

March 12, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT DURING ROLL CALL: John Clark, Jack Harris, Ryan Byrd, Clint Cointment, Randy Delatte, Brin Ferlito, LeeAnn Fitch, Gary O'Neal, Edwin Parker, Fred Raiford, Rick Webre

MEMBERS ABSENT DURING ROLL CALL: Lionel Bailey, Kenneth Dawson

ALSO PRESENT: Bren Haase, CPRA; Ed Knight, LADOTD; Executive Director Rachael Lambert, ARBC, Executive Secretary Toni Guitrau, ARBC; Legal Counsel Jenna Linn Rice, Bankston & Associates/ARBC; Lawrence E. Marino, Oats & Marino

ALSO ABSENT: Monica S. Gorman, PLD

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by ARBC President Clark.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call: See above.

4. Minutes – There were no public comments.

The Board unanimously approved a motion by Delatte, seconded by O'Neal to approve the January 9, 2024 Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented.

5. Financial Statements – There were no public comments.

The Board unanimously approved a motion by Cointment, seconded by Delatte to approve the January and February 2024 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements, as presented.

6. Report by ARBC President – There were no public comments.

- On behalf of the ARBC Project Committee, Harris requested that an item be added under New Business. The item is Bayou Manchac Project Discussion. A motion was made by Raiford and seconded by Delatte to add said item. A roll call was taken and was as follows:
YEAS: John Clark, Jack Harris, Ryan Byrd, Clint Cointment, Randy Delatte, Brin Ferlito, LeeAnn Fitch, Gary O'Neal, Edwin Parker, Fred Raiford, Rick Webre
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Lionel Bailey, Kenneth Dawson
ABSTAIN: None
- President Clark informed the Board that he and Delatte had met with the USACE concerning the Amite River Tributaries Project. The project will offer certain homeowners a chance to floodproof their homes. Clark said he would have hoped for more than this and he believes the USACE heard them well.
- President Clark provided a demonstration of what happens during a rain event when a river is clogged with silt. He said that maintenance of the channel is long overdue and gets worse on the lower end.

7. Report by ARBC Executive Director Rachael Lambert – There were no public comments.

Lambert provided a presentation updating the board on the following:

Region 9 Update

- All Round 2 Projects Conditionally Awarded
- Clearing & Snagging Comite North of Hwy 10 \$13,736,114
- Clearing & Snagging Comite South of Hwy 10 - \$13,200,364
- Taylor Bayou Regional Improvements - \$8,856,263
- Kennedy Heights Drainage Improvement Project - \$3,743,795
- Lower Bayou Conway Drainage Improvements - \$1,926,000
- John Leblanc Detention Improvements - \$536,232

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- Round 2 Awardee Kick-off meetings have started. The Board discussed what is required and discussed at these meetings. Harris said that years ago LWI's main function was to assist entities. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Delatte, seconded by Raiford to request an LWI representative to attend the next regular ARBC meeting to answer questions that would be helpful to communities.
- Watershed Plan Activities
 - Regional Risk Mapping
 - Stakeholder Mapping
 - Engagement & Communication
- Master Plan
 - Two Addenda Issued
 - Proposals Due: January 30, 2024
 - Received 3 proposals: CSRS, LLC, Dewberry Engineers, Inc., Halff Associates, Inc.
 - RFQ Evaluation Committee Initial Meeting February 22, 2024
 - Interviews March 4, 2024
 - RFQ EC Scoring/Selection Meeting March 8, 2024
- LFMA Annual Conference is April 17-19 in Lafayette
- ASCE Louisiana 2024 Spring Conference is March 20-21, Baton Rouge. Lambert will speak on March 20th.
- CRDC Project Status. Monthly updates can be found on the ARBC website at www.amitebasin.org as provided by the USACE.

