

MISSISSIPPI PORT AUTHORITY

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

REGULAR MEETING

May 28, 2026

Minutes of the Mississippi State Port Authority Board of Commissioners Meeting,
Thursday, May 28, 2026, at 2510 14th Street, Suite 1450, Gulfport, Mississippi at which
the following Commissioners and staff were present:

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

Staff: Jon Nass, CEO
Shawn Meyer, COO
Jennifer Smith, Chief of Staff/CAO
Kecia Laneaux, Executive Affairs Manager
Todd Harman, Director of Finance
Gary Pitcovich, Assistant Director of Operations
Matt Gabbett, Director of Operations
Teresa Ehrlich, Project Manager
Cindy Ford, Contract/Administrative Assistant
KeCheira Shelby, Principal Accountant
Ally Jones-Johnson, Port Affairs Coordinator
Melissa Scallan, Director of Communications & Marketing
Kristen Bellati, Marketing & Public Relations Specialist
Samantha Gundlach, Communication & Marketing Assoc.
Andrew Haines, Business Development

Brant Pettis, Legal Counsel

Others: Philip Carter, MDA (via telephone)
David Machado, MP Design Group
Nick Moody, MP Design
Ben Benvenuti, Covington Civil and Environmental, LLC
Joey Beattie, SSH-Gallagher
Tishona Smith, Residence Inn

Commissioner Knesal 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 Knesal.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

No public comments.

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

Commissioner Symmes moved to approve travel (June 9-11) – Nass to Washington, DC; (June 9-11) – Moody to Washington, DC; (June 23-26) – Nass to Neshoba County, MS; (June 23-26) – Smith to Neshoba County, MS; and (June 23-26) – LaRue to Neshoba County, MS; Commissioner Moody seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Moody left the meeting.

Commissioner Symmes moved to approve the disbursements for Equitable Financial Life Insurance Company (\$1,832.54). Commissioner Spear seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Moody returned to the meeting.

Commissioner Loughman was absent and did not vote.

Commissioner Symmes moved to approve the disbursement for Mississippi Power Company (\$144,048.62). Commissioner Moody seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Loughman was absent and did not vote.

Commissioner Spear left the meeting.

Commissioner Symmes moved to approve the disbursement for D.N.P., Inc. (\$190,864.12). Commissioner Moody seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

Commissioner Spear returned to the meeting.

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

FINAL CHECKLIST FOR MAY 28, 2026
BILLS FOR THE MONTHS OF APRIL 2026 AND MAY 2026 APPROVED AND PAID
FROM THE GROSS REVENUE FUND OF THE MS STATE PORT AUTHORITY AT GULFPORT

CHECK NO.	VENDOR	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
62995	AFLAC	Employee Deductions	154.44
62996	AGJ Systems & Networks, Inc.	Server OS Upgrades and Sage Install	10,414.90
62997	Alexander, Van Loon, Sloan	Audit Services	445.00
62998	All Safe Technologies, LLC	Fire Alarm Monitoring	615.30
62999	Amazon Capital Services, INC.	Office Supplies, Receipt Scanners	1,256.69
63000	Bay Motor Winding, Inc.	E.Pier Lift Station Pump Repair	1,280.00
63001	Boot Outlet, LLC	Uniform	274.95
63002	City of Gulfport	Water	16,371.80
63003	C Spire Wireless	Cell Phone Services	1,610.91
63004	C Spire Business Solutions	Cell Phone/Internet Services	3,653.24
63005	Delta Utilities	Gas Utility - Cotton Compress	55.84
63006	Dept. of Finance & Admin.	MMRS	551.00
63008	DSD Associates, Inc.	Set Up Fringe Benefit Codes	750.00
63009	Equitable Financial Life Insurance Co.	Employee Deductions	1,832.54
63010	Federal Express Corp.	Express Mail Services	18.15
63011	Fuelman	Fuel for MSPA Vehicles	1,368.01
63012	Grainger, Inc.	Maintenance Supplies	2,590.53
63013	Great Southern Club	Business Dev. Meetings & Monthly Dues	2,281.53
63014	Green Marine Mngmt. Corp.	2026 Membership Dues	4,712.00
63015	Gulf Coast Community Foundation	Neshoba County Fair Sponsorship	700.00
63016	Whitney Bank Divisional Property	May & June Office Lease for Suite 1450	58,697.84
63017	HRdirect	Office Supplies	105.88
63018	MS State Treasurer Fund 3360900000	Telephone	186.89
63019	Jerry's Lawn Mower Sales	Equipment Parts	5,601.68

