

MINUTES
OF THE
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING
AUGUST 19, 2020
10:00 AM
GRAND ECORE RV PARK ACTIVITY CENTER
1071 TAUZIN ISLAND ROAD
NATCHITOCHE, LOUISIANA 71457

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Red River Waterway Commission was called to order by Chair Designee, Troy Roussel, 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 Roussel, Commissioner Versa Clark, Commissioner Paul Fleming, Commissioner Randell Fletcher, Commissioner Jacques Goudeau, Commissioner Charles Greer, Commissioner David Jones, Commissioner Ronald Lattier, Commissioner James Maxey, Commissioner Michael Simpson. In accordance with Louisiana R.S. 42.17.1 (Act 302) Commissioners Jacques Goudeau, Charles Greer, and James Maxey participated virtually.

Absent: Commissioner David Crutchfield, II and Commissioner Michael Deville.

RRWC Staff Members Present: Mr. Colin Brown - Executive Director, Mr. Mike Boydston - Operations & Maintenance Director, 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 & PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD PURSUANT TO LRS 42:14**

Others Present: Mr. Rich Brontoli of the Red River Valley Association. Virtually - Vickie Welborn of the Shreveport Times.

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

By motion of Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the agenda was unanimously approved by roll call vote. Comments from the public were called for, however, none were offered.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

By motion of Commissioner Fleming, seconded by Commissioner Jones, the minutes of the July 15, 2020 meeting were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

6. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

By motion of Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Jones, the Expenditures, Financial Statements, Investment Reports, & Fund Balance Report for the month of July 2020 were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

7. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) **Contracts** - None

b) **Land Management, Legal Affairs & Affirmative Action**

1. **Consideration of Approval of Public Bid Land Lease Agreement/Lock & Dam 2/Tracts 5, 6, 8 & 9/195 Acres:** By motion of Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher, the Commission unanimously approved by roll call vote award of 5-year land lease agreement to Big Lake Hunting Club, LLC in the amount of \$19,500.00 (\$20.00 per acre) for the 5-year lease term (September 01, 2020 – August 31, 2025).

c) **Recreation**

1. **Consideration of Funding Request/Cities of Shreveport and Bossier City/Texas Street Bridge Lighting Project:** By motion of Commissioner Greer, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher, the Commission unanimously approved by roll call vote the Cities of Shreveport and Bossier City funding request in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 for the Texas Street Bridge Lighting Project. Commission authorized staff to develop a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement that is to include language stipulating that the Red River Waterway Commission has no obligation to maintain or for the maintenance of this project. Cooperative Endeavor Agreement to be presented to the Commission at their September 2020 regular monthly meeting.

2. **Recreation Area Status Report**

Mr. Mike Boydston highlighted the prepared report provided in the meeting packet, noting that there had been 162,000 visitors to the District recreation areas during the month of July 2020. Updated maintenance items include, but not limited to:

- Dredging completed from Alexandria to south of Coushatta
- Parks fully implemented cashless receivables in July and is working well

d) **Ports** - None

e) **Public Awareness & Marketing**

1. **Consideration of Approval of Cooperative Endeavor Agreement/Shreveport-Bossier Sports Commission:** By motion of Commissioner Fletcher, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the Commission unanimously approved by roll call vote the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Shreveport-Bossier Sports Commission in the amount of \$22,475.00 for 2020 events on the Red River.

2. **Marketing Update**

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

- Working with the Shreveport-Bossier Sports Commission for 2021 events on the Red River
- Potential hosting opportunity with a National Catfish Organization in a championship on the Red River
- Economic Development is beginning to move again on the river
- Barged steel loads arriving in the Shreveport/Bossier area

f) **Personnel** – None

g) **Revenue, Banking & Budget**

1. **Adoption of 2020 Tax Millage by Resolution:** By motion of Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Jones, and by roll call vote, the Commission adopted its 2020 Tax Millage rates of 1.52 mills for capital outlay and 0.82 mills for operations and maintenance for a total of 2.34 mills. Following is the 2020 Tax Millage Resolution read aloud by Executive Director Colin Brown:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following millage(s) are hereby levied on the 2020 tax roll on all property subject to taxation by the Red River Waterway Commission:

