

MISSISSIPPI PORT AUTHORITY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

August 27, 2026

Minutes of the Mississippi State Port Authority Board of Commissioners Meeting,
Thursday, August 27, 2026, at 2510 14th Street, Suite 1450, Gulfport, Mississippi at
which the following Commissioners and staff were present:

Commissioners: Mark Loughman, President
Robert J. Knesal, Vice-President
Kathryn Dennis Spear, Secretary
James Moody, Treasurer
Cowles Symmes, Commissioner

Staff: Jon Nass, CEO
Shawn Meyer, COO
Kecia Laneaux, Executive Affairs Manager
Errol LaRue, Director of Public Affairs & Special Projects
Todd Harman, Director of Finance
Matt Gabbett, Director of Operations
Gary Pitcovich, Assistant Director of Operations
Brett Cobb, Port Engineer
Teresa Ehrlich, Project Manager
Cindy Ford, Contract/Administrative Assistant
Michelle Freeman, Receivables/Financial Analyst
KeCheira Shelby, Principal Accountant
Melissa Scallan, Director of Communications & Marketing
Brittany Beavers, Office Coordinator/Executive Assistant

Ben Stone, Legal Counsel

Others: Greg Schruff, SSA Marine
Mike Letort, Warren Paving
Tishona Smith, Residence Inn
Nick Moody, MP Design

Commissioner Loughman noted the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at approximately 10:30 a.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Loughman.

The invocation was given by Michelle Freeman, MSPA.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No public comments.

Commissioner Moody moved to approve the Minutes from July 23, 2026, Board Meeting. Commissioner Symmes seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Knesal moved to approve travel (September 28-30, 2026) – Nass to New Orleans, LA; (September 28-30, 2026) - Smith to New Orleans, LA; (September 28-30, 2026) – LaRue to New Orleans, LA; (September 28-30, 2026) – Knesal to New Orleans, LA; (October 24-29, 2026) – Nass to Georgetown, Guyana. Commissioner Moody seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Moody left the meeting.

Commissioner Symmes moved to approve the disbursements for Wright National Flood Insurance (\$21,271.00) and Equitable Financial Life Insurance Co. (\$1,938.94). Commissioner Spear seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Moody returned to the meeting.

Commissioner Loughman left the meeting.

Commissioner Symmes moved to approve the disbursement for Mississippi Power Company (\$14,891.17). Commissioner Moody seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Loughman returned to the meeting.

Commissioner Spear left the meeting.

Commissioner Symmes moved to approve the disbursement for D.N.P., Inc. (\$194,345.22). Commissioner Moody seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Spear returned to the meeting.

Commissioner Symmes moved to approve the disbursements listed below except for Wright National Flood Insurance, Equitable Financial Life Insurance Company, Mississippi Power Company and D.N.P, Inc. Commissioner Moody seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

FINAL CHECKLIST FOR AUGUST 27, 2026			
BILLS FOR THE MONTHS OF JULY 2026 AND AUGUST 2026 APPROVED AND PAID			
FROM THE GROSS REVENUE FUND OF THE MS STATE PORT AUTHORITY AT GULFPORT			
CHECK NO.	VENDOR	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
63118	Advanced Marine, Inc.	VHF Radio Installation	1,290.80
63119	AFLAC	Employee Deductions	154.44
63120	All Safe Technologies, LLC	Fire Alarm Monitoring	532.65
63121	Amazon Capital Services, INC.	Office Supplies	381.94
63122	Bay Motor Winding, Inc.	Water Tower Motor Troubleshoot & Repair	29,631.88
63123	Boot Outlet, LLC	Uniform	2,082.50
63124	Sparklight	Internet - Cotton Compress	108.18
63125	City of Gulfport	Water and Sewer	26,963.19
63126	Continental Rails, Inc.	Remove Concrete Pads for Rail Inspection	7,009.35
63127	C Spire Wireless	Cell Phone Services	1,579.06
63128	C Spire Business Solutions	Office Phones/Internet	1,829.26
63129	Delta Utilities	Gas - Cotton Compress	163.07
63130	Eagle Energy, Inc.	Off Road Diesel Fuel	1,614.44
63131	Equitable Financial Life Insurance Co.	Employee Deductions	1,938.94
63132	Federal Express Corp.	Express Mail Services	76.92
63133	Fuelman	Fuel	1,210.14
63134	Gulf Coast Business Supply, Inc.	Office Supplies	29.63
63135	Whitney Bank Divisional Property	Suite 1450 Lease - September	29,348.92
63136	Whitney Bank Trust & Asset Management	Investment Fees	55,586.27
63138	MS-JS, Inc DBA Johnstone Supply of Gpt	Chiller Unit C & D Repairs, Crane Server Room	13,416.09
63139	Kiwanis International of Gulfport	Membership Dues	247.00
63140	Robert J. Knesal	Per Diem	80.00
63141	Mark P. Loughman	Per Diem	80.00
63142	Maritime Defense Strategy, LLC	Security Consulting Services	3,650.00
63143	James Moody	Per Diem	80.00
63144	IDEMIA	TWIC Card	124.00

