

P R E S S R E L E A S E

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The Port of South Louisiana held its monthly Commission meeting on Wednesday, October 11, 2006. During the meeting, a resolution authorizing the Port of South Louisiana to prepare and submit an application to the Louisiana Port Construction and Development Priority Program for assistance in the implementation of repairs to the Kinder Morgan Bulk Dock was passed. The Port also resolved to issue bonds up to \$260,000 to cover costs above the grant amount received for the project from the Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development. The debt service for the bonds will be provided by tariffs collected from ships and barges, fees and leases from tenants.

Port Executive Director, Joel T. Chaisson, reported on a recent trade mission he made to Cuba with a Louisiana delegation led by Louisiana Economic Development Secretary Michael Olivier. The purpose of the trip was to offer Louisiana businesses the opportunity to sell their products to a new market. The Port's interest was to identify opportunities for import and export trade between Cuba and the Port of South Louisiana. Port Commission President, Joey Murray, and Treasurer, Sheila Bonnette participated in the trip.

Also at the Commission meeting, Ardyn M. Thriffiley was introduced as the Port's new public relations/marketing consultant. She has worked in economic development and marketing for almost 20 years, the last six with her own consulting firm. Thriffiley will market the Port at the local and international level.

Chaisson announced a business trip he will make this month to New Zealand and Australia to educate business in that part of the world on the trade and development opportunities that exist with the Port of South Louisiana.

The Port of South Louisiana, located along a three-parish region on the Mississippi River between New Orleans and Baton Rouge, is the largest tonnage port in the Western Hemisphere and the world's 5th largest.