

STATE OF TEXAS }
COUNTY OF WILLACY }

THE BOARD OF NAVIGATION AND CANAL COMMISSIONERS OF THE WILLACY COUNTY NAVIGATION DISTRICT met in Regular Session Wednesday, September 10, 2025 at 9:00 A.M., 400 W. Hidalgo, Ste 200, Raymondville, TX with the following members present:

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:	ERIC KENNEDY	CHAIRMAN
	STACEY REYES	SECRETARY
	ALBERTO TREVINO	MEMBER
	STEVEN KENDRICK	MEMBER
	ERNESTO CAVAZOS	MEMBER

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

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.

Item No. 1: REVIEW & CONSIDERATION OF PREVIOUS BOARD MEETING MINUTES: Upon review of the August 13, 2025 board meeting minutes and August 20, 2025 special meeting minutes, Commissioner Trevino made the motion to approve the 2 sets of the previous board meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Secretary Reyes and vote carried.

Item No. 2: PUBLIC COMMENT(S):

Bonnie Brown: addresses the board regarding WCND's handling Mark Brown's situation and Mansfield Point. Mrs. Brown stated that WCND's taking 13 months, actually 4 years to clear Mark Browns name and clearing Mansfield Point in a more timely manner. Mrs Brown also stated that Mark Brown spent a lot of time and money to develop Mansfield Point, getting permits, dealing with grass studies, seawall construction, and moving the Loran Tower. Mansfield Point generated \$0 in lease fees, boat stall lease fees, and ad valorem taxes from 1950-2004, but now generates more than \$1.8 million annually, with over \$750.000 going to WCND alone over the past 17 years. Mrs. Brown alleges Ron composed a letter that Reyes published on Facebook attempting to incriminate and smear Marks's name, she believes Ron didn't want Mark back on the board because Mark would have held him accountable for expenditure decisions. Mrs. Brown believes Ron and Stacy owe Mark a sincere apology she stated that the Navigation District has an image problem that money cannot fix due to the damage done by the board over the previous four years.

Holly Trojcek: suggests that everyone in Port Mansfield watch the special meeting held on August 20. Trojcek states that they have tried talking nicely, but the commissioners

are not listening. Trojcek accuses Ron and the board of repeating disasters and not working for the citizens, but chasing barge ports to justify paychecks, as North American Standards, Border Affairs and seawall project. She believes that the board still intends to turn the town into a container barge port, despite it being unviable.

Item No. 3: INTRODUCTIONS AND COMMENTS BY DIRECTOR OF TXDOT MARITIME DIVISION: Garrett, the director for the Maritime Division at the Texas Department of Transportation, spoke about grants provided by the Department of Transportation. The Texas Transportation Commission authorized the grant for the project. The current presidential administration has a strong focus on maritime assets. TxDot wants Texas to be a leader in reviving ship building and short sea shipping/container on barge. TxDot wants to be ahead of the curve and is competing against other Gulf Coasts states. TxDot is developing a short sea shipping/container on barge operation and negotiated to include non-containerized barges.

Garrett says it is promoting job creation and economic development to help sustain and benefit from the land that you have the responsibility to manage. The bulkhead project is ongoing with challenges. Crystal, a Port Development Administrator for the Texas Maritime Division, provided an update: The project length was set to 480 days with notice to proceed in March 2025. The project is 36% on time and 40% on budget. Russell Marine is performing well and staying on schedule.

Item No. 4: DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON 2025/2026 TAX RATES AS PREPARED BY WILLACY COUNTY TAX OFFICE: After discussion on 2025/2026 tax rates as prepared by Willacy County Tax Office, Commissioner Kendrick made the motion to not increase the tax rate and keep it as is 0.083. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Trevino and vote carried.

Item No. 5: DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON PROPOSAL TO ENROLL EMPLOYEES INTO THE WILLACY COUNTY MEDICAL INSURANCE PLAN VERSUS THIRD PARTY INSURER: The board discussed the proposal to enroll employees into the Willacy County Medical Insurance Plan versus third party insurer. The county's rate is \$650.00 per employee, per month (self-insured), versus \$911.80 with a third party. After discussion Commissioner Trevino made the motion to accept the Willacy County's medical insurance plan. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Cavazos and vote carried.

Item No 6: DISCUSSION AND ACTION ON CREATION OF A PR/MARKETING COMMITTEE TO PROVIDE INPUT AND PRIORITIES FOR BORDER AFFAIRS PROGRAMS: The initial recommendation was for Border Affairs to contact Commissioners Trevino and Cavazos for any feedback on what and how they should post content. The motion was made by Commissioner Kendrick to have Commissioner Trevino lead and respond to Border Affairs. The motion was seconded by Secretary Reyes and vote carried.

Item No. 7: PRESENTATION BY BORDER AFFAIRS LLC. OF PERFORMANCE REPORT AND ACTION ITEMS: Humberto Garza, Border Affairs discussed the transition process metrics and mechanics with Ron. There has been multiple communications to create mechanics for transition, designing new web pages for the website, content input from the committee, and has established standing monthly meetings with Ron. Mr. Garza stated that he also needs standing meetings with committee members and MPC for technical details. Has started new campaign design, with seven logos and new pages will be added to the existing Port of Port Mansfield website.

Item No. 8: PORT DIRECTORS REPORT:

- Update on Bank line of credit approval and current status on invoices: line of credit has been finalized with the bank for \$1.5M.
- A \$1.9M check issued to cover outstanding invoices for Russel Marine and now current.

Item No. 9: REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF BUILDING AUTHORIZATIONS ISSUED FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST, 2025: The building authorizations issued for the month of August, 2025 were reviewed and discussed.

Item No. 10: REVIEW & CONSIDERATION OF RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL, CANCELLED LEASES AND COLLATERAL TRANSFER OF LEASE: Upon review and discussion of each described and itemized leases, Commissioner Cavazos made the motion to accept and approve the leases as presented. The motion was seconded by Secretary Reyes and vote carried.

Item No. 11: 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 August 14, 2025 through September 10, 2025. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Trevino and vote carried.

**Next month board meeting to be on October 15, 2025.

Item No. 12: Adjourn: at approximately 10:20 a.m.