

# P R E S S   R E L E A S E



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – July 6, 2011**

**Contact:** Alexandra “Alex” Hernández

**Phone:** (985) 652-9278

**Email:** [ahernandez@portsl.com](mailto:ahernandez@portsl.com)

## **PORT OF SOUTH LOUISIANA COMMISSION EXTENDS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S CONTRACT**



LaPLACE, LOUISIANA

During the June 2011 meeting, the Port of South Louisiana (PSL) board of commissioners voted to extend the contract of its Executive Director, Joel T. Chaisson. With the new agreement, Mr. Chaisson will remain with PSL through July 14 of 2012. "We decided that he's doing a good job with projects that we've got going on," said Commission President Louis Joseph.

Mr. Chaisson has been Executive Director since April of 2005 and under his leadership, PSL has seen several projects come to fruition. For example, in late 2005, PSL was able to help three prominent New Orleans businesses, who were displaced by the destruction of Hurricane Katrina, relocate to the River Region. In June 2007 was the acquisition of the PSL Responder, a \$1.3 million state-of-the-art security vessel, purchased with funds from the Department of Homeland Security Grant Program Round 5. In June 2010, PSL opened a 40,000 square-foot \$6 million transit shed funded in part by \$4.8 million from LA DOTD’s Port Construction and Development Priority Program. In mid 2009, PSL entered into a cooperative endeavor agreement with St. John the Baptist Parish for PSL to take over the management and operation of the St. John Parish airport.

Mr. Chaisson is presently working on several projects that are important to the future growth of the Port of South Louisiana, including the completion of an \$18.9 million 65’W by 700’L finger pier at Globalplex, funded in part by LA DOTD’s Port Construction and Development Priority Program; the development of a public port/industrial park facility on the west bank of the Mississippi River; the \$3.5 million expansion of the St. John Parish Airport; and the development of an intermodal container terminal near the Bonnet Carré Spillway that will offer an alternate, cost-effective shipping route via the Mississippi River for mid-America and Canada to world markets.

The Port of South Louisiana, a 54-mile port district on the Mississippi River between New Orleans and Baton Rouge, is the largest tonnage port in the Western Hemisphere. The cargo it handles accounts for over 50 percent of all Louisiana imports/exports.

For more information about the Port of South Louisiana or this particular topic, please contact Alexandra “Alex” Hernández, Public Information Director, at (985) 652-9278 or [ahernandez@portsl.com](mailto:ahernandez@portsl.com), [www.portsl.com](http://www.portsl.com).

###