8. Report by Legal Counsel – There were no public comments.

- At the January 9, 2024 meeting, the Board authorized Bankston to seek a legislative author for the formalization of the new boundaries in the next legislative session. Senator Foil has agreed to author this legislation.
- Consider Revisions to Act 490 of 2022. The Board discussed requesting an extension for the deadline of the Master Plan. After much discussion, it was agreed to keep the current deadline.
- Consider Revisions to Act 421 of 2018. The Board discussed and agreed to take no action regarding Act 421 of 2018 which requires the Board to hold at least one meeting in Livingston, Ascension and EBR Parishes per year. The Board is required to meet at least once per quarter.

9. Old Business – There were no public comments.

Master Plan RFQ Award: As stated earlier by Lambert, there were:

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On recommendation by the RFQ Committee, the Board unanimously approved a motion by O'Neal, seconded by Parker to approve Dewberry Engineers, Inc. to produce the ARBC Master Plan. CSRS, LLC, Dewberry Engineers, Inc., and Halff Associates, Inc were thanked for their excellent presentations and for applying.

10. New Business – There were no public comments.

- Bayou Manchac Discussion.

The Project Committee recommended the full Board consider becoming the lead agency on the Bayou Manchac Project. Since it is a regional project, it was discussed that it should be an ARBC lead project. The funding may come from the \$100 million granted to Region 9 through the LWI Action Plan, Amendment #3. It was mentioned that studies were done by other agencies using tax dollars and that ARBC will need to request these studies and information. Cointment advised that ARBC make the Bayou Manchac project a priority and to accept responsibility for its design, planning, overseeing construction, seeking revenue sources as necessary, and completion. Cointment suggested passing a resolution in the mindset of that. He said

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resolution language can be prepared by the ARBC Executive Director and the language could be reviewed and accepted by the Executive Committee. Delatte said this is a regional project. He said this could help get the water away before it could enter Livingston Parish. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Parker, seconded by Webre that ARBC take the lead on the Bayou Manchac Project. Cointment mentioned that in 9 months when the Master Plan is completed it should list future ARBC projects and plans.

- The Board unanimously approved a motion by Harris, seconded by Cointment to draft a resolution to formally request any study, plans, or engineering that has been done on Bayou Manchac. Clark said the motion is to take the lead on the ARBC project, and to request the studies and information. He said the ARBC counsel will provide the resolution for the Board to affirm and accept in this regard.
- Capital Outlay Discussion: The Board discussed amending the amount previously requested for restoration of the gravel pits in the northern part of the Amite River to \$2.5 million to purchase the property for the project. It would be a pilot restoration to incorporate retention and would also be a silt trap. It would also have restoration of that area for public use. Raiford suggested going to Facility and Planning to get them to help with the paperwork to adjust the amount requested. The Board agreed to reduce the amount of Capital Outlay request to \$2.5 million.
- New ARBC Office Space: Lambert provided the Board with a proposal for 2700 square feet of office space located at 4000 S. Sherwood Forest. It is comparable to the price per square foot the Board is now paying but has more space. The current lease is 1312 square feet. She provided a 3-D rendering of the proposed space. The proposed space could accommodate ARBC Board meetings. The Board further discussed this then unanimously approved a motion by Cointment, seconded by Raiford, to approve the move.
- Flood Awareness Month: The Board unanimously approved a motion by O'Neal, seconded by Parker to approve the Flood Awareness Month proclamation declaring March 2024 as Flood Awareness Month. A request was sent to the governor for a proclamation and to parishes and municipalities to do the same. This proclamation/resolution can be used in community CRS packages.

11. General or Non-Agenda Item(s) Public Comments: Mr. Buddy Mincey, Livingston Parish, commented on the former and current Board. He mentioned the creation of Act 490 and LWI, Region 9 while he was a state representative. He thanked the new Board and requested they do all they can to give the public something to believe in.

12. The Board unanimously approved a motion by O'Neal, seconded by Cointment, to adjourn the meeting at 11:35 am.

APPROVED:

/s/John Clark/ARBC President

Date: April 9, 2024

/s/ Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary