Mississippi's Largest Port

Port RePort

July 2012

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A Note from the Director Mark McAndrews

The Port of Pascagoula takes on many core responsibilities every day: serving as non-federal sponsor of the Pascagoula Navigation Project, owner of public terminal facilities, and operator of the Industrial Water System and Parks among them. However, I would like to comment on some recent JCPA activities that have used port facilities in the public service, outside of their primary cargo-handling mission.

For a public organization, opportunities to extend its service are much more limited than for our private-sector counterparts. Fortunately, as detailed in this newsletter, two recent opportunities arose in good situations. We were able to host Governor Romney’s speech on short notice, and the commissioning of the USS Mississippi after accommodation conflicts required a move from its originally designated port.

Close cooperation between federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies, as well as our tenants and customers, ensured that both events were successful. We look forward to additional opportunities to showcase our port, our county, and our state when appropriate.

The mission of the Jackson County Port Authority is to acquire, develop and manage assets as necessary to build a world-class, multi-use industrial port; and to encourage and support industry and private investment in Jackson County.

Click here to see how other ports rank.

Project Partnerships Signed

At a special board meeting on February 23, the Port and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers signed the Project Partnership Agreement (PPA) for the expansion of the Triple Barrel Upland Disposal Site. This is the first of three PPAs for navigation projects funded by Flood Control and Coastal Emergency (FCCE) funding.

The second PPA, for the Singing River Island Confined Disposal Site, was signed at the regular board meeting in July. The final PPA, for the Entrance Channel Widening, will follow in the next few months.

District Engineer for the USACE Mobile District, Colonel Steven J. Roemhildt, and members of the project team from the Corps were at the meeting for the signing.

Colonel Steven Roemhildt and President of the Board, Charles Persons, sign PPA agreement

L to R: Charles Persons, President of the Board; Andrea Dowdy, Corps; Allen Moeller, Deputy Port Director Operations; John Crane, Corps; Kelly McIlhaney, Corps; Colonel Steven Roemhildt; Jay Smitherman, Corps; Jenny Jacobson, Corps; Mark McAndrews, Port Director
USS Mississippi Commissioned at the Port of Pascagoula

The USS Mississippi arrived in the Port of Pascagoula on May 25 for its commissioning. The USS Mississippi is the latest in the Virginia class of submarines, built at a cost of about $2.6 billion each. The 7,800-ton vessel carries a crew of approximately 132 officers and sailors led by Navy Captain John McGrath. The submarine is 377 feet long and has a 33-foot beam.

Built by General Dynamics Electric Boat in Groton, Connecticut, the USS Mississippi was put into official duty at the commissioning ceremony on June 2. The event attracted a crowd of about 6,500.

U.S. Senators Thad Cochran and Roger Wicker were special guests at the ceremony. U.S. Congressmen Steven Palazzo and Alan Nunnelee, Governor Phil Bryant, and many state and local officials were in attendance. U.S. Secretary of the Navy, Ray Mabus, was the primary speaker. Secretary Mabus is a former governor of Mississippi.

The vessel sailed from the Port of Pascagoula on Monday morning, June 4, en route for testing in Port Canaveral, Florida.
JCPA Recognizes Port Operations and Security

The Port Authority Board of Commissioners recognized Operations and Security management and staff for outstanding performance on the USS Mississippi Commissioning project and the event for GOP presidential candidate Mitt Romney.

L to R: Mark McAndrews, Port Director; Allen Moeller, Deputy Port Director of Operations; Randy Joplin, Harbormaster; Farrell Williams, Manager, Security; Charles Persons, President of the Board

Mitt Romney makes campaign stop at the Port of Pascagoula

GOP presidential candidate Mitt Romney made a campaign stop at the Port of Pascagoula's Bayou Casotte Harbor. Addressing the crowd with massive oil rigs in the background, Romney tapped into the public’s concern over rising gas costs.

Romney’s choice of topic at the port was appropriate, as the Port of Pascagoula maintains a strong presence in the nation’s energy industry. The rigs in the background of the candidate’s speech were under contract for overhaul and repair at Signal International’s facility in the port. South of the platform where Romney spoke are the Gulf LNG Energy and Chevron terminals.

Mississippi’s governor, Phil Bryant, introduced Mr. Romney to the audience. State Auditor Stacey Pickering was also in Pascagoula for the event.

The Caribbean Forest Carriers (CFC) M/V Forest Panama at the Port loading 4,300 tons of linerboard and southern yellow pine lumber for the Dominican Republic. As part of biweekly service from the Port, CFC transports forest products to Costa Rica, Panama, Honduras, and Guatemala along with the Dominican Republic.
Pipe from Athens, Greece

Two shipments of steel pipe from Athens, Greece, were recently off-loaded in the Port of Pascagoula. The pipe is for Mississippi Power’s $2.76 billion coal-fired plant under construction in Kemper County.

Mississippi Trade Mission to Chile

Port Director Mark McAndrews and Director of Trade Development Rafael Quesada recently attended a meeting of the Chilean Fresh Fruit Exporters Association (ASOEX) in Santiago, Chile. Mark gave a visual presentation of the cold storage and freezer facilities in the Port of Pascagoula, detailing the capacities and estimated costs for handling fresh fruit from Chile.

Bruce Frallic, Executive Director of the Gulfport-Biloxi International Airport, and Orlando Diaz, Director of the State of Mississippi’s South American Office, also attended the mission.
Port of Pascagoula Night 2012

The Port hosted the annual Port Night reception for the Mississippi Legislature and state officials at the Old Capitol Inn in Jackson. Approximately 250 guests attended the event with a large welcoming group from the local sponsors and port representatives. This event provides an opportunity to showcase the impact of the Port of Pascagoula on the entire state of Mississippi.

The maritime industries and service providers in the port are the sponsors for the event.

- Angola LNG Supply Services, LLC
- Arrow Terminals, Inc.
- Chevron Pascagoula Refinery
- Chevron Shipping Company
- Coastal Cargo Company
- CSA Equipment Company, LLC
- First Chemical Corporation
- Gulf Coast Cold Storage
- Gulf LNG Energy, LLC
- Ingalls Shipbuilding
- Jackson County Economic Development Foundation
- Martin Energy Services, LLC
- Mississippi Phosphates Corporation
- Mississippi Power Company
- Pascagoula Bar Pilots Association
- Signal International, LLC
- Signet Maritime Corporation
- Singing River Electric Power Association
- VT Halter Marine, Inc.
Port Employees Recognized for Dedicated Service

The Port recently recognized John Reynolds for 25 years of service at the Black Creek Cooling Facility. Ric Welsh was recognized for 25 years of service at the Bayou Casotte Industrial Water Treatment Plant where he is an operator. Both facilities are managed by the Jackson County Port Authority.

Frank Kirby, Manager of Facilities, was recognized for 15 years of service. Frank is in charge of maintenance of the marine facilities and operations at the public docks, including the spotting and placement of railcars at the designated terminals. He also manages operations on Singing River Island. Frank resides in Ocean Springs with his wife, Kay.

The Port recognized Jamie Jones for 10 years of service. He is a maintenance mechanic at the marine terminals and lives in Vancleave with his wife, Mary.

Colby Taylor retired from the Bayou Casotte Industrial Water Treatment Facility following 29 years as an operator.

McAndrews Assumes National Leadership Positions

Port Director Mark McAndrews recently assumed the chairmanship of the American Association of Port Authorities’ (AAPA) Gulf Caucus after his selection to the office by the members of the caucus. Caucus members represent the ports on the Gulf of Mexico from the states of Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida.

In addition to the chairmanship of the Gulf Caucus, Mark now serves the association through the AAPA Legislative Policy Council (LPC) and the AAPA Executive Committee, representing the Gulf states. The LPC reviews the legislation and governmental relations program and activities of the association, while also guiding the AAPA president in carrying out its policies.