63145	IDEMIA	TWIC Card	124.00
63146	The Mississippi Bar	Bar Dues	380.00
63147	MS Power Company	Electricity	14,891.17
63148	Pass Road Mini Storage, LLC	Storage Unit Rent	595.00
63149	Primo Brands	Water	690.61
63150	Redd Pest Solutions	Pest Control Services	193.50
63151	RJ Young Company, Inc.	Printer Maintenance	650.00
63152	ServiceWear Apparel, Inc.	Uniform	416.76
63153	Sorg Printing, LLC	Business Cards	43.00
63154	Jennifer Smith	Reimbursement	1,562.97
63155	Southern Admin. and Benefits	Monthly Service Fees	208.00
63156	Southern Admin. and Benefits	Monthly Service Fees	208.00
63157	Cowles Edgar Symmes	Per Diem	80.00
63158	Southern Tire Mart, LLC	Tires	233.20
63159	Upchurch Services, LLC	HVAC Repair - Crowley Building	10,322.96
63160	Wright National Flood Ins.	Insurance	21,271.00
			231,078.84

TRANSFERS

ACH	A-1 Battery Distributor, Inc.	Vehicle & Equipment Batteries	234.10
ACH	Adobe, Inc.	Software License	263.89
ACH	AGJ Systems & Networks, Inc.	IT Services - August	5,339.00
ACH	AGJ Systems & Networks, Inc.	IT Services - September	5,340.50
ACH	AirGas Gulf States	Maintenance Supplies	437.49
ACH	Andrew Haines	Business Development & Consulting Services	23,917.00
ACH	B&R Industrial Supply, Inc.	Office Supplies	1,050.24
ACH	Beaton Industrial, Inc.	Dock Levelers	7,470.00
ACH	Breakbulk US OPCI Inc	Conference Booth	7,320.00
ACH	Covenant Government Affairs, LLC	Professional Consulting Services	10,000.00
ACH	D.N.P., Inc.	24-EN-06 Retainage	463,827.77
ACH	Daniel Malicoat	Reimbursement - TWIC Card	124.00
ACH	EcoWaste Solutions	Dumpster	2,511.23
ACH	Jon T. Nass	Reimbursement	1,295.79
ACH	Kathryn Dennis Spear	Legislative Lunch	80.00
ACH	KLDiscovery Ontrack, LLC	Professional Services	1,477.00
ACH	Lucas Green	Reimbursement - Safety Boots and TWIC Card	241.65
ACH	MS Gulf Coast Chamber of Comm.	State of The County Luncheon	600.00
ACH	NEXTAFF	Temp Employee - Receptionist	2,767.50
ACH	Norma Jean Ladner Soroe	Transcription Services	843.48
ACH	Peopletrail, LLC	New Employee Background Check	172.50
ACH	Portable Services, Inc	Portable Restroom Services	875.00
ACH	Rotolo Consultants, Inc. dba RCI	Landscaping Services	3,566.90
ACH	Seal Electrical, Inc.	Crane Shack Powerl Shed 2 Light Repair	2,503.39
ACH	Shepard Exposition Services, Inc.	Breakbulk Booth Services	8,454.97
ACH	SoftResources LLC	ERP Consulting Services	1,912.50
ACH	South Mississippi Business Machines	Copier Lease & Maintenance	826.31
ACH	SSA Conventional, Inc.	Trailer Rent - Cotton Compress	1,800.00
ACH	Swetman Security Services, Inc.	Security Services	35,559.26
ACH	Timeless Designs of Lucedale LLC	Interior Plant Maintenance	279.69
ACH	Tyler Technologies, Inc.	ERP Setup	725.00
ACH	U.S. Bank	Travel	692.14
ACH	U.S. Bank	Subscriptions, Office Supplies, Meeting Supplies	2,073.77
ACH	Zoro Tools, Inc.	Office Supplies	2,436.70
			828,097.61

