Board of Commissioners of the Port of New Orleans
Board–Management Relations: A Critical Factor in Your Port’s Success

Presented By: Board Chair Valerie Cahill & Port President Gary LaGrange
Agenda/Topics To Be Covered

- Board Profile
- Nomination Organizations
- Diversity of the Board
- Board Relationship with Management
- Questions
Board Profile

- Unsalaried and serve 5-year staggered terms
- 4 members are from Orleans Parish, 2 from Jefferson and 1 from St. Bernard
- Appointed by the State Governor from a list of nominees from 19 local business, civic, labor, educational and maritime groups.
- Board Members can recuse themselves.
Established under the Louisiana Code of Government Ethics, LA Rev Stat § 42:1120.1

Few Boards give the Board members recusal privileges when there is a direct conflict of interest.

Serves as a prerequisite for person from the maritime industry to serve on the board.

Protects the integrity of the Board.
Nominating Organizations

- Greater New Orleans AFL–CIO
- Greater New Orleans Barge Fleeting Association
- International Freight Forwarders and Customs House Brokers Association of New Orleans
- Louisiana Farm Bureau
- Maritime Trades Council
- Metropolitan Area Committee
- New Orleans Board of Trade
- New Orleans Steamship Association
- Propeller Club
- Urban League of Greater New Orleans
- World Trade Center
- Xavier University
- Jefferson Chamber of Commerce
- Harvey Canal Industrial Association
- St. Bernard Chamber of Commerce
- St. Bernard Port, Harbor and Terminal District
Commissioners’ Backgrounds

Chairwoman
Valerie Cahill
Developer & Independent Investment Banker

Vice-Chair
Joseph Toomy
Insurance and Legislative

Secretary/Treasurer
Dan Packer
Electrical Utilities

Board Member
John Fay
Maritime Law

Board Member
Greg Rusovich
Shipping

Board Member
Wayne Mumphrey
Law and Judicial

Board Member
Scott Cooper
Towing and Stevedoring

New Board Member
Diverse Backgrounds

- Eliminates the perception of the “Fox guarding the hen house.”
- Members bring a fresh perspective to the table.
- Allows for vigorous debates on policy.
- Able to disagree without being disagreeable.
Board Leadership

- Board members need to be willing to stand on principles when making policy.

- Be willing to look for common ground whenever available.

- Seek to work out disagreements in committee meetings, then try to enact policy with the full support of the board.
Board Responsibility to Management

- Recognizing the fiduciary responsibility the Board has to the Port.

- Establishing the right protocols to maintain the proper boundaries between the duties of the Board of Commissioners and executive management.

- When management and the board are in disagreement, it’s a time to listen and not to respond.
Boundaries

- Management never gets involved in the nomination process of Board members.

- Board members re-direct any issues first to management. Management makes any recommendations to the board if needed.
Port of New Orleans: Management
Management Divisions

Divisions

- Port Operations
- Port Development
- Finance & Information Technology
- Administration
- Executive
- Marketing
- Legal/Risk Management
- Cruise and Tourism
- Business Development/Real Estate

Source: 2011 Financial Plan
The Port’s Land and Facilities

- Maritime servitude area from mile markers 89.5–114
- 505 acres of cargo handling area
- 137 acres of covered storage space
- Upwards of 1,000 acres along the Intercoastal waterway and the Industrial Canal
Management Leadership
Management’s Responsibility to the Board

- At all times, keep an open line of communication with the Board.

- Fully disclose Board members on all new major developments at the Port.

- Before presenting any problem to the Board, completely vet proposals, then recommend solutions.