

**MINUTES OF
LAKEFRONT MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY
REGULAR MEETING OF THE AIRPORT COMMITTEE
HELD ON TUESDAY, October 18, 2022, at 2:30 PM**

PRESENT:

Vice-Chair Patricia Meadowcroft
Commissioner Brian Egana
Commissioner Wilma Heaton

ABSENT:

Chair Renee Lapeyrolerie
Commissioner Carlos Williams

STAFF:

Louis Capo – Executive Director
Vanessa McKee – Exec. Assistant to the Executive Director/Board Secretary
Adam Gulino– Director of Engineering and Operations
Bruce Martin – Director of Aviation

ALSO

PRESENT: Gerard G. Metzger – Legal Counsel to the LMA
Jeff Dye – Legal Counsel to the LMA

The Airport Committee of the Lakefront Management Authority met on Tuesday, October 18, 2022, at the New Orleans Lakefront Airport at 6001 Stars and Stripes Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70126.

Vice-Chair Meadowcroft called the meeting to order at 2:30 P.M. and led in the pledge of allegiance. Director Capo called the roll, and a quorum was present.

III. Opening Comments: Vice-Chair Meadowcroft thanked the committee for coming as they were important items for recommendation. She stated that September’s committee meeting was fantastic and provided important information about the grants we are seeking and why they are necessary to approve and complete the Airport’s Hot Spot and Drainage projects.

IV. Motion to Adopt Agenda:

A motion was offered by **Commissioner Egana**, seconded by **Commissioner Heaton**, and was unanimously approved to adopt the agenda.

V. Motion to Approve the Minutes

1. Airport Committee Minutes – September 13, 2022 (Approved)

A motion was made by **Commissioner Egana**, seconded by **Commissioner Heaton**.
The motion passed unanimously.

2. Airport Committee Minutes - August 16, 2022 (Approved)

A motion was made by Commissioner Egana, seconded by Commissioner Heaton.
The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Public Comments: None

VII. Director's Report:

Vice-Chair Meadowcroft called for the Airport Director's report.

Bruce Martin – Director of Aviation

Mr. Martin began his director's report by briefing the committee on the Airport projects in the Capital Improvement Plan for 2022 which ties into the two grants for recommendation on today's agenda.

The final design Airport Drainage Improvement package. We have been approved for the FAA Grant and today's motion for recommendation will be for the 10% state match through DOTD.

It will be the same with the Hot Spot-103 construction. We are currently in the procurement period which should start in mid-November. The FAA Grant for the Hot Spot repair is also approved and we are asking for the 10% state match for this project as well.

Moving into 2023, the Capital Improvement Plan is our way of getting grants from the Feds and the State to move the airport forward. This is our grant submittal so to speak instead of an application. We also submit this with our backup justification to DOTD so that we get graded along with the other airports in the southwest region or the state of Louisiana.

We want to bring more attention to the airport and more tenants. However, we need to address the water the airport takes on. He stated that his first priority has been to get the water off the airport so when someone puts an investment on the airport it won't get flooded out. Things that tie into that are lighting and signage. We have not been able to transition to led lighting. The old-school lighting continues to take away from our bottom line because they kept on all the time. We must get up to speed on safer, more cost-efficient lighting and signs. The first thing again is to get the water off. Drainage has been the big focus. We have the design grant approved and in hand. The plan is to go out to bid on the drainage project in February. We've been in close contact and working with the FAA and are working towards the \$10 million grant award for this work.

Our main priority in Fiscal Year 2023, is the first line item which shows the Airport Drainage Package-I construction which costs \$10.5 million.

Taxiway Bravo (the main thorough way to get to the runway):

- Needs millwork, overlay, and remarking.
- HB-1 has approved \$900,000 from DOTD
- We will utilize funds from The Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill
- The Project has been designed under a state grant at a cost of approximately \$3 million.
- The cost was more than what the state could fund. **We had to seek the remaining funding of \$1.98 million from other sources.**
- We will put this out to bid early next year. This should be a quick project. **These funds should get about 70% of the project done.**

927 Taxiway and Foxtrot – Drainage Improvements

- Infrastructure funds will be utilized.

Mr. Martin showed on-screen illustrations of the location of the pump station, drainage piping, and water flow. He also pointed out the millwork overlay and remarking.

ALCMS (Airfield Lighting Control Monitoring System) and CCR (Constant Current Regulators)

- We are asking the state to assist with funding with updates to the CCR and also tie in the ALCMS.

Fuel Farm System:

- The Fuel Farm is the airport's main revenue source.
- Most of the work to the Fuel Farm has been done in-house. It's time to put some money into updating it.
- Currently working with an Engineering Firm to determine the next steps to bring it current.

These items are the Airport's priority over the next five years of the Capital Projects Plan. They are listed to let the FAA and State know these are things we are looking for in the future. The flood wall is also listed, thanks to Commissioner Heaton. We are looking for flood protection.

We came before the committee back in March 2022 to get contract approval to work with Infinity for a generator study. During H. Ida, the generator kicked on for the airport and powered Messina's refrigerator. There were some lessons learned with the ac in suite 219. However, we felt there was more power to that generator. Infinity came back with the results of the study.

Infinity reported:

- Not enough power to fuel the entire terminal.

