

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE PORT OF NEW ORLEANS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 2026**

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE PORT OF NEW ORLEANS, HELD IN THE FIRST FLOOR AUDITORIUM AT ITS OFFICE LOCATED AT 1350 PORT OF NEW ORLEANS PLACE, NEW ORLEANS, LOUISIANA, WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY CHAIRMAN MICHAEL A. THOMAS AT 1:40 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Michael A. Thomas, Chairman
Jeanne E. Ferrer, Vice-Chair
Darryl D. Berger, Secretary-Treasurer
Sharonda R. Williams, Member
Todd P. Murphy, Member
Dale S. Revelle, Member
James J. Carter, Jr., Member

STAFF: B. Branch, President & Chief Executive Officer
J. Escudier, Chief Legal Officer
L. Marino, Chief of Staff & Vice-President External Affairs
Chief M. Montroll, Harbor Police Department
A. Laurie, Chief Financial Officer
K. App, Chief Commercial Officer
C. Gilmore, Chief Engineering Officer
A. Coates, Vice-President, Cargo Development
S. Gauthier, Vice-President, Cruise
C. Labat, Director, Procurement
J. Mansour, Director Trade Development
K. Gilmore, Director, Real Estate
A. Dawson, Director, Emergency Management
T. Black, General Counsel
C. Donze, Staff Attorney
B. Bailey, Information Technology Specialist
M. Austin, Information Technology Specialist
J. Passaro, Manager, Engineering
Lt. C. Cummings, Harbor Police Department
K. Curth, Press Secretary
N. Carter, Manager, Central Records
B. Skaggs, Manager, Sustainable Development
A. Bierman, Manager, Insurance & FEMA Administration
M. Singley, Executive Staff Officer
S. Hodges, Board Secretariat

GUESTS: T. Bryant, NOPB
C. Kocur, NOPB

M. Scelson, NOPB
A. Thompson, Stop the Grain Train
L. Edwards, Lower 9th Ward Resident
W. Edwards, Lower 9th Ward Resident
C. Antrum, The Hackett Group
M. Moore, MOREO
A. Johnson, Cohn Reznick, LLP
A. Gaines, WSP
M. Valenti, WSP
C. Robles, Volkert
P. Vandercook, Global Maritime Ministries
J. Toomy, Commissioner Emeritus

I. Roll Call & Determination of Quorum

Following a roll call of Board members, Chairman Thomas confirmed a quorum and called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m.

II. Public Comment

Chairman Thomas called for public comment and Ms. Hodges announced that three (3) individuals had requested to make public comment on matters not listed on the agenda.

Prior to inviting the speakers to the podium, Ms. Hodges read the Board's public comment parameters.

Before calling the first speaker, Chairman Thomas recognized Mr. Joseph Toomy, Commissioner Emeritus and Chairman of the Special Committee for the Louisiana Ports and Waterways Investment Commission, and invited him to speak to the Board.

Mr. Toomy provided an update on the development of a joint marketing strategy designed to promote opportunities across the five ports along the Lower Mississippi River. He expressed his appreciation to Chairman Thomas, Beth Branch, and Board staff for their contributions to the project and contract management. He also noted the marked improvement in communication and collaboration among the ports, along with increased support and engagement from local and state agencies.

Chairman Thomas and other Commissioners commended Mr. Toomy for his leadership and his dedication to a project that will generate transformative economic growth.

Lindsay Edwards, Amanda Thompson, and William Edwards expressed their opposition to the lease agreement with Sunrise Foods International, Inc., the establishment of an organic grain terminal at the Alabo Street wharf, the rehabilitation of rail crossings, and the demolition of the Board property on Bienvenue Avenue.

III. Report by the President and Chief Executive Officer

Ms. Branch presented an overview of the January 2026 volume and productivity statistics, along with a summary of the month's key highlights.

IV. Approval of the Meeting Minutes for January 2026

Chairman Thomas called for a motion to approve the public meeting minutes for January 2026, as previously circulated. Commissioner Revelle moved to accept the minutes and Commissioner Williams seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

V. Action Items:

A. Acceptance of the Consolidated Financial Statements for January 2026.

Mr. Laurie presented the consolidated financial statements for the month of January, a copy of which is made a part of these minutes. Commissioner Ferrer moved to approve the consolidated financial statements and Commissioner Williams seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

B. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Renew the Board's Property, Primary and Excess Liability Insurance, Hull and Machinery and P&I Insurance, Commercial Auto Liability, Vessel Pollution Liability Insurance, Public Official's Liability Insurance, Law Enforcement Liability Insurance, Equipment Breakdown, Architects and Engineers Professional, Government Crime Insurance, Cyber Insurance, and Property Terrorism, at a Not-to-Exceed Cost of \$7,460,326.70, all Arranged Through Arthur J Gallagher Risk Management Services, LLC.

Mr. Laurie presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Commissioner Murphy moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Williams seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

VI. Chairman and Commissioners' Comments

Chairman Thomas asked for Commissioners' comments but there were none.

VII. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Thomas called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Murphy so moved and Commissioner Ferrer seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** and Chairman Thomas adjourned the meeting at 2:10 p.m.