Founded in 1912, AAPA represents more than 130 leading seaport authorities in the United States, Canada, Latin America and the Caribbean.
Captain Mosso Retires After Serving 12 Years in the Port

Captain Joe Mosso worked his last vessel as a Bar Pilot in the Port of Pascagoula on March 5, 2012. Mosso came to the Port in November of 1999 and served as an apprentice pilot until November 2000 when he was certified as a full pilot. He has been an asset and dear friend in the local maritime community in Pascagoula and will be missed. Joe and his wife, Judy, have moved to Lakeland, Florida, to be with their children and grandchildren.

Meet Captain Dan Whyte, Pascagoula Bar Pilot

Captain Dan Whyte joined the Pascagoula Bar Pilots in 2011 as an apprentice pilot. Previously, he worked for Chevron Shipping Company for ten years and served as Master, Chief Mate, Second and Third Mate on several of their U.S. flag tankers. Captain Whyte was no stranger to navigating vessels in the Port of Pascagoula ship channels as he served as Master on the Chevron Arizona which sailed in and out of Pascagoula for many years.

Captain Whyte was certified as a full pilot in April 2012. He is a graduate of the Maine Maritime Academy and holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Nautical Science. Dan lives in Ocean Springs with his wife Ann and their two sons, Alexander and Samuel.

Public/Private Partnership at Work

Through the cooperation of the Jackson County Board of Supervisors, the State of Mississippi, the Port Authority and Ingalls Shipbuilding, construction is underway on the Haley Reeves Barbour Maritime Training Facility in Pascagoula. Located at Ingalls, the 72,000-square foot building will address the needs for training in the maritime and metal trades industries.

The Mississippi Development Authority awarded a $20 million grant for the project to the Board of Supervisors, who appointed the Port to manage the project on their behalf. Ingalls will lease the building from the Port for seven years, while paying all operational costs, before taking ownership. A prime example of what can be accomplished with public/private partnerships, the facility is expected to be completed in March 2013.
Board of Commissioners 2012 – 2016 Term

The Jackson County Port Authority Board of Commissioners is a nine-member board comprised of appointees by the Jackson County Board of Supervisors and the governor of Mississippi. Each of the county’s five supervisors assigns a representative to serve on the Jackson County Port Authority Board of Commissioners for a four-year term. The governor also appoints four members to the board.

Charles M. Persons
President
A graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi, Mr. Persons is Vice President of Stewart Sneed Hewes. He is president of the Mississippi Gulf Coast Foreign Trade Zone; a member of the Jackson County Economic Development Foundation; and past president of Pass-Point Life Underwriters Association. Mr. Persons is serving his sixth term on the Board. He was appointed by Jackson County Supervisor District 1, Barry Cumbest.

John C. Arledge
A graduate of Mississippi State University, Mr. Arledge is president of Arledge Consulting. He retired from Ingalls Shipbuilding as Vice President of Contracts, Estimating and Industrial Engineering. He is currently on the Board of Directors for First State Bank in Waynesboro, MS, and formerly served on the Board of Directors of the Mississippi State University Alumni Association representing the Gulf Coast. Mr. Arledge was previously on the Port Board by appointment of Governor Fordice. His current term is by the appointment of Governor Phil Bryant.

Ronald Robinson
Vice-President
Mr. Robinson is president and business agent for the International Longshoremen Association (ILA Local 1752 and 1967). He is also vice-president of the ILA South Atlantic and Gulf Coast District and chairman of the board of Mississippi Regional Housing Authority #VII. Mr. Robinson is serving his fourth term on the Board. He was appointed by Jackson County Supervisor District 4, J. Troy Ross.

Wallace Easley
Mr. Easley is a self-employed businessman. He serves on Governor Bryant’s Transition Policy Summit – Jobs Committee and is chairman of the Budget and Finance Committee of Emmanuel Baptist Church. He is also development director for the Community Care Network and is a former board member of the Home of Grace. Mr. Easley is serving his fourth term on the Board. He was appointed by Governor Phil Bryant.

