Mr. Mills and Trevino and others is that in Willacy County tax payers have gotten little or nothing for millions of dollars. In 2009, the Democratic party in Raymondville tried to break the old boy network by enlarging the

board to five members, new precinct lines were drawn that the board would have to be controlled by a majority of members elected outside of Port Mansfield. In 2014 Mills was hired as Executive Port Director and he not only continued the tradition of do nothing or do little governance. Mr. Tyler also stated that Mills worst offense is North American Standards for which the board and its legal counsel share some responsibility. Mr. Tyler mentioned has led a movement in our community to petition Judge Guerra to call an election on the question of incorporating Port Mansfield as a general law municipality.

Miller Bassler: Would like to thank the district for their continued support of the Port Mansfield clean up, which is June 14, 2025 and it will kick off at 7 a.m. from the Port Mansfield Chamber Pavillion. Bassler stated that last year they had 250 volunteers that gave of their time and their day to pick up tons of trash.

Kathy Bassler: addressed the board that her and her husband have owned their home in Port Mansfield since 2006. Mrs. Bassler is wanting to address the wish and desire of our community to have a meeting in Port Mansfield, the Port Mansfield people have a very sincere and strong desire to have transparency, to be aware of what's going on. Mrs. Bassler stated that she would love to be able to see everyone get along, work together, and do what's best for this community and this beautiful place of Port Mansfield.

Jack Ficklen: has been a resident of Port Mansfield 42 years, 11 months and one week and within that time he started coming to these meetings. Mr. Ficklen stated that in all the meetings he has attended he has never seen anybody from Raymondville attend at least one meeting. Mr. Ficklen addressed that for the past 17 years of paying lease fees on his property, his next door neighbor pays a third, two thirds less than what he pays, which makes no sense.

Item No. 3: PRESENTATION OF ANNUAL INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT BY CRI FOR PERIOD ENDING MAY 31, 2024: Mathew Montemayor, audit partner with Carl, Riggs and Ingram gave a presentation and overview of the annual audit report for the most recent fiscal year which is May 31, 2024. After review of the audit report presentation Commissioner Kendrick made the motion to accept the audit for May 31, 2024 fiscal year. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Trevino and vote unanimously carried.

Item No. 4: FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION FROM JULY PRESENTATION BY BORDER AFFAIRS GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS FIRM ON A CONTRACT TO PROVIDE PUBLIC RELATIONS AND WEBSITE SERVICES: After discussing the follow-up from July presentation by Border Affairs Governmental Relations Firm, Commissioner Trevino made the motion to accept the contract to provide public relations and website services. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cavazos and vote unanimously carried.

Item No. 5: DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON TXDOT AVIATION DIVISION UNSOLICITED OFFER TO REPLACE FENCING OF THE ENTIRE CHARLES JOHNSON AIRPORT TO BE FUNDED AND MANAGED BY TXDOT AVIATION EXCLUSIVELY LESS THE WCND 10 PERCENT COST SHARE: After discussion on the TXDOT Aviation Division offer, Commissioner Trevino made the motion to replace the fencing of the entire Charles Johnson airport to be funded and managed by TXDOT Aviation. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cavazos and vote unanimously carried.

Item No. 6: PORT DIRECTORS REPORT:

- Cancellation of the Army Corp of Engineers Interim Dredging Operations that were tentatively scheduled for February/March 2025: Received a call saying that they were not coming, they had at least 5 boats bump bottom, they had 2 groundings and vessels abandoned which were grounded couldn't be recovered.
The Corps have official numbers of say that the mid channel depth about 3,250 yards in from the jetties is 0 to 5 ft. So the channel is officially closed.

Item No. 7: REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF BUILDING AUTHORIZATIONS ISSUED FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY, 2025: The building authorizations issued for the month of February, 2025 were reviewed and discussed.

Item No. 8: REVIEW & CONSIDERATION OF RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, CANCELLED LEASES AND COLLATERAL TRANSFER OF LEASE: Upon review and discussion of each described and itemized leases, Secretary Reyes made the motion to accept and approve the leases as presented. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Trevino and the vote unanimously carried.

Item No. 9: REVIEW & CONSIDERATION OF CHECKS AND VOUCHERS: After review of the checks and vouchers, Commissioner Kendrick 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 February 13, 2025 through March 12, 2025. The motion was seconded by Secretary Reyes and the vote unanimously carried.

Item No. 10: EXECUTIVE SESSION – approximately 10:05, closed session

CLOSED SESSION:

- SEC. 551.071, TEX. GOV'T CODE, FOR ATTORNEY BRIEFING ON PENDING LEGAL MATTERS, PERTAINING GENERALLY TO WCND LEASES, BUSINESS RELATIONS, AND EMPLOYEE MATTERS.
- SEC. 551.074, TEX. GOV'T CODE, TO DELIBERATE THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, EVALUATION, REASSIGNMENT, DUTIES, DISCIPLINE, OR

DISMISSAL OF A PUBLIC OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE, TO WIT: THE EXECUTIVE PORT DIRECTOR.

•SEC. 551.071, TEX. GOV'T CODE, TO RECEIVE LEGAL ADVICE CONCERNING COMMUNICATIONS WITH THE MEDIA, AND THE USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA, BY WCND MEMBERS.

11. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION: approximately 11:24 a.m.

DISCUSSION AND ACTION, IF ANY, ON ITEMS DISCUSSED IN CLOSED SESSION – No action was taken.

Item No. 12 Adjourn: at approximately 11:25 a.m.