

MISSISSIPPI PORT AUTHORITY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

May 22, 2025

Minutes of the Mississippi State Port Authority Board of Commissioners Meeting, Thursday, May 22, 2025, at 2510 14th Street, Suite 1450, Gulfport, Mississippi at which the following Commissioners and staff were present:

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

Staff: Jon Nass, CEO
Shawn Meyer, COO
Jennifer Smith, Chief of Staff (via telephone)
Kecia Laneaux, Executive Affairs Coordinator
James Buras, Port Engineer
Matt Gabbett, Director of Operations
Gary Pitcovich, Assistant Director of Operations
John D'Antico, General Counsel
Teresa Ehrlich, Project Manager
Cindy Ford, Contract/Administrative Assistant
Lisa Mussa, Accounting Specialist
Michelle Freeman, Accounts Receivable
KeCheira Shelby, Senior Accountant
Melissa Scallan, Director of Marketing & Communications
Krisen Bellatti, Marketing & Public Relations Specialist
Ally Jones-Johnson, Safety and Stewardship Coordinator

M. Brant Pettis, Legal Counsel

Others: Philip Carter, MDA (via telephone)
David Machado, MP Design Group
Chris Stafford, Stafford Studios
Joey Beattie, SSH/Gallagher

Commissioner Symmes noted the presence of a quorum and called the meeting to order at approximately 9:00 a.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Commissioner Symmes.

The invocation was given by Ally Jones-Johnson, MSPA.

Commissioner Loughman moved to amend the agenda to include two items under New Business changing the awarding of contracts 25-EN-02 for Pilot Pier Extension Project and awarding of the West Gate Canopy Repainting Project to 1) Seeking authorization to publicly advertise for bids for Pilot Pier Extension Project and 2) Seeking authorization to publicly advertise for bids for West Gate Canopy Repainting Project. Commissioner Moody seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

There were no public comments.

Commissioner Knesal moved to approve the Minutes from April 24, 2025, Board Meeting. Commissioner Spear seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Loughman moved to approve travel (May 13-15) – Nass to Washington, DC; (May 13-15) – LaRue to Washington, DC; (June 8-10) – Nass to St. John, New Brunswick, Canada. Commissioner Knesal seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Loughman moved to approve the disbursements listed below with the exception of Mississippi Power Company and DNP, Inc. Commissioner Knesal seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

DISBURSEMENTS THROUGH MAY 7, 2025
 BILLS FOR THE MONTHS OF APRIL AND MAY 2025 APPROVED AND PAID
 FROM THE GROSS REVENUE FUND OF THE MS STATE PORT AUTHORITY AT GULFPORT

CHK #	VENDOR	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
62014	AFLAC	Employee Deductions	424.06
62015	AGJ Systems & Networks, Inc.	Computer Maintenance	4,848.50
62016	All Safe Technologies, LLC	Fire Alarm Monitoring	39.95
62017	Amazon Capital Services, INC.	Office Supplies, Spigot Kit and Landscape Lights	431.60
62018	Business Furniture Services, LLC	Office Chairs	830.00
62019	City of Gulfport	Water	7,032.08
62020	Core Logistical Solutions, LLC	Crowley Roll Up Door Repairs	1,905.00
62021	Equitable Financial Life Insurance Co.	Employee Deductions	1,431.14
62022	Express Services, Inc.	Temporary Employment Services	85.00
62023	Federal Express Corp.	Express Mail Services	9.13
62024	Ferguson Enterprises, LLC	Shed 50 Water Line Repair	3,225.37
62025	Fuelman	Fuel for MSPA Vehicles	279.35
62026	Grainger, Inc.	Batteries for Surveillance Cameras	372.12
62027	Green Marine Mngmt. Corp.	Membership Dues	4,584.00
62028	Gulf Coast Business Supply, Inc.	Office Supplies	77.52
62029	Jerry's Lawn Mower Sales	EZ Reacher's, Parts for Mower and Weed Eater	395.29
62030	MS-JS, Inc DBA Johnstone Supply of Gpt	Parts for Chiller Repair	5,183.86
62031	Mark Dunning Industries, Inc.	Waste Removal Services	1,260.00
62032	MS DHS - State Disbursement Unit	Employee Deductions	263.56
62033	MS DHS - State Disbursement Unit	Employee Deductions	263.56
62034	United Rentals (North America), Inc.	Lift Rental for Light Repair	2,256.50
62035	Peopletrail, LLC	Employee Testing	85.00
62036	Phillips Building Supply	Trailer Skirting for Cotton Compress	139.50
62037	The Port Employees Assoc.	Employee Deductions	24.00
62038	Portable Services, Inc	Portable Restroom Services	425.00
62039	RAVA Group Container Services, Inc.	Bunker Seal Holders	1,920.75
62040	Randolph C. Helland	Green Marine Verifications	1,520.01
62041	Redd Pest Solutions	Pest Control Services	90.00
62042	Seal Electrical, Inc.	Electrical Repair Services	7,243.07
62043	SoftResources LLC	Consulting Services	2,250.00
62044	Southern Printing & Silkscreen	Employee Uniforms	435.00
62045	Southern Admin. and Benefits	Monthly Service Fee	208.00
62046	Southern Fire Sprinkler, Inc.	Annual Fire Alarm Inspections	1,500.00
62047	SSA Gulf Inc.	Office Trailer Rent for Cotton Compress	900.00
62048	Sunbelt Rentals, Inc.	Light Towers Rental	990.32

