

**NEW BOURBON REGIONAL PORT AUTHORITY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

**Meeting Held on April 23, 2025
Southeast Missouri Regional Planning Commission
Perryville, Missouri**

Time 3:00 p.m.

Ronnie Inman	Chairman
Garry Nelson	Member
Brad Moll	Member
Mark Gremaud	Member
Crystal Jones	Member
Jeremy Tanz	Executive Director, SEMO RPC
Kara Johnston	Grant Administrator, SEMO RPC
Margaret Yates	Grant Administrator, SEMO RPC
Mark Marberry	Ste. Genevieve County Commissioner
Mike Sauer	Perry County Commissioner
David Bova	City of Ste Genevieve
Aaron Smith	Tourism Director, Ste Genevieve

The meeting of the New Bourbon Regional Port Authority was called to order by Chairman Inman at 3:02 p.m.

The pledge of allegiance was said.

Introductions followed.

Chairman Inman asked for approval of the **agenda**. Mr. Nelson moved to approve the agenda; Mr. Moll seconded the motion; Motion carried.

Chairman Inman asked for approval of the March 26, 2025, meeting **minutes**. Mr. Moll moved to approve the minutes; Mr. Nelson seconded the motion; Motion carried.

Chairman Inman asked for public comment for Items not on the agenda. Mr. Smith, the Tourism Director for Ste Genevieve, spoke as to how important the Ferry is. Mr. Smith has written letters to Illinois tourism, economic development, Senators, and Governor stating that he is willing to promote the Ferry on both Missouri and Illinois tourism; he is also willing to make consistent effort to push Illinois.

Chairman Inman asked for approval of the **financial** statements for February 2025. Mr. Tanz reported as of the end of March the balance is \$240,826.83. The Ferry is making interest only payment to RLF, and the Ferry line of credit is 31,477.36. Ms. Jones moved to approve the financial statements for March 2025; Mr. Nelson seconded the motion; Motion carried.

Chairman Inman gave the ferry boat report. The Ferry had a loss last month, but this is typical for this time of year. The river levels were abnormally low this winter. Mr. Tanz stated that the ridership survey results have been made public and are posted on the website. It shows 66% coming from Illinois to Missouri. Illinois Senator Terry Bryant has a senate bill that was heard in hearing today that is requesting \$250,000.00 for the Ste Genevieve MODOT bill. Mr. Tanz testified on the bill via zoom. Senator Bryant has been working on this for the last two years and this is the furthest it has ever gotten in the process. It still must make it out of committee, through the floor, and then to the budget. Mr. Tanz spoke about the rate increase from the survey and 50% said they would still use the ferry if the rate increased to \$5.00. Dorean-Hickman rates are by size of vehicle. There round trip tickets are full price 1st way and ½ price 2nd way; you can also purchase 10 voucher sheets at discount price. If we applied our accounts using the Dorean-Hickman scale from July – March we could estimate \$14,000 in revenue and rates, and this is a rough estimate. Currently for our fiscal year through the end of March we are operating at a loss of \$47,726.45 if we had the other rates that would have been reduced to \$33,000.00. Most of that loss was handled by 5311 funds but those funds are now gone and there are no future plans for 5311 at this point, so the next three months losses will have to be picked up somewhere else. Ridership may increase after the water park opens. We are looking at another \$30,000 to \$40,000 in loss this next quarter. Mr. Inman said there was \$20,000 in the bank for Ferry operating. Mr. Tanz stated that the Ridership survey was to get an idea of who was using the Ferry and why and what the support there is. The next step is to schedule some public meetings. We would need to have one in Ste Genevieve and would also like to do one in Prairie De Rocher as well. We would kind of go over the ridership but be more focused on the financials. Educating people on what it cost to run the ferry and what those issues are, challenges with river conditions, talk about a rate increase which would have to be voted on by the County Commission, and then the possibility of shutting the ferry. The rate increase schedule suggestion from Mr. Inman was cars \$5.00 one way, \$5.00 round trip, and raise larger vehicles. Mr. Tanz suggested rounding off riders to \$5.00 or \$10.00. 9 cars or pickups on barge at one time would be \$180.00 based on the Dorena-Hickman rate of \$20.00 per spot. Dorena-Hickman rates only make round trips to basic fare vehicles.

Mr. Inman requested a rate increase suggestion submit to the County Commission to approve. Mr. Gremaud made a motion for a rate increase to adopt the Dorena-Hickman schedule without the book passes and the round trip would be limited to basic fare only; Ms. Jones seconded the motion; Motion carried.

BUSINESS

Chairman Inman asked for Review and approval of the FY24 audit. Mr. Tanz went over the audit. It was a clean audit “No Opinion”. The management letter is included in the audit book. Mr. Jones moved to approve the FY24 Audit; Mr. Moll seconded the motion; Motion carried.

Chairman Inman asked for the Review and Approval of the Attorney Contract. Mr. Tanz stated that Cunningham, Vogel, and Roast out of St. Louis is a Local Government Law Firm. They have offered for the 1st year an initial agreement subject to any adjustment rates for Greg Dorman and Paul Roast would be \$185.00 per hour for any phone calls, emails, and any other general correspondence to any Port Authority business; and \$285.00 per hour for more complex matters including legal research, contract review, and drafting litigation. The adjustment in b would be if the Port Authority starts receiving revenue and making more money than they would

enact their normal rate schedule. For Mr. Vogel would be \$400.00 per hour and Mr. Dorman would be \$345.00 per hour. Mr. Dorman does have experience of working with ports. Mr. Moll made a motion to approve the Attorney Contract; Mr. Gremaud seconded the motion; Motion carried

There is no update on the Status of Corps of engineers permit at this time.

Other Business

Mr. Tanz reported Air Quality report was due at the end of April. Chris Koehler did get that submitted. Chris Koehler also got us the contract for the PE that was discussed last month. We do have a contract for him to do the work that we approved of last month. Mr. Nelson moved to approve Kohler Engineering contract; Mr. Moll seconded the motion; Motion carried

Mr. Inman reported that we had received a bill for \$1619.27 from the Sub Chapter M Inspection. The Coast Guard is saying that we should not pay this fee due to being a privately owned firm due to the fact that the Port Authority owns the Ferry.

The next meeting was scheduled for May 28, 2025, at 3:00 pm in Ste Genevieve, Missouri.

Ms. Jones moved to adjourn the meeting; Mr. Moll seconded this motion, motion carried. meeting was adjourned @ 4:00 p.m.

Brad Moll, Secretary/Treasurer