

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE
AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

3535 S. Sherwood Forest Boulevard, Suite 135, Baton Rouge, LA

March 15, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT DURING ROLL CALL: Don Thompson, Ben Babin, Anthony “Tony” Rouchon, Jerry Thibeau, John Brass, David Hoover, Willie George Lee, Terry Louque, Kenneth Wade Welborn, William “Carey” Jenkins

MEMBERS ABSENT: Larry Thomas

NOTE: Vacant Seat(s) Livingston Parish, St. Helena Parish

ALSO PRESENT: ARBC Executive Director Dietmar Rietschier, ARBC Executive Secretary Toni Guitrau, ARBC Legal Counsel Larry Bankston

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Thompson.
2. Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance
3. Public Comments on Agenda Items: None
4. Minutes

The Board unanimously approved a motion by Rouchon, second by Lee to approve the February 2016 regular meeting minutes as presented.
5. Financial Statement Report

Rouchon presented to the Board the February 2016 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Hoover, second by Babin to approve the February 2016 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements.
6. Report by Executive Director - Discussed the following items:
 - Flood of March 2016. Rietschier said this recent flood could have been one as severe as the 1983 flood. The CRDC Project which is the only major flood control project in the BR Metro area needs to be completed.
 - Updated the ARBC Commissioners on the status of the CRDC Project. Discussion included estimated cost shares of the federal and non-federal partners, bridges that need to be built to move the project forward, in-kind service possibilities that could expedite the construction of bridges, and Capital Outlay Request. Rietschier requested a meeting sooner than the scheduled May 9, 2016 meeting to discuss the in-kind service eligibility under new federal regulations. This would allow ARBC to contribute toward construction primarily the highway and railroad bridge at US Hwy. 61. ARBC hired Stantec to prepare a cost estimate on utility relocations. The estimate should be prepared in 10 days to 2 weeks. Also discussed funding ratios of federal and non-federal partners, and the funding cap. Rietschier introduced Thomas Davidson. Discussed the process of leasing property after the sale is final.
7. Report by ARBC Legal Counsel: The big issues are the lack of money contributed by the State in the Capital Outlay HB 2. The CRDC Project was not in it last year. The next real construction project is the \$31 million cost of the Bridge at Hwy 61 and the Railroad Bridge. There are no funds from congress or the USACE in reference to that. All they have now is \$4 million which may be sufficient to build the Shoo-fly for the Railroad Bridge. At the meeting with the USACE and DOTD yesterday, they said they are at 35% completion of designing the Baton Rouge Bayou Drop Structure. They are looking at breaking up the bridge contract. WRDA - ARBC needs to be pro-active on this issue. Some properties for consideration on tonight’s agenda need to be deferred until they are properly surveyed. Waiting on DOTD regarding permitting rules for utility relocations. ARBC is meeting its obligations and are waiting on the USACE and DOTD.
8. Old Business: None
9. New Business
 - Act of Sale: Tract No. 41 & M3-80- Resolution 1123 – The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thibeau, second by Hoover to defer said discussion/action until the ARBC meeting of April 19, 2016.
 - ALBL 2016 Membership Dues Increase: The Board unanimously approved a motion by Hoover, second by Rouchon to defer said discussion/action until the ARBC meeting of April 19, 2016.
 - Annual Audit Engagement Letter: The Board unanimously approved a motion by Rouchon, second by Babin to approve the \$4500 Audit Engagement Letter with John McKowen, CPA.
 - Proclamation Flood Awareness Month: The Board unanimously approved a motion by Rouchon, second by Thibeau to proclaim March 2016 as Flood Awareness Month.
10. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Rouchon, second by Hoover to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED:

/s/ Don Thompson
Don Thompson, ARBC President
Date: April 19, 2016

/s/ Toni B. Guitrau
Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary