

# **Setting the Record Straight, Part 2: Clearing Up Some Rumors About PORT MANSFIELD and the Willacy County Navigation District:**

**Recently, there have been some misunderstandings circulating from well-meaning citizens regarding the Willacy County Navigation District and its operations—particularly when it comes to Port Mansfield. So, we continue to ensure that everyone has the correct information.**

**Here are some more points to help clear up these rumors and provide transparency:**

## **1. Sustaining the Recreational Character of the Port:**

Despite dramatic images of large barges and semi-trucks, the Willacy County Navigation District is dedicated to maintaining Port Mansfield's unique recreational character. We seek business that complements its existing way of life, not disrupts it—this is even provided in the Port of Port Mansfield Strategic Action Plan: “the Port of Port Mansfield is an important residential and recreational community, and it is also a designated commercial port by the State.”

## **2. Balancing Commercial and Recreational Interests:**

Our approach to development ensures that any new business at the port will harmonize with recreational activities, preserving what makes our area special while still allowing for responsible economic growth. Again, straight from the Port of Port Mansfield Strategic Action Plan: “The Port's recreational character is essential to the health of the community, so it is critical that any commercial development does not compromise the image or character of the Port community. Such commercial development must not create adverse impacts on permanent and seasonal residents, nor reduce the attractiveness of the area for recreational visitors.”

## **3. Deliberative Process for Container Operations and Other Industry:**

Willacy County Navigation District is committed to finding the right fit for container operations and other business at the port. We are carefully evaluating each opportunity to ensure it aligns with our community's needs and values, and reevaluating them as needed to make sure every contract benefits the District.

## **4. No Loss from Unrealized Contracts:**

Contrary to misconceptions, no taxpayer money has been lost due to unrealized contracts. The board has been proactive in asking the right questions and scrutinizing contracts to safeguard funds and protect the public's investment.

## **5. The Port needs Commercial Business to Receive Funding for Dredging the Channel:**

It has been made clear by the Army Corps of Engineers that they prioritize funding for ports which have commercial activity. Without this funding, future dredging costs would shift to the taxpayers—and without dredging, both the recreational character AND commercial potential of the Port would be adversely affected.

**Once again--the District Serves Taxpayers all over Willacy County—whether in Port Mansfield, Lasara, San Perlita, Raymondville, or other places—and it is important that ALL Taxpayers get their money's worth! We are committed to making sure any new business at the Port will harmonize with recreational activities and preserve what makes our area special!**