

**MINUTES
OF THE
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING
MARCH 16, 2022
10:00 AM
GRAND ECORE RV PARK ACTIVITY CENTER
1071 TAUZIN ISLAND ROAD
NATCHITOCHE, LOUISIANA**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Red River Waterway Commission was called to order by Chair Designee, Troy Roussell, in the Activity Center of the Red River Waterway Commission Grand Ecore RV Park located at 1071 Tauzin Island Road in Natchitoches, Louisiana.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll was called and a quorum was present. Others in attendance were asked to identify themselves and offer any comments they may have regarding the agenda. However, no comments were offered.

Present: Chair Designee, Troy Roussell, Commissioner Versa Clark, Commissioner David L. Crutchfield, II, Commissioner Paul Fleming, Commissioner Randell Fletcher, Commissioner Charles R. Greer, Commissioner James F. Maxey. In accordance with Louisiana R.S.42.17.1 (Act 302) Commissioner Jacques Goudeau, Commissioner David Jones, and Commissioner Ronald Lattier participated virtually.

Absent: Commissioner Michael P. Deville and Commissioner Michael Simpson

RRWC Staff Members Present: Mr. Colin Brown - Executive Director, Ms. Stephanie Bonnette - Executive Assistant, Mr. Luke Pearson - Real Estate Manager, Mr. Ryan Ingles - Engineering Supervisor, Mr. Eric Gilmore - Marketing Director, Mr. Greg Upton - Legal Counsel.

3. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD PERSUANT TO LRS 42:14

Others Present: Mr. Rich Brontoli, Executive Director of the Red River Valley Association

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

By motion of Commissioner Greer, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the revised agenda was unanimously approved by roll call vote. The revised agenda to include item one under Recreation Committee to read as follows: Consideration of Purchase of Replacement Breakers/Grand Ecore RV Park. Comments from the public were called for, however, none were offered.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

By motion of Commissioner Greer, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the minutes of the February 16, 2022 meeting were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Greer, the Expenditures, Financial Statements, Investment Reports, and Fund Balance Report for the month of February 2022 were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Contracts

Consideration of Approval of Grand Ecore RV Park Operator Contract Extension: By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield and one abstention by Commissioner Goudeau, the Commission approved, by roll call vote, the extension of the current operator agreement from July 28, 2022 to December 31, 2022.

Consideration of Approval of Memorandum of Agreement/Southwest Arkansas Navigation Feasibility Study: By motion of Commissioner Fleming, seconded by Commissioner Greer and one abstention by Commissioner Lattier, the Commission approved, by roll call vote, the Arkansas Red River Commission revised funding request for the entirety of the reserved project funds of \$900,000.00 to be funded in 2022 instead of two equal payments of \$450,000.00 in 2022 and in 2023. The Commission also approved the corresponding 2022 budget amendment from \$450,000.00 to \$900,000.00 and authorized the Executive Director to execute the Memorandum of Agreement and Letter of Guarantee.

b) Land Management, Legal Affairs & Affirmative Action

Consideration of Award of Public Bid Land Lease/Lock & Dam 1/Tracts 7-9/6 Acres: By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Greer, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, award of the 5-year lease to Amanda Smith for \$600.00 (\$20.00 per acre annually) for the 5-year term.

Consideration of Cancellation of Leaseback/Pool 4/Tracts 12A & 13/27 Acres: By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, the request to cancel leaseback with Mr. Lysander Webb.

c) Recreation

Recreation Area Status Report - The prepared report noted that there had been 95,600 visitors to the District recreation areas during the month of February 2022.

Consideration of Purchase of Replacement Breakers/Grand Ecore RV Park: By motion of Commissioner Greer, seconded by Commissioner Clark and one abstention by Commissioner Goudeau, the Commission approved the purchase of (50) 30 amp and (70) 50 amp breakers and a corresponding budget amendment in the amount of \$15,000.00.

d) Ports – None

e) Public Awareness & Marketing

Marketing Update - A prepared report was provided in the meeting packet. In addition, Marketing Director, Eric Gilmore discussed:

- Attended the 2022 Bassmaster Classic Outdoors Expo/2022 Bassmaster Classic March 4-6, 2022 in Greenville, South Carolina
- Attended the Ports Association of Louisiana in New Orleans
- Attending the Major League Fishing Tournament in Tulsa, Oklahoma March 25–27, 2022
- Avoyelles Parish Port site visit. Port is working on a project to increase tonnage use and in forecasting future needs
- Grand Ecore RV Park largest booking number in February to date. Anticipating doubling March 2021 campsite bookings.
- April 2022 events at the Grand Ecore Boat Launch include the Louisiana State Trooper Association tournament and Mr. Crappie Tournament

f) **Personnel** - None

g) **Revenue, Banking & Budget**

Announcement of Upcoming 2022 Tax Millage Adoption/April 20, 2022: An announcement was made that the Commission will adopt the 2022 Tax Millage at the April 20, 2022 Commission meeting

h) **Legislative** – Legislative session is underway

8. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Hired an Operations & Maintenance Director, Mr. Marcus Long, to begin March 28, 2022
- The Corps of Engineers has received construction general funding for use for the Alexandria Dike Project. Plans to begin project in 2022
- Governor Edwards Emergency Executive Order expired today (March 16, 2022). Monthly Commission meetings will return to being held at Commission Headquarters and no Zoom option
- Annual Tier 2.1 Financial Disclosures due May 15, 2022

9. **STATUS OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY/ENGINEERING REPORT** - Prepared reports were provided in the meeting packets.

- Teague Trails Extension project is essentially complete and substantial completion will be forthcoming
- Comfort Station Projects – slabs have been poured at all three locations, utilities are in place, and two locations have walls up
- Provided the Commission with a preliminary layout of the Poland Floating Dock Project. Construction to begin in the Fall
- Provided an update on the Grand Ecore Additional Amenities Project. Construction to begin in June

10. **GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT** - None

11. **CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPORT** - None

12. **RED RIVER VALLEY ASSOCIATION** – Richard Brontoli, Executive Director of the RRVA provided the Commission with the following update:

- Recent rains have made little impact to the river
- Below Lock 1 remains high, but no navigation issues
- The 2022 Appropriations Bill was signed by the President yesterday. There is \$2.25 million in construction projects for such projects as the Alexandria Dikes
- Still awaiting the FY 2023 President's Budget. Once out will submit project requests to delegates

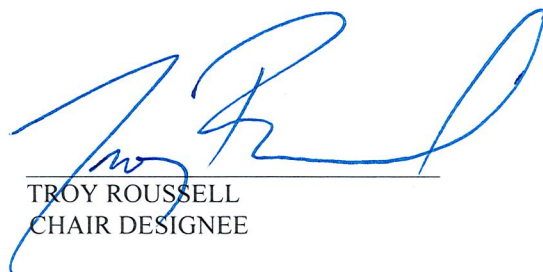
13. **OTHER BUSINESS** - None

14. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC** - None

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct at this time, by motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Greer, and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned.


JAMES F. MAXEY
SECRETARY/TREASURER


TROY ROUSSELL
CHAIR DESIGNEE