James M. Colmer, Jr.
Secretary
A graduate of the University of Mississippi, Mr. Colmer is a partner with the law firm of Heidelberg, Steinberger, Colmer and Burrow, P.A. He has served as president, vice-president and director of the Pascagoula Rotary Club and director of the United Way of Jackson County. Mr. Colmer is a graduate of Leadership Mississippi, and is serving his fifth term on the Board. He was appointed by Governor Phil Bryant.

Benny Lassitter
A graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi, Mr. Lassitter retired from Ingalls Shipbuilding as Vice-President of Operations. He is past president of Moss Point Rotary and was selected “Builder of the Year for 2011” by the Southeast Mississippi Homebuilders Association. Mr. Lassitter is a licensed real estate broker in Alabama and Mississippi. He was elected to the Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College Hall of Fame and selected as 2004 Alumnus of the Year. He also serves on the Board of Directors for Home of Grace. Mr. Lassitter is serving his third term on the Board. He was appointed by Governor Phil Bryant.
Board of Commissioners CONTINUED

Carolyn Moore
Mrs. Moore is the Chief Professional Officer of the United Way for Jackson & George Counties and is retired from the Jackson County Port Authority following twenty-eight years of service. She is a member of the Pascagoula Rotary Club, Pascagoula and Moss Point Excel By 5 coalitions, and a partner with America’s Promise Zone. She has served on both the Jackson County Civic Action and Head Start boards and was recently appointed to serve on the Moss Point School District’s Board of Trustees. Ms. Moore is serving her second term by the appointment of Jackson County Supervisor District 2, Melton Harris.

Marshall Smith
Mr. Smith is a graduate of Mississippi State University. He is president of Gulf Sales & Supply, Inc., which he opened in 1978. He has served as president, vice president and director of the Pascagoula Rotary Club and is currently Assistant District Governor for the East Coast Territory. He is the chairman of the board of the Bacot-McCarty Foundation and is a member of the advisory board of The First, A National Banking Association. Mr. Smith is serving his first term by the appointment of Jackson County Supervisor District 3, Michael Mangum.

Greg Williams
A graduate of the University of Mississippi, Mr. Williams is a real estate broker with many years in property management. He is active in the national, state and local associations of Realtors, as well as the Mississippi Rural Water Association and the board of directors of the Mary C. O’Keefe Cultural Center. Mr. Williams is serving his second term by the appointment of Jackson County Supervisor District 5, John McKay.

John L. Hunter
Attorney for the Board
Mr. Hunter is a graduate of Mississippi State University and the University of Mississippi with a Juris Doctor degree in 1972. He is a graduate of Leadership Jackson County, a partner with Cumbest, Cumbest, Hunter & McCormick, P.A.; and a former Assistant District Attorney for Jackson County. He is a member of the Mississippi Bar, the American Bar Association, Mississippi Association for Justice, the American Association for Justice and the American Board of Trial Advocates. Mr. Hunter has served as Port Attorney since 1992.
Rehabilitation of the Jackson County Industrial Water System

In 2009, the Port Authority initiated a $24 million improvement program for the repair and rehabilitation of the Jackson County Industrial Water System. The system, which is owned and operated by the Jackson County Port Authority, was initially constructed in 1962 to supply water to industries in Jackson County.

Four major components of the improvement project include reconstruction of the filter systems; construction of a flood wall around the plant; a new chemical feed system and building; and construction of a new industrial water transmission line to service Chevron and other industries in the Bayou Casotte area.

The Port Authority previously completed the filter system, increasing the capacity and water quality output of the plant, and the flood wall, protecting approximately 2,900 linear feet of the plant to a height of about 12 feet. This spring, the Port Authority completed the new chemical feed system and building and a significant portion of the final project component, a 5-mile segment of 42” industrial water line.

In addition, the organization is currently designing a smaller 18” industrial water line to provide another water source for Mississippi Phosphates and First Chemical Corporation. Mississippi Development Bank helped fund the overall project through a loan that will be repaid with user fees.

The Port Authority also owns and operates the Black Creek Water Cooling Facility, which provides cooling water capacity for Mississippi Power’s Plant Daniel generating facility. A $900,000 project to dredge the intake and return channels leading into the power plant is expected to be completed in early fall of 2012.

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