	<u>MILLAGE</u>
TAX FOR CAPITAL OUTLAY	1.52 mills
TAX FOR OPERATION & MAINTENANCE	0.82 mills

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper administrative officials of the Parishes of Avoyelles, Bossier, Caddo, Grant, Natchitoches, Rapides, and Red River, State of Louisiana, be and they are hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to spread said taxes, as hereinabove set forth, upon the assessment roll of said Parish for the year 2020, and to make the collection of the taxes imposed for and on behalf of the taxing authority, according to law, and that the taxes herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject to taxation as herein set forth, and collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law.

<u>Yeas</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>Abstained</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Commissioner Clark	-0-	-0-	Commissioner Crutchfield
Commissioner Fleming			Commissioner Deville
Commissioner Fletcher			
Commissioner Goudeau			
Commissioner Greer			
Commissioner Jones			
Commissioner Lattier			
Commissioner Maxey			
Commissioner Simpson			

h) **Legislative - None**

8. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT** – The city of Shreveport has requested proposals for the removal of the Stoner barge. The proposals are due Thursday, August 20th and hope to present the resulting information to the Commission at the September 2020 regular monthly meeting.

9. **STATUS OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY/ENGINEERING REPORT**

Prepared reports were provided in the meeting packet. In addition, Engineering Supervisor, Ryan Ingles discussed the following:

- Amphibex is at the Stoner Avenue Recreation Area
- Dredge in the Powhattan area
- Dredging at Clarence, Socot and Red Oak is completed
- Amphibex will be moving to Poland, below Lock and Dam 1
- Four sites between Poland and Brouillette are scheduled for dredging
- Coushatta Recreation Area – dock has been poured and working on the embankment area

10. **GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT - None**

11. **CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPORT** – Provided a sedimentation and hydraulic presentation during the Land Management Committee meeting

12. **RED RIVER VALLEY ASSOCIATION** – Rich Brontoli gave an update including the following:

- Navigation emails are ongoing
- Corps is finishing up dredging below Lock 1 and then moving to Lock 5 lower
- Waterway is open to navigation
- Coast guard and buoy placement will begin next week. Will begin with main channel location and will reclaim those buoys moved by the highwater level changes
- Navigation Zoom meeting scheduled for September 02, 2020 from 9 a.m. – 11 a.m. Will discuss the Waterway Action Plan and allow industries a question and answer session on navigation issues
- There was a Flood Technical Committee meeting August 06, 2020. The Committee will confer with the Corps in September
- Washington, D.C. congressional visits typically taking place in September/October of each year are postponed. No face-to-face meetings/interaction are allowed at this time
- Still pursuing the Arkansas navigation feasibility study for the potential of future construction of locks 6, 7 & 8. Friday, August 21, 2020 meeting with the Arkansas group to discuss funding from their state.

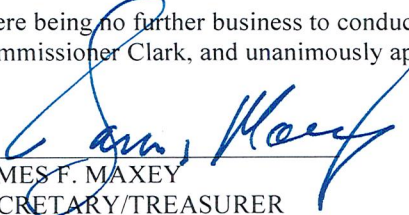
13. **OTHER BUSINESS**

- a) **Consideration of Red River Waterway Commission Meeting Options:** The Commission directed Executive Director, Colin Brown, to proceed with hosting the regular monthly meetings of the Red River Waterway Commission through a combination of in-person and teleconference (Zoom) while under the Governor's mandates associated with the Coronavirus pandemic.

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

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct at this time, by motion of Commissioner Fleming, seconded by Commissioner Clark, and unanimously approved by roll call vote, the meeting was adjourned.


JAMES F. MAXEY
SECRETARY/TREASURER


TROY ROUSSELL
CHAIR DESIGNEE