63020	Robert J. Knesal	Per Diem	120.00
63021	Mark P. Loughman	Per Diem	160.00
63022	Lowe's Home Center, Inc.	Maintenance Supplies	20.86
63023	Maritime Defense Strategy, LLC	Maritime Defense Strategy Consulting Services	3,650.00
63024	MS Economic Development Council	2026 Membership Dues	295.00
63025	James Moody	Per Diem	80.00
63026	MS State Dept of Health	Inspections	570.00
63027	MS Power Company	Electricity	144,048.62
63028	United Rentals (North America), Inc.	Equipment Rental	2,943.66
63029	Pass Road Mini Storage, LLC	Storage Unit Rent	784.00
63030	Primo Brands	Water	558.06
63031	Quadient Leasing USA Inc	Postage Machine Lease	1.00
63032	Redd Pest Solutions	Pest Control Services	267.00
63033	Stericycle, Inc.	Document Shredding Services	210.10
63034	Southern Printing & Silkscreen	Uniform	152.75
63035	Southern Admin. and Benefits	Monthly Service Fee	208.00
63036	Southern Admin. and Benefits	Monthly Service Fee	208.00
63037	Cowles Edgar Symmes	Per Diem	120.00
63038	Upchurch Services, LLC	Organic Room Chiller Repair	1,175.00
63039	Wavetop Solutions LCC	Leadership Training	8,575.00
Total			279,676.17
TRANSFERS			
ACH	AirGas Gulf States	Acetylene, Oxygen and Argon Cylinders	619.12
ACH	Swetman Security Services, Inc.	Security Guard Services	77,345.26
ACH	Norma Jean Ladner Soro	Transcription Services	798.96
ACH	Seal Electrical, Inc.	Light Install & Repair	2,016.36
ACH	Rotolo Consultants, Inc. dba RCI	Landscaping Services	2,911.33
ACH	Zoro Tools, Inc.	Maintenance Supplies	131.99
ACH	Zoro Tools, Inc.	Maintenance Supplies	1,101.87
ACH	Errol LaRue	Reimbursement	1,250.40
ACH	SSA Conventional, Inc.	Trailer Rent - Cotton Compress	900.00
ACH	Jon T. Nass	Reimbursement	3,526.40
ACH	South Mississippi Business Machines	Copier Maintenance	826.31
ACH	Portable Services, Inc	Portable Restroom Services	875.00
ACH	KLDiscovery Ontrack, LLC	Professional Services	1,477.00
ACH	Kathryn Dennis Spear	Per Diem	80.00
ACH	Andrew Haines	Business Development and Consulting Services	23,917.00
ACH	Timeless Designs of Lucedale LLC	Interior Plant Maintenance	279.69
ACH	U.S. Bank	Legislative Reception Lodging, AAPA Flight	2,409.44
ACH	U.S. Bank	Legislative Reception Lodging, AAPA Flight	1,128.45
ACH	SoftResources LLC	ERP Consulting Services	6,018.75
ACH	Aesir Services, Inc.	Environmental Online Consultants	500.00
ACH	John Hood	Reimbursement	10.69
ACH	Covenant Government Affairs, LLC	Professional Consulting Services	10,000.00
ACH	NEXTAFF	Temp Employee - Receptionist	1,260.00
ACH	A-1 Battery Distributor, Inc.	Golf Cart Batteries	1,092.65
ACH	James L. Hartfield	Reimbursement	98.77
			140,575.44

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:

Pilot:

Murrell W. Hilton, III
Matthew Hilton
Ken Skrmetta
Joshua Sheffield

Commissioner Symmes moved to approve the following progress payments: Balch & Bingham (\$17,830.00); Covington Civil and Environmental LLC (\$297.50); HDR Engineering (\$89,178.50) and MP Design Group (\$222,654.86). Commissioner Moody seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Moody moved to approve Modification No. 2 to Work Order No. 12 of Contract 23-EN-01 to increase funding by \$7,000.00 for a new not to exceed amount of \$132,000.00. The increase allows the final project closeout and final hydrographic survey to accommodate the increased scope of the maintenance dredge construction contract. Commissioner Symmes seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Symmes moved to approve the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Professional Engineering Consultant and Management Services. Based on the comprehensive evaluation process, including the SOQ review, interviews, and reference checks, the Evaluation Committee recommends MP Design Group for Professional Engineering and Management Services. Commissioner Moody 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 April 2026:

Vessels	15		Vehicles	13,000
Tugs	6		Railcars	640
Tonnage (YTD)	1,773,986		Barges	18
Tonnage	212,869		TEU (monthly)	15,867
TEU's (short tons)	148,016		Cruise line	

Year-to-date tonnage decreased by 6 percent, and monthly tonnage increased by 27%. The large increase was due to a bulk carrier. Fiscal year-to-date TEU's declined by 5 percent, and monthly TEU's decreased by 6 percent.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS:

Director Nass attended the Caribbean Shipping Association conference, where several follow-up opportunities were identified.

The Operational Budget will be presented for a vote at the next board meeting.

A Budget Workshop is scheduled for July 2026.

The next board meeting will be on Tuesday, July 23 at 9:00 a.m. Beginning in July, regular board meeting start times will shift to 10:30 a.m.

The PIPD project is kicking off. MARAD will be in town on June 1. Aspects of this project will continue over the next two years.

Mississippi Department of Transportation meeting in Jackson last week in support of a \$1 million Multi-Modal Fund application for tension-fabric warehouse. The application received approval pending final action by the MDOT Commission. Saronic has entered into a lease agreement with USM for office space in the Wicker Center.

GENERAL COUNSEL'S COMMENTS:

Brant Pettis had no comments.

MDA'S COMMENTS:

No comments.

COMMISSIONERS' COMMENTS:

No comments.

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

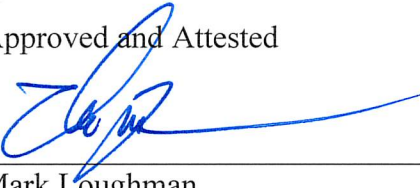
Commissioner Symmes moved to enter Executive Session to discuss legal, real estate and personnel matter and potential business location. Commissioner Moody seconded and the motion was unanimously approved.

(THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ENTERED INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT APPROXIMATELY 9:21 A.M.)

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

The meeting adjourned at approximately 10:30 a.m.

Approved and Attested



Mark Loughman
President



Kathryn Dennis Spear
Secretary