- A second generator would be needed.
- It is, however, it is capable to provide power to protect the paintings in the atrium
- We will continue to look into other options.

Commissioner Heaton asked what would be the cost for all the tenants in the airport to have generated power.

Mr. Martin said that it had fallen off the radar and asked if she was looking for the airport to provide generators to the tenant hangar.

Commissioner Heaton said that if we could find out the cost and later discuss who pays for what down the line. As you well know you can't rent them.

Mr. Martin agreed to investigate the cost and stated the main FBOs do have generators.

Fuel Update

- Fuel moved in September which was on par back to 2018 which was 575,180 gallons.
- 2018 was 615,000 gallons.
- We are on track, ahead of where we were last fiscal year.

Flight Ops:

- In 2022 there were 6,154
- August 2021 5,544
- Still showing an uptick in flights which seems to be the trend across the state with general aviation.

Filming Update:

- Sacrifice Season II wrapped up last week.
- Another production is scheduled in (2) weeks.
- Another potential film production is scheduled for early summer.

Film production continues to be a great revenue source for the airport. We are happy whenever they come. He ended his presentation and asked if there were any questions.

Commissioner Egana asked if we are in coordination with the City of New Orleans Office of Culture and Affairs (Lisa Alexis).

Mr. Martin stated that we are in contact with The City.

Commissioner Egana stated when the City (CNO) offers incentives, it should give them leverage to redirect for utilization purposes based on the need which could ultimately give us more exposure.

Commissioner Egana asked for clarity on the (2) grants before us. Are we taking action to receive them?

Mr. Martin replied that the federal grants have been approved. We are asking for approval for the 10% state match through DOTD which are the motions before us today.

Commissioner Egana moved to ask questions on the Capital Projects 5-year Plan. He asked if those become grants at all.

Mr. Martin replied that the hope is that they all become grants. He explained that the funding source 'AIP' on his Capital Projects chart refers to asking the Feds for the funds.

Commissioner Egana asked about the AIP funds. When the money becomes available, are these competitive grants?

Mr. Martin replied yes.

Commissioner Egana spoke on the Airport tour he and Councilmember Thomas took.

- He beseeched his board colleagues to also tour the Airport to see its assets and learn more about the organization firsthand.
- Take notice of all of the work that has been done, which is a good thing, as well as the work that has yet to be done.
- Councilmember Thomas heads the city's Infrastructure Committee. Suggested that staff should draft support letters and we as commissioners should be proactive in soliciting our appointing authorities for letters of support to go with our grant applications.

Commissioner Egana stated although these grants are competitive in nature, it is a good thing to have our leaders supporting this cause.

He closed by thanking the staff. He appreciated what he learned on the tour and implored the other commissioners to also take the tour, spend time with staff and learn about our properties.

Mr. Martin stated that he appreciated Commissioner Egana and Councilmember Thomas touring the Airport grounds. It meant a lot to the staff.

Vice-Chair Meadowcroft thanked Commissioner Egana for his comments and very good suggestions.

VIII. New Business

- 1. Motion to recommend approval of the acceptance of DOTD
Grant H.015260 in the sum of \$138,111.00 for the Hot Spot Construction Project.**

Vice-Chair Meadowcroft called for a motion.

A motion was made by **Commissioner Egana** and seconded by **Commissioner Heaton**.

Vice-Chair Meadowcroft called for discussion; hearing none she called for a vote. All were in favor. **The motion passed unanimously.**

- 2. Motion to recommend approval of the acceptance of DOTD
Grant H.015259 in the sum of \$72,222.00 for the final design of the Airports
Drainage Project.**

Vice-Chair Meadowcroft called for a motion.

A motion was made by **Commissioner Egana** and seconded by **Commissioner Heaton**.

Vice-Chair Meadowcroft called for discussion; hearing none she called for a vote. All were in favor. **The motion passed unanimously.**

- 3. Motion to recommend approval of the Airport Capital
Improvement Plan for 2023-2027.**

Vice-Chair Meadowcroft called for a motion.

A motion was made by **Commissioner Egana** and seconded by **Commissioner Heaton**.

Vice-Chair Meadowcroft called for discussion; hearing none she called for a vote. All were in favor. **The motion passed unanimously.**

IX. Announcement of Airport Committee Meeting:

The Airport committee meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, November 8th at 3:30 pm which is an observed state holiday-Election Day. The committee agreed to move the next Airport Committee meeting to a special date, **Wednesday, November 9, 2022 – 1:00 PM.**

Commissioner Egana recommended moving public comments to the end of the agenda vs. at the beginning. Also adding "Other Matters" to the agenda to cover items that may need to be discussed. He referenced the Special Marina Committee meeting with the Fire Marshals regarding the South Shore Harbor- Covered Boat Slips Cease and Desist Order as an example of what could happen. He thought the public should be offered (2) minutes to address the body at

the end of the agenda. He added most times the public wants to wait for a specific topic to speak. He ended by stating this is just a suggestion for discussion.

Vice-Chair Meadowcroft appreciated his comments and suggested he bring them up at the full board meeting. She called for a motion to adjourn.

A motion to adjourn was offered by **Commissioner Heaton**; seconded by **Commissioner Egana**.

X. Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 3:08 PM.

With all members in favor, the meeting was unanimously adjourned.