

Joint Subcommittee on the Study of Port Infrastructure Strategies

Minutes of Meeting
2022-2023 Interim
January 23, 2023

I. CALL TO ORDER

Representative Mark Wright, chairman of the Joint Subcommittee on the Study of Port Infrastructure Strategies, called the meeting to order at 1:40 p.m. in Room 1, in the state capitol in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

II. ROLL CALL

LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Representative Mark Wright, chairman
Representative Bryan Fontenot
Senator Patrick McMath
Senator Patrick Connick
Senator Mike Reese
Senator Gray Smith Jr.

LEGISLATIVE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Ryan Bourriaque
Representative Kendrick "Ken" Brass

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:

Allison Williams, House legislative analyst
Ashley Davillier, House committee administrative assistant
Archana Cadge, Senate Attorney
Laur'en Marinovich Cimino, Senate committee administrative assistant

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES PRESENT:

Faye Talbot, House sergeant at arms
Anthony Lumbard, Senate sergeant at arms
Anthony Christy, Senate sergeant at arms

III. DISCUSSION

To discuss port strategies and economic development in accordance with House Concurrent Resolution No. 107 Regular Session

Representative Wright gave a brief overview about the importance of ports and explained that the reason for the meeting is to get a better understanding of ports from all point of views, including understanding ports as a business strategy.

Secretary Don Pierson, Louisiana Economic Development, 617 N. 3rd St., Baton Rouge, LA, 70802, (225) 342-5388, spoke for information only. He presented a PowerPoint on the Louisiana Port Systems.

Mr. Pierson addressed questions from Senators McMath and Connick in reference to the future of Louisiana's port system.

Department of Transportation and Development

Mr. Eric Kalivoda, DOTD, 1201 Capitol Access Rd., Baton Rouge, LA, 70804, no telephone number provided, spoke for information only.

Mr. Randall Withers, DOTD - Port and Waterways, 1201 Capitol Access Rd., Baton Rouge, LA, 70804, (225) 379-3065, spoke for information only.

Ms. Renee' Lapeyrolerie, 1201 Capitol Access Rd., Baton Rouge, LA, 70804, (225) 379-3029, spoke for information only.

Mr. Kalivoda, Mr. Withers, and Ms. Lapeyrolerie addressed questions from Representative Wright, and Senator Smith about port funding and return investments.

Senator McMath in the chair.

Ms. Lapeyrolerie addressed questions from Senator McMath in reference to the Port of New Orleans and the Department of Transportation and Development, office of multimodal commerce's role in the port.

Chairman Wright in the chair.

Greater New Orleans Inc./ J.W. Allen & Co. Inc.

Mr. Michael Hecht, GNO, Inc., 1100 Poydras St. #3475, New Orleans, LA, 70118, (504) 715-5037, spoke for information only. He addressed the committee regarding the success of Louisiana ports and the potential for new economic growth opportunities.

Mr. Greg Rusovich, LABIC/GNO-WIC, 129 Eastridge P, Metairie, LA, (832) 260-5401, spoke for information only. He addressed the committee regarding coordination strategies between legislation and port authorities. He suggested that the creation of a master plan would result in a stronger global trade front.

Ms. Kristiann App, J.W. Allen & Co. Inc., 1000 Riverbend Dr. STE L, St. Rose, LA, 70087, (504) 452-2290, spoke for information only. She gave a brief overview on freight flow and how an uncoordinated plan results in market confusion.

Ms. App addressed questions from Representatives Wright and Fontenot as well as Senators McMath and Reese in reference to freight flow and market potential.

Senator Connick commented on the need to work with GNO to make Louisiana a better worldly competitor.

Mr. Hecht, Mr. Rusovich, and Ms. App addressed a question from Representative Fontenot in reference to competing states port priority programs.

Ms. Jennifer Marusak, Ports Association of Louisiana, P.O. Box 66412, (225) 572-1916, spoke for information only. She spoke on the importance of ports to the economy and how funding for ports needs to be more of a priority.

Mr. Ben Russo, Central Louisiana Regional Port, 600 River Port Rd., Alexandria, LA, 71303, (318) 473-1848, along with Ms. Marusack, addressed questions from Chairman Wright in reference to the application process for funding and funding competition between ports.

Port of South Louisiana

Mr. Paul Matthews, Port of South Louisiana, 155 W 10th St., Reserve LA, 70084, (985) 682-9278, spoke for information only. He gave a brief overview of the Port of South Louisiana's future projects including the purchase of Avondale shipyard.

Mr. Matthews addressed questions from Senators Connick, Smith, and Representative Fontenot in regards to the purchase of Avondale shipyard and plans for corporation with the Port of New Orleans.

Witness cards submitted by individuals who did not speak are as follows: 3 for information only. Witness cards are included in the committee records.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Jo Banner, 123 W. 8th St., Vacherie, LA 70090, (225) 206-1993, spoke for information only. She spoke on community concerns in reference to Port of South Louisiana project zoning.

Ms. Joy Banner, Wallace Community, 123 W. 8th St., Vacherie, LA 70090, (225) 206-0257, spoke for information only. She spoke on community concerns in reference to economic development opportunities, and addressed questions from Senators Connick and McMath, and Representative Fontenot.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman Mark Wright
Joint Subcommittee on the Study of Port Infrastructure Strategies

Date approved: _____