

MARCH 1, 2013

The Board of County Commissioners, Manatee County, Florida, convened as the MANATEE COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY and held a work session and press conference at Port Manatee, Berth 12, Palmetto, Florida, at 10:00 a.m.

Present were members:

Carol Whitmore, Chairman
Michael Gallen, Second Vice-Chairman
Vanessa Baugh, Third Vice-Chairman
Betsy Benac
Lawrence E. Bustle, Jr.

Absent were members:

John Chappie, First Vice-Chairman
Robin DiSabatino

Also present were:

Carlos Buqueras, Executive Director
Glenna Campana, Enterprise Content Management, Deputy Director,
representing R. B. Shore, Clerk of Circuit Court

PORT TOUR

Carlos Buqueras, Executive Director, introduced **Representative Vern Buchanan** and **Representative Bill Shuster**, and provided a brief description of imports and exports at the Port and the importance of the expansion of Wharf 12. The 10-acre cargo yard is currently under construction.

Discussion: Port priorities; maintenance of federalized channels; 5,000 acres of intermodal logistics; reimbursements for dredging performed by Port; funding studies for Army Corps of Engineers; shoaling of the channel; opportunities for international trade; Port Connector Road; etc.

PRESS CONFERENCE

Representative Buchanan and Representative Shuster held a press conference, highlighting how improvements to Port Manatee will have a positive economic impact on the entire area.

Discussion: Importance of Port Manatee; proximity to Panama Canal; job growth; connection to interstates; global economy; etc.

MEETING ADJOURNED

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Adj: 11:00 a.m.
/vt

Minutes Approved: April 18, 2013