62049	Swetman Security Services, Inc.	Security Guard Services	33,651.00
62050	Timeless Designs of Lucedale LLC	Interior Plant Maintenance	279.69
62051	Southern Tire Mart, LLC	Unit #12 Tires	671.60
62052	TX Child Support SDU	Employee Deductions	219.23
62053	TX Child Support SDU	Employee Deductions	219.23
62054	United Way of South MS, Inc.	Employee Deductions	54.00
62055	Upchurch Services, LLC	HVAC/R Maintenance and Repair Services	28,844.61
62056	U.S. Bank	Website Hosting, HR Webinars, Subscription, Business Meeting Lunch	1,383.32
62057	Zoro Tools, Inc.	Ground Materials, Maintenance and Janitorial Supplies	711.33
CHECKS DATED 04/30/25 AND RELEASED PRIOR TO SCHEDULED CHECK RUN			
62008	Sparklight	Internet Services	93.18
62009	Delta Utilities	Natural Gas Services	44.38
62010	IDEMA	TWIC Card	124.00
62011	Lisa Mussa	Office Supplies	64.20
62012	Pass Road Mini Storage, LLC	Storage Unit Rent	198.00
CHECK DATED 05/01/25 AND RELEASED PRIOR TO SCHEDULED CHECK RUN			
62013	Regus Corporation	Rent for Public Affairs Office in Jackson MS	1,255.20
TRANSFERS			
05/02/25	Federal Tax Deposit	Payroll Tax Deposit	30,655.13
05/02/25	Deferred Compensation	Employee Deductions	1,927.00
05/02/25	Public Retirement Match & Withheld	Public Retirement Match & Withheld	61,855.09
05/02/25	MS Department of Revenue	Employee Deductions	6,957.00
			Total
			\$222,135.43