Commissioner Moody moved to approve the Port User Licenses, pending receipt of all fees and insurance documents. Commissioner Symmes seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

The following items were approved:

RENEWAL LICENSES:

Vendor: Atlas Shipping Services
BH Specialized Hauling

Steamship Agent:

Page & Jones
Host Agency, LLC

Commissioner Symmes moved to approve the following progress payments: Balch & Bingham (\$12,850.00); HDR Engineering (\$5,931.00); J.E. Borries (\$416,755.02); and MP Design Group (\$52,381.21). Commissioner Knesal seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Spear left the meeting.

Commissioner Moody moved to approve the progress payment to D.N.P., Inc. (\$194,345.22). Commissioner Symmes seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Spear returned to the meeting.

Commissioner Moody moved to approve the progress payment of Gulf Regional Planning (\$2,685.73). Commissioner Symmes seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Symmes moved to approve amendment No. 2 to Covington Civil Engineering and Environmental, LLC for Contract 23-EN-06 to provide a rate increase for north port testing services and extend the contract time to December 31, 2029. Commissioner Moody seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Symmes moved to approve Work Order No. 4 for Contract 27-EN-01 in an amount not to exceed \$206,562.00 for engineering design services for the East Pier Advanced Maritime Technology Center. Commissioner Knesal seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Knesal moved to approve Work Order No. 5 for Contract 27-EN-01 for MP Design in an amount not to exceed \$90,730.00 for engineering design services for alternate improvement project for Hurricane Zeta FEMA funding PW454. Commissioner Symmes seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Moody moved to approve Work Order No. 6 to Contract 27-EN-01 in an amount not to exceed \$50,000.00 for engineering services for Business Development Engineering. Commissioner Symmes seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Moody moved to approve advertising for bids for Advance Marine Technology Center at East Pier. Commissioner Symmes seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Knesal moved to approve advertising for bids for trash disposal services, which current provider contract expires on October 31, 2026. Commissioner Symmes seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

ENGINEERING UPDATE:

Shawn Meyer reported on current engineering projects.

OPERATIONS REPORT:

Shawn Meyer reported on the maritime activity for July 2026:

Vessels	14		Vehicles	16,000
Tugs	7		Railcars	659
Tonnage (YTD)	154,751		Barges	25
Tonnage	154,751		TEU (monthly)	14,021
TEU's (short tons)	14,021		Cruise line	

Fiscal year-to-date tonnage decreased by 32 percent compared to the previous fiscal year. The decline is primarily due to the previous year's bulk cargo vessel and additional cargo containers. TEU's decreased by 12 percent compared to the same period in the previous fiscal year.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

Executive Director Nass welcomed Brittany Beavers, Office Coordinator/Executive Assistant, to the MSPA team.

The AAPA Annual Conference is scheduled to be held in New Orleans, September 28-30, 2026.

Breakbulk in Houston is scheduled to take place in Houston prior to the September board meeting. Meetings with prospective customers have been arranged.

Director Nass expressed appreciation to those who attended the ribbon cutting ceremony for Saronic.

GENERAL COUNSEL'S COMMENTS:

No comments

MDA'S COMMENTS:

No comments.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:

Commissioner Loughman was congratulated on his upcoming retirement.

Commissioner Symmes moved to close the meeting to discuss the need for an Executive Session.

Commissioner Symmes moved to enter Executive Session to discuss a real estate matter. Commissioner Knesal seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

(THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ENTERED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT APPROXIMATELY 10:59 A.M.)

Commissioner Symmes moved to come out of Executive Session. Commissioner Moody seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Symmes stated that no action took place during Executive Session.

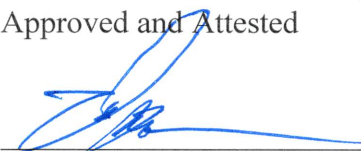
Commissioner Symmes moved to amend the agenda to include Resolution 26-04 for MSPA to renew its lease with Hancock Whitney Bank. Commissioner Moody seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Symmes moved to adopt Resolution 26-04 authorizing MSPA to renew the lease with Hancock Whitney Bank for office and boardroom space. Commissioner Knesal seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Moody moved to adjourn. Commissioner Symmes seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:42 p.m.

Approved and Attested



Mark Loughman
President



Kathryn Dennis Spear
Secretary