

**THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE PORT OF NEW ORLEANS
MINUTES OF THE REGULAR BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 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 1:42 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

MEMBER ABSENT: 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, Chief Public Safety & Emergency Management Officer
A. Laurie, Chief Financial Officer
K. App, Chief Commercial Officer
C. Gilmore, Chief Engineering Officer
M. Jensen, Chief Operating Officer
S. Gauthier, Vice-President, Cruise
C. Labat, Director, Procurement
A. Dawson, Director, Emergency Management
T. Black, General Counsel
C. Donze, Staff Attorney
B. Bailey, Information Technology Specialist
E. LeCompte, Manager, Environmental
M. Sulser, Director, Engineering
G. Brown, Vice-President, People & Culture
N. Dietzen, Staff Attorney
E. Gondek, Manager, Terminal Operations
A. Romanov, Manager, Engineering
K. Mills, Manager, Government & Community Affairs
A. Every, Manager, Accounting
A. Randolph, Manager, Communications & Community Engagement
S. Abu Naser, Controller
A. Taylor, Procurement
E. Federer, Director, Sustainable Development

K. Curth, Press Secretary
B. Skaggs, Manager, Sustainable Development
S. Hodges, Board Secretariat

GUESTS: T. Bryant, NOPB
C. Kocur, NOPB
M. Scelson, NOPB
B. Richards, NY Associates
A. Thompson, Holly Cross Resident
L. Edwards, Lower 9th Ward Resident
W. Edwards, Lower 9th Ward Resident
C. Antrum, The Hackett Group
C. Robles, Volkert
K. Braud, The Covent Collective
R. Chauvin, Infinity Engineer
S. Cali, Arcadis
K. Boulton, Kiewit
M. Bowers, Kiewit
P. West, EJES Inc.
R. Branch

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 1:42 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.

Amanda Thompson, Lindsay Edwards, 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 February 2026 volume and productivity statistics, along with a summary of the month's key highlights.

IV. Approval of the Meeting Minutes for February 2026

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

V. Action Items:

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

Mr. Laurie presented the consolidated financial statements for the month of February, 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 Enter into an Agreement with US Customs and Border Protection in the Amount of \$393,720.76 for Equipment Upgrades at the Erato and Julia Cruise Terminals.

Mr. Gauthier presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Commissioner Ferrer moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Revelle seconded.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

C. Consider Approval of a Resolution for the Purchase of Mitigation Bank Credits, with a Not to Exceed Amount of \$30,000,000 for Bottomland Hardwood Mitigation Credits for the Louisiana International Terminal (LIT).

Mr. Gilmore presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Commissioner Murphy moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Williams seconded.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

D. Consider approval of a Resolution for the Purchase of Mitigation Bank Credits, with a Not to Exceed Amount of \$4,000,000 for Brackish Marsh Mitigation Credits for the Louisiana International Terminal (LIT).

Mr. Gilmore presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Commissioner Revelle moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Williams seconded.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

E. Consider Approval of a Resolution Awarding a Contract to Boh Bros. Construction Co., L.L.C. in the Amount of \$964,000 for the Florida Avenue Bridge Span Guide & Counterweight Guide Repairs.

Mr. Gilmore presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Commissioner Ferrer moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Williams seconded.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

F. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Execute a Second Amendment to the Lease Agreement with Entergy New Orleans, LLC for the Properties Located at 5000 France Road and 4600 Jourdan Road, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Commissioner Williams recused herself from voting on this item.

Mr. Serio presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Commissioner Murphy moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Revelle seconded.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

G. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Enter into a Contract with Nola Protection Group, to Provide Security Guard Services for a Period of Three Years with Two One-Year Renewal Options, for an Estimated Cost of \$655,000 per Year During the Contract Term.

Chief Montroll presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Commissioner Ferrer moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Williams seconded.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

H. Consider Approval of a Resolution Declaring the Board's Intention to Reimburse Itself for Capital Improvement Expenditures out of the Proceeds of Bonds to be Issued in the Future; and Providing for Other Matters in Connection Therewith.

Mr. Escudier presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Commissioner Berger moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Ferrer seconded.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

I. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Enter into an Entity/State Agreement with the State of Louisiana, through the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development to Serve as the Cost Share Partner for the Stage 1 Study in Connection with the St. Bernard Transportation Corridor Project.

Mr. Gilmore presented and recommended approval of the resolution. Commissioner Ferrer moved to approve the resolution and Commissioner Revelle seconded.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Chairman Thomas commended Board staff for their diligent efforts and close partnership with the State of Louisiana and the Department of Transportation and Development in advancing this essential project.

VI. Closed Executive Session Convened in Accordance with La R.S.42:17A(2), to Discuss the Matter Entitled:

- *In re: Almonaster Allisions*

Chairman Thomas read the agenda item aloud and called for a motion to enter into a closed executive session, convened in accordance with La R.S. 42:17(A)(2) to discuss the above matter.

Commissioner Williams moved to enter into a closed executive session and Commissioner Ferrer seconded. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** and the Board entered into closed executive session at 2:16 p.m.

Following the conclusion of the discussion, Chairman Thomas called for a motion to end the closed executive session and return to the open meeting. Commissioner Williams moved to end the closed executive session and Commissioner Ferrer seconded. The **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** and the closed executive session concluded at 2:32 p.m.

VII. Consider Approval of a Resolution Authorizing the President and Chief Executive Officer to Enter into a Settlement Agreement with Excell Marine Corporation in the Matter Entitled In Re: Almonaster Allisions.

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

VIII. Chairman and Commissioners' Comments

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

IX. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board, Chairman Thomas called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Williams so moved and Commissioner Ferrer seconded. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY** and Chairman Thomas adjourned the meeting at 2:33 p.m.