FINAL CHECKLIST FOR MAY 22, 2025

BILLS FOR THE MONTHS OF APRIL AND MAY 2025 APPROVED AND PAID

FROM THE GROSS REVENUE FUND OF THE MS STATE PORT AUTHORITY AT GULFPORT

CHK #	VENDOR	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
62058	Kentwood Springs	Drinking Water	625.01
62059	AFLAC	Employee Deductions	424.06
62060	AGJ Systems & Networks, Inc.	Computer Equipment and Laptop Repair	2,598.73
62061	AirGas Gulf States	Acetylene, Oxygen and Argon Cylinders	339.53
62062	All Safe Technologies, LLC	Fire Alarm Monitoring	263.70
62063	Amazon Capital Services, INC.	Lights, Office and Maintenance Supplies	559.91
62064	Apex Environmental Consultants, Inc.	Environmental Online Consultants	500.00
62065	Business Furniture Services, LLC	Office Chairs and Floor Mats	1,505.48
62066	Sparklight	Cable Services	258.07
62067	City of Gulfport	Water	3,837.76
62068	Core Logistical Solutions, LLC	Troubleshoot and Repair Crowley Roll Up and Overhead Doors	1,350.57
62069	Consolidated Electrical Distributors, Inc.	Electrical Tools and Shed 50 Lighting	6,782.93
62070	Continental Rails, Inc.	Repair and Replace Rail Ties	69,609.96
62071	C Spire Wireless	Cell Phone Services	1,287.68
62072	C Spire Business Solutions	Telephone/Internet Services	1,797.33
62074	Equitable Financial Life Insurance Co.	Employee Deductions	1,431.14
62075	Express Services, Inc.	Temporary Employment Services	85.00
62076	Federal Express Corp.	Express Mail Services	27.39
62077	Ferguson Enterprises, LLC	Materials for Terminal #4 West Pier Water Line Repair	5,815.04
62078	Fuelman	Fuel for MSPA Vehicles	637.08
62079	Great Southern Club	Monthly Dues and Business Expenses	450.72
62080	Gulf Coast Business Council	Sponsorship	1,000.00
62082	Whitney Bank Divisional Property	June Lease for Suite 1450	28,494.10
62083	Imperial Bag & Paper Co., LLC	Janitorial Supplies	657.65
62085	Johnson Controls Fire Protection LP	Fire Alarm Strobes for Shed 2	2,629.37

62086	KLDiscovery Ontrack, LLC	Professional Services	1,477.00
62087	Robert J. Knesal	Per Diem	80.00
62088	Mark P. Loughman	Per Diem	120.00
62089	Lowe's Home Center, Inc.	Maintenance Supplies	100.51
62091	Mayer Electric Supply Co., Inc.	Materials for West Pier Underground Wire Repair	46,196.66
62092	McClatchy Company, LLC	Advertising	972.40
62093	James Moody	Per Diem	80.00
62094	MS Gulf Coast Chamber of Comm.	Sponsorship	500.00
62095	MS Power Company	Electricity	139,078.34
62096	Jon T. Nass	Travel and Business Expenses	4,865.08
62097	Pass Road Mini Storage, LLC	Storage Unit Rent	187.00
62098	Portable Services, Inc.	Portable Restroom Services	110.00
62099	Puckett Machinery Company	Backhoe Parts	1,621.99
62100	Quadient Leasing USA Inc.	Postage Machine Rent	195.57
62101	Rotary Club of Gulfport	Membership Dues	290.00
62102	SBL Strategies, LLC	Professional Consulting Services	20,000.00
62103	Seal Electrical, Inc.	Electrical Repair Services	59,744.72
62104	South Mississippi Business Machines	Copier Maintenance	509.00
62105	Norma Jean Ladner Soroe	Transcription Services	429.48
62106	Kathryn Dennis Spear	Per Diem	80.00
62107	Swetman Security Services, Inc.	Security Guard Services	32,713.00
62108	Cowles Edgar Symmes	Per Diem	120.00
62109	Union Auto Parts	Maintenance Supplies	124.00
62110	Upchurch Services, LLC	HVAC/R Maintenance and Repair Services	7,428.40
62111	Zoro Tools, Inc.	Sign Posts, Tools, Sport Drinks, Ground and Maintenance Supplies	3,228.85
TRANSFERS			
05/15/25	Federal Tax Deposit	Payroll Tax Deposit	31,062.73
05/16/25	Deferred Compensation	Employee Deductions	1,927.00
05/20/25	MS Department of Revenue	Employee Deductions	9,167.11
Total			<u>\$495,377.05</u>

Commissioner Loughman and Commissioner Moody left the meeting.

Commissioner Spear moved to approve the disbursements for Mississippi Power Company (\$139,078.34) and Equitable Financial Life Insurance Company (\$1,431.14). Commissioner Knesal seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Loughman and Commissioner Moody returned to the meeting.

The following items were approved:

RENEWAL LICENSES:

There were no licenses for approval this month.

Commissioner Loughman moved to approve the following progress payments: Balch & Bingham (\$9,872.85); Gulf Regional Planning Commission (\$2,207.72); J.E. Borries, Inc. (\$583,537.50); MP Design Group (\$70,109.83); Wise Carter (\$185.50); and WSP USA, Inc. (\$62,399.65). Commissioner Moody seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commission Spear left the meeting.

