

**Proceedings of the Regular Meeting of the Greater New Orleans
Expressway Commission (GNOEC), Wednesday, March 12, 2025, 10 AM,
South Shore conference room, Metairie, Louisiana 70002**

Call to Order

Chairman Tim Coulon called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Tim Coulon, Chairman; Ralph Cox, Jr., Vice Chairman; Justin Clinton, Secretary; and Donald Sharp. Absent: James Tucker. Quorum achieved.

Others Attending: Carlton Dufrechou, Melissa Phillpott, Robert Graham, Roy Jacob, Thea Andras, Eileen Barthe', Joycelynn Schaffer, Branden Fos, and Michelle Carlisle, GNOEC; Cary Bourgeois, GEC; Gavin Gillen, All South; Bobby Nagavi, Hardesty & Hanover; Lloyd Orferndorf, Volkert; and Craig Watson, Blue Williams.

Chairman's Remarks

Chairman Coulon noted that due to the winter storm in January, this would be our first in person meeting for 2025. Chairman Coulon welcomed Mr. Donald Sharp back to Commission representing the St. Tammany Council. He expressed the Commission's gratitude to staff for their work to clear the bridges of snow and ice from the January winter storm. Mr. Coulon thanked everyone for their support and help since he was appointed GNOEC chairman by Governor Landry.

Election of 2025 Officers

Mr. Coulon nominated Ralph Cox as Vice Chair. Mr. Sharp seconded the nomination. Messrs. Coulon, Cox, Clinton, and Sharp voted in favor. Mr. Coulon nominated Jim Tucker as Treasurer. Mr. Clinton seconded the nomination. Messrs. Coulon, Cox, Clinton, and Sharp voted in favor. Mr. Coulon nominated Justin Clinton as Secretary. Mr. Cox seconded the nomination. Messrs. Coulon, Cox, Clinton, and Sharp voted in favor. Mr. Coulon noted that Mr. Sharp would serve as Assistant Secretary/Treasurer.

General Manager's report

- Drawbridge, Dec: 5 vessel openings, 3 test opening and 0 incidents.
- Drawbridge, Jan: 3 vessel openings, 0 test opening and 0 incidents.
- Drawbridge, Feb: 3 vessel openings, 1 test opening and 0 incidents.
- Fog Ops: Dec 17, 24, 25, 26, 28, and 31; Jan 30; Feb 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, and 11; Mar 8 (Total 14 days).
- Bridge Closures: NB bridge closed Dec 10, 4:55 PM to 5:15 PM, due to vehicle crash at 17MM. Both bridges closed Dec 17, 8:31 AM to 4:30 PM due to multiple crashes within 20 minutes in fog. Both bridges closed due to severe weather Dec 28, 8:55 PM to 9:39 PM. NB bridge closed due to winter storm Jan 18, 7:30 AM to Jan 21, 8:00 AM. NB bridge closed Jan 27, 10:30 AM to 10:50 AM due for

response to 18-wheeler crash near 20MM. Both bridges closed Feb 9, 1:18 AM to 3:13 AM due to dense fog. Both bridges closed due to severe weather Mar 4, from 6:07 PM to 6:50 PM.

- Breakdowns: During Dec, we responded to 277 on the CW (210 mechanical and 67 debris) and 29 on the HPL (18 mechanical and 11 debris) for a total of 306 for both bridges.

- Breakdowns: During Jan, we responded to 245 on the CW (175 mechanical and 70 debris) and 44 on the HPL (36 mechanical and 8 debris) for a total of 289 for both bridges.

- Breakdowns: During Feb, we responded to 254 on the CW (180 mechanical and 74 debris) and 25 on the HPL (20 mechanical and 5 debris) for a total of 279 for both bridges.

- Accidents: During Dec, we responded to 23 on the CW (15N, 8S) and 7 at HPL (2 on the HPL).

- Accidents: During Jan, we responded to 9 on the CW (5N, 4S) and 7 at HPL (2 on the HPL).

- Accidents: During Feb, we responded to 11 on the CW (5N, 6S) and 9 at HPL (1 on the HPL).

Action Items

Electrical and Mobile Generator, GNOEC Project No. 215, GNOEC

Resolution No. 2025-04: On a motion by Mr. Clinton, seconded by Mr. Sharp: Based upon the recommendation of staff, legal counsel, and Consulting Engineers, the project titled Electrical and Mobile Generator, GNOEC Project No. 215, is awarded to the low bidder, Walther J. Barnes Electric Co., Inc. in the amount of \$278,110.00. The General Manager to hereby authorized to complete the execution of the contract with Walter J. Barnes Electric Co., Inc. pending the review of the bonds and insurance by legal counsel and insurance representatives. Chairman Coulon, Mr. Cox, Mr. Clinton, and Mr. Sharp voted in favor of the motion.

Request for Proposals to obtain services for a Toll Systems Integrator to upgrade the Toll Collection System, GNOEC Project No. 829, GNOEC

Resolution No. 2025-05: On a motion by Mr. Sharp, seconded by Mr. Cox: The GNOEC desires to obtain the services of a Toll Systems Integrator to upgrade its Toll Collection System through the addition of vehicle detection technology, real-time transaction data, maintenance monitoring, and various report generation, and hereby authorizes its General Manager to issue and advertise a Request for Proposals and/or Qualifications under La. R.S. 38:2234 to provide for this upgrade, including support and maintenance. Chairman Coulon, Mr. Cox, Mr. Clinton, and Mr. Sharp voted in favor of the motion.

Executive Session, GNOEC Resolution No. 2025-06: On a motion by Mr. Cox, seconded by Mr. Sharp: In accordance with La. R.S. 42:17(A)(1), the GNOEC will enter into Executive Session to discuss the character and/or professional competence of General Manager Carlton Dufrechou in connection with the

proposed 2025 Extension of Employment Agreement by and between the GNOEC and Carlton Dufrechou. Chairman Coulon, Mr. Cox, Mr. Clinton, and Mr. Sharp voted in favor of the motion.

Adopt and Execute the 2025 Extension of Employment Agreement by and between the GNOEC and Carlton Dufrechou, GNOEC Resolution No. 2025-07: On a motion by Mr. Cox, seconded by Mr. Sharp: After reviewing the 2025 Extension of Employment Agreement by and between the GNOEC and Carlton Dufrechou, the GNOEC hereby adopts the Agreement, extending Mr. Dufrechou's term as General Manager through December 31, 2028 in accordance with the terms of the Agreement. The Commission further authorizes Chairman Coulon to execute the Agreement. Chairman Coulon, Mr. Cox, Mr. Clinton, and Mr. Sharp voted in favor of the motion.

Closing/Next Meeting

Chairman Coulon asked if there was any further business or comments. There being none, Mr. Cox moved to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Sharp seconded. All concurred and the meeting adjourned. The next GNOEC meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 9, 2025, in the South Shore conference room.



Tim Coulon
Chairman



Justin Clinton
Secretary