



Office of the Mayor
A.J. Holloway

Thursday, March 24, 2011 – delivered via facsimile

Sen. Thomas A. "Tommy" Gollott
Mississippi State Senate, District 50
Mississippi State Capitol
Jackson, MS

Senator Gollott:

Thank you for returning my call today, and I was relieved to hear you say that no issue had come up regarding Tidelands funds in Biloxi. My information that something came up in a meeting you attended on Wednesday must have been mistaken.

I also thank you for your offer of more Tidelands funding for Biloxi projects. To be honest, we are on the verge of embarking on a project with huge potential for the Point Cadet waterfront.

As you know, we have engaged the Tulane Regional Urban Design Center for assistance in generating concepts for programming in the public land south of U.S. 90 controlled by the city.

I appreciate your passing along to me concerns about why the city engaged Tulane on this project. Frankly, Tulane has a presence here in Biloxi, and I am looking for Tulane to increase their presence in a big way. I wanted them to know that they are in my thoughts, but, rest assured, as an Ole Miss graduate, my allegiance is with in-state institutions, whether it's Gulf Coast Community College, USM, State or others.

This Point Cadet project will certainly involve expanding Point Cadet Marina, improving public access and enjoyment of those lands along the waterfront between the Isle and even north of the Biloxi Bay Bridge, where, I am happy to say, the Maritime and Seafood Industry Museum is returning.

This area has great potential to achieve all of the goals of the Tidelands program, and, as most of this money is generated here in Biloxi, I am glad that you and others are interested in seeing money invested in Biloxi. I will keep you posted on this.

I also want to provide an update on the active Tidelands-funded projects in Biloxi. There are six primary ones at the moment: the Lighthouse Fishing Docks, a project that was inherited in 2004 from the defunct Biloxi Port Commission; the Forrest Avenue boat launch and pier; the Parker Creek landing improvements; Point Cadet marina expansion; the Lighthouse Park and Visitors Center; and the Popp's Ferry Causeway Park, which is actually Tidelands funds through Harrison County.

Hurricane Katrina demolished or sidetracked much of the progress that had been made on many of these projects and other waterfront assets.

We've worked with FEMA and MEMA to see that tens of millions of dollars is invested in rebuilding our waterfront assets, and, at the same time, we have continued to move forward on the projects that you and

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your fellow legislators have said were so important when you originally approved the funding.

As you will notice from the attached report, Biloxi is following through on its responsibilities regarding the obligated Tidelands funds. This funding also will go a long way to bridging the shortfalls in FEMA funding at the respective sites.

We have much more work to do here in Biloxi, and although it can be frustrating at times, I am pleased that we have your support. I will keep you posted.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A.J. Holloway', written over the printed name.

A.J. Holloway
Mayor

P.S. Please share this letter and report with as many folks as necessary. I'll make sure to get it to the Biloxi delegation and to our many friends.
Thanks.

Status of active Tidelands Public Access Projects in Biloxi

Appropriated project	FY	Granted	Expense	Balance	Status
Biloxi Port Commission Point Cadet Marina - J Pier Reallocated to Lighthouse Fishing Docks project	'01	\$150,000	\$18,581.49	\$131,418.51	The City of Biloxi inherited this project from the defunct Biloxi Port Commission only 15 months before Hurricane Katrina struck. Engineering work is complete, and with FEMA's approval, the project will be out for bid in 30 days, followed by construction. Among the shortfalls to be covered by the Tidelands funds are concrete bulkheads to enclose the entire project area, and additional bulkhead and pilings to better secure the slips. Any excess funding would be used for shortfalls at the commercial dock adjacent to the small craft harbor.
Biloxi Port Commission Lighthouse Fishing Docks, Phase IV Bulkhead along canal	'03	\$100,000		\$100,000	
Lighthouse Fishing Docks Phase IV	'03	\$717,294.38		\$717,294.28	
City of Biloxi Forrest Ave. Boat Launch and Pier	'08	\$100,000		\$100,000	The \$350,000 in funding will demolish existing ramp and re-construct ramp with corrected slope, as well as improve existing piers. Engineering firm identified and design is underway. Construction expected by third quarter of 2011.
City of Biloxi Forrest Ave. Boat Launch	'09	\$100,000		\$100,000	
City of Biloxi Forrest Ave. Boat Launch	10	\$150,000		\$150,000	
City of Biloxi improvements to Parker Creek Landing	10	\$100,000	\$76,739.00	\$23,261.00	Parker's Creek project completed; \$23,261 re-allocated to Point Cadet master plan. Development of master plan underway now. Expect completion within 30 days. Engineering firm has identified to create construction documents for marina expansion.
City of Biloxi Point Cadet Marina Expansion	11	\$200,000		\$200,000	
City of Biloxi Lighthouse Park and Visitors Center (env. enhancement)	10	\$100,000		\$100,000	Funds are for landscaping at Lighthouse Park and for one of the nine educational exhibits inside the Visitors Center. Construction on center well underway, expected to be completed in May. Landscaping to be completed simultaneously.
City of Biloxi Lighthouse Park and Visitors Center (exhibit)	11	\$200,000		\$200,000	

Appropriated project	FY	Granted	Expense	Balance	Status
Popp's Ferry Causeway boardwalk	'04-05	\$1,077,567	\$423,789	\$653,778	<p>Working with Harrison County on this Tidelands funds project, nearly half a million dollars was spent constructing a gazebo, pier and overlook at the Popp's Ferry causeway area. A huge portion of the work was opened to the public in July 2005, only to be demolished a month later by Katrina. FEMA is in the process of restoring the work that had been done, and the city will use the \$653,778.61 to complete the overall project.</p>