Commissioner Knesal moved to approve the following progress payments: DNP, Inc. (\$1,209,878.33). Commissioner Loughman seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Spear returned to the meeting.

OLD BUSINESS:

Commissioner Loughman moved to approve the First Amendment to Contract No. 23-EN-01 with MP Design Group for as needed on-call engineering services which will extend the contract for an additional (1) year at the proposed rate increase for Work Orders issued after June 30, 2025. Commissioner Moody seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Moody moved to authorize MSPA staff to solicit bids and proposals for the Pilot Pier Extension Project in the Small Craft Harbor. Commissioner Loughman seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Knesal moved to authorize MSPA staff to solicit bids and proposals for the West Gate Canopy Repainting Project. Commissioner Spear seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

ENGINEERING UPDATE:

James Buras reported on current engineering projects.

OPERATIONS REPORT:

Shawn Meyer reported on the maritime activity for April 2025:

Vessels	13		Vehicles	15,000
Tugs	8		Railcars	725
Tonnage (YTD)	1,886,301		Barges	34
Tonnage	168,097		TEU (monthly)	17,533
TEU's (short tons)	155,823			

Crane No. 2 is repaired and back in service.

Maintenance dredging will be completed this week and will be back to authorize the depth.

The focus is on preparing for hurricane season. A meeting was held with MSPA staff discussing the upcoming season and preparation for work and personal safety.

A Hurricane Meeting will be held on June 12, 2025, at the Great Southern Club to include NOAA, Coast Guard, and Harrison County Emergency Management System along with tenants to discuss planning and concerns for hurricane season.

Tonnage has increased 18% from last year, with the largest increase is in breakbulk. Monthly tonnage increased by 9% increase from last year. The TEU count increased by 3% over last month and 18% increase from last year.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

Director Nass announced that it is National Maritime Day and a video created by MSPA's Port Affairs Department was viewed, honoring the day. He also thanked the men and women that make the maritime industry successful.

Captain Jeff Monroe with IAMPE passed away. He was a huge benefit to the industry and his passing is an enormous loss.

The Breakbulk Conference was held last month in New Orleans. Contacts in the rail industry were made with potential for special cargo projects.

A trip to Washington, DC was taken to participate in meetings with congressional delegation on the new crane and the current tariff issue. MSPA and Ports America are working with the congressional delegation, who have been great support.

Andrew Haines, Business Development, attended the Caribbean Shipping Association Conference and Director Nass has been asked to be a panelist in July with Tom Crowley in relation to a nearshoring event involving the ThinkHUGE organization which will be held in Miami.

A video was viewed highlighting Leroy "Cy" Rushing, MSPA employee, who will be leaving his position to play professional baseball.

GENERAL COUNSEL'S COMMENTS:

M. Brant Pettis had no comments.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:

Commissioner Symmes thanked Chris Stafford and his team at Stafford Studios, LLC for their impressive work on the breakbulk video. Also, the Port Affairs team was commended on the great work performed preparing the Maritime video.

MDA'S COMMENTS:

Philip Carter had no comments.

Commissioner Knesal moved to close the meeting to discuss the need for an Executive Session. Commissioner Spear seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Moody moved to enter Executive Session to discuss legal, real estate and personnel matters. Commissioner Loughman seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

(THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ENTERED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT APPROXIMATELY 9:43 A.M.)

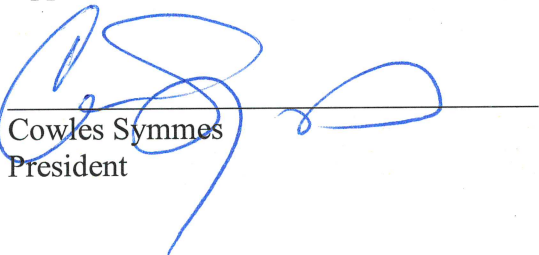
Commissioner Spear moved to come out of Executive Session. Commissioner Moody seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

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


Commissioner Symmes moved to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:50 a.m.

Approved and Attested



Cowles Symmes
President



Robert J. Knesal
Secretary