

These are the minutes of the regular meeting of the Port Authority Advisory Committee (the committee) held on August 2, 2023, in Beaumont, Texas. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 A.M. by Chair Chris Fisher, with the following committee members present:

**Port Authority Advisory Committee:**

Chris Fisher, Chair	Port of Beaumont	In Person
Sean Stibich, Vice Chair	Port of Victoria	In Person
Roger Guenther	Port of Houston	Virtual
Walker Smith	Port of Harlingen	Virtual
Sean Strawbridge	Southern Coast Representative	Absent
Phyllis Saathoff	Port Freeport	Virtual
Rodger Rees	Port of Galveston	In Person
Zach Johnson	Speaker of the House Appointee	In Person
Aaron Kocian	Lt. Governor Appointee	Virtual

A public notice of this meeting containing all items on the proposed agenda was filed in the Office of the Secretary of State at 4:04 p.m. on July 14, 2023, as required by Government Code, Chapter 551, referred to as "The Open Meetings Act."

**ITEM 2. Introduction of committee members and TxDOT staff**

Mr. Chris Fisher, Chair, asked everyone to introduce themselves. All committee members are listed above; one member was absent.

**ITEM 3. Opening Remarks**

Mr. GeirEilif Kalhagen explained the Port Authority Advisory Committee (PAAC) will provide a formal recommendation to allocate over \$200 million from the 88<sup>th</sup> Legislature. He emphasized this is a historic time and commended the PAAC and the Maritime Division for their hard work.

Mr. Chris Fisher expressed how truly historic today will be. He thanked all the port representatives and port directors for working overtime to create awareness in the legislature on the importance of ports. Mr. Fisher appreciated the legislature's support in funding the ports in Texas, resulting in a positive impact on the state's economy.

**ITEM 4. Discuss and approve projects recommended for funding for the 2024- 2025 Maritime Infrastructure Program. (Action)**

The PAAC gathered on July 28, 2023, to work diligently reviewing the list of 12 projects representing 12 different ports for the Maritime Infrastructure Program (MIP) totaling \$200 million based on the Port Mission Plan.

Mr. Zach Johnson made a motion to approve the list of projects to recommend to the Texas Transportation Commission for funding for the 2024- 2025 Maritime Infrastructure Program, with a second by Mr. Sean Stibich. The motion was carried with a vote of 8-0

**ITEM 5. Discuss and approve projects recommended for funding for the 2024- 2025 Seaport Connectivity Program. (Action)**

Ms. Kris Knoll presented a spreadsheet with 19 port projects for the Seaport Connectivity Program (SCP) for a two-year period totaling \$40 million (\$20 million per year).

Mr. Rodger Rees made a motion to approve the list of projects to recommend to the Texas Transportation Commission for funding for the 2024- 2025 Seaport Connectivity Program, with a second by Mr. Zach Johnson. The motion was carried with a vote of 8-0.

**ITEM 6. Presentation on the Maritime Long-Range Economic Forecast.**

Johanna Guerrero with AECOM presented a slide show explaining the Maritime Long-Range Economic Forecast.

Mr. Kalhagen provided some background for the presentation. The overall view of cargo value and tonnage included in the Texas Delivers 2050 Plan is not consistent with what the ports are tracking. The goal of this project is to capture the ports' perspective regarding cargo growth trends for intracoastal waterways, intrastate cargo, and international cargo.

**ITEM 7. Public comment**

Ms. Glenna Bruun with the Texas Port Association (TPA) thanked the PAAC and the state legislature for all their work. It is a monumental day.

Mr. Kalhagen thanked the maritime staff for being prepared prior to the approval of the funds.

Ms. Knoll will be sending out the information for the Texas Transportation Commission meeting on September 28, 2023. All are invited to attend virtually or in-person.

Ms. Phyllis Saathoff suggested that we should invite the legislature to the ports to show the results of the funding.

Ms. Knoll encouraged ports to let the Maritime Division know if you are having a shovel in the ground / ribbon cutting so we can help promote the events. Please also take pictures of before and after the projects to help promote the work that is being accomplished.

Mr. Aaron Kocian expressed the importance of continuing the messaging and communication to the audience, partners, and legislature.

**ITEM 8. Adjourn**

Mr. Walker Smith motioned to adjourn, with a second by Mr. Sean Stibich. The motion was carried with a vote of 8-0.

Mr. Chris Fisher adjourned the meeting at 10:05 A.M.

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris Fisher", written over a horizontal line.

Chris Fisher, Chair  
Port Authority Advisory Committee