

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
SABINE RIVER AUTHORITY  
STATE OF LOUISIANA  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
PENDLETON BRIDGE OFFICE  
15091 TEXAS HIGHWAY  
MANY, LA 71449  
1:00PM THURSDAY, MARCH 23<sup>RD</sup> 2017**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. Byron Gibbs, Chairman  
Mr. C. A. Burgess, Vice-Chairman  
Mr. Mike McCormic, Secretary  
Mr. Norman Arbuckle  
Mr. Daniel Cupit  
Mr. Frank Davis  
Mr. Ned Goodeaux  
Mr. Therman Nash  
Mrs. Estella Scott  
Mr. Stanley Vidrine  
Mr. Bobby Williams

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mr. Jimmy Foret  
Mr. Jerry Holmes

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jim Pratt, Executive Director-SRA, Many, LA  
Warren Founds, III, Deputy Dir-SRA, Many, LA  
Becky Anderson, Adm Asst 5-SRA, Many, LA  
Mike Carr, Fac Maint Mgr 3-SRA, Many, LA  
Carl Chance, IT Dir 1-SRA, Many, LA  
Kellie Ferguson, Adm Prog Dir 3-SRA, Many, LA  
Gene Guidry, Eng 6-SRA, Many, LA  
Villis Dowden,  
There were (14) visitors.

Mr. Gibbs called the meeting to order Mr. Nash offered the Prayer and Mr. Gibbs led the Pledge. The roll was called and it was noted that Mr. Jimmy Foret and Mr. Jerry Holmes were absent; however, a quorum was established.

Mr. Gibbs asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. Hearing none, Mr. Gibbs asked for a motion to adopt the agenda as circulated. **Mr. Davis moved, seconded by Mr. Arbuckle adopt the circulated agenda. Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Gibbs stated that the minutes of the January 26<sup>th</sup> 2017 meeting were in the packet and asked if there were any corrections; hearing none, Mr. Gibbs asked for motion to approve the minutes. **Mr. Goodeaux moved, seconded by Mrs. Scott to approve the minutes of the Board meeting of January 26<sup>th</sup> 2017 meeting as circulated. Motion carried unanimously.**

**STAFF REPORTS:**

**Item#1-TBPJO-Mr. Founds** stated that Mr. Rumsey's report was included in the packet. **Powerhouse Operation:** He stated that in January, the operating guide calls for generation when the reservoir is above 168.5' msl so with the reservoir levels just above the 168' msl and the downstream flows sufficient to accommodate the diversion canals demands, there was very little generation during the first half of the month of January. He stated that the inflows to the reservoir the last half of the month allowed twelve (12) days of 24/7 generation from Unit #1, producing a total of 12,309 MWH from the powerhouse for January and ending the month with

**Item #2-Shoreline:** Mr. Chance stated that activity for the Shoreline department during the month of Dec 2016: **New Structures: 3 @ \$35 total \$105; Transfer Structures: 2 @ \$35 total \$70; New Water Withdrawals: 0 for a total of 5 permits with total receipts of \$175.**

**Item #3-Operational:** Mr. Carr stated that from the **Toledo Bend Division, Sabine Diversion Canal:** He stated that reports from SRD are included in the packet. He stated that

**Item #4-Financial Report:** Mrs. Ferguson stated that the financials were included in the meeting packet. She stated that she would review the year-to-date totals; however, if there were any questions, from the monthly reports for January and February 2017, she would be glad to answer them. She stated that for the **Toledo Bend Division** year-to-date revenue was \$3,906,239.80; expenses were \$4,623,740.87 showing a loss of \$717,501.07. She reminded everyone that the bulk of the revenue was the funds for the KCS Project. She stated that for the **Sabine Diversion Canal Division** year-to-date totals showed revenue of \$10,837,295.75 which includes the \$7.5 million for the KCS Project; expenses were \$2,103,787.27 showing a profit of \$8,733,508.51. **Mr. Goodeaux moved, seconded by Mrs. Scott to approve the Staff Reports as circulated and presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

**SPECIAL REPORTS: 1) LA Department of Wildlife & Fisheries Update on Fishery Sample on Toledo Bend Reservoir:** Mr. Villis Dowden, Biologist Manager for the area gave an update on his department. He stated that the department had made several changes since their office was moved to the Federal Fish Hatchery in Natchitoches. He stated that the staff is consists of a Biologist Manager, two biologists

and two technicians. He stated that the crew is working on completing a 3-year water body study on Cane River, Sibley Lake and Grand Bayou Reservoir. He continued that once this study is completed, the plan is to return to Toledo Bend Reservoir in 2018 to begin a 3-year water body assessment which includes sampling for largemouth bass and crappie, along with a 12-month creel survey with 6 creels per month at random boat ramps as well as a 1-year water quality data collection from various stations (which may include data already collected from SRA stations). He stated that a request was made for 830,000 Florida largemouth bass fingerlings to be released from the Louisiana side of Toledo Bend Reservoir and these were released where adequate cover could be found by boat. He stated that the restocking efforts was about three weeks later than normal due to the volume needed from the stocking ponds at Booker Fowler State Fish Hatchery and the Natchitoches Federal Fish Hatchery this year. He stated that the crews continued to work on the aquatic plant control; however, due to weather conditions over the last two years, with high water and wave action less herbicide treatment has been applied to Toledo Bend. He stated that the targeted vegetation on Toledo Bend has been primarily Giant Salvinia. He stated that Texas Parks and Wildlife has increased their efforts to control Giant Salvinia through contract treatments.

Mr. Jim Mifflin, President of TBCAC and member of the SRA Public Relations Committee, addressed the Board with concerns that he had received notification from FERC of an impending large volume water sales contract by a company called “M5, LLC” which plans to store the water in a pond and use it for fracking wells. He asked that the Board keep the public informed how this contract was proceeding.

Mrs. Linda Curtis-Sparks, Executive Director of the Sabine Parish Tourist Commission addressed the Board to update them on the upcoming events in the area especially the BASS Master Elite Tournament at Cypress Bend Park April 6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> with the top 105 Pro Bass Anglers competing on Toledo Bend Reservoir. She stated that there are rumors “in the air” that Toledo Bend could receive the coveted “Best Bass Lake” again for the third year in a row. She stated that the Commission had spent approximately \$90,000.00 on marketing to areas as far away as Austin, Texas to Oklahoma City. She stated that on a sad note, there are concerns about the closure of Hodges Gardens by June 1<sup>st</sup>. She thanked the Board for allowing her to speak.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None.

**OLD BUSINESS:** None.

**NEW BUSINESS:** None.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**1) Diversion Canal:** No meeting.

**2) Parks:** Mr. Davis, Committee Chairman stated that the minutes from the January 26<sup>th</sup> 2017 meeting were circulated in the board packet and asked if there were any corrections. **Mr. Davis moved, seconded by Mr. Arbuckle to approve the minutes of the January 26<sup>th</sup> 2017 meeting of the Parks Committee as circulated. Motion carried unanimously.**

**3) Leaseback:** No meeting.

**4) Finance:** Mr. McCormic stated that the Committee had met prior to the Board meeting to discuss the budget for FY'18 to be submitted to the Joint Legislative Committee on Budget for approval. He stated that Mrs. Ferguson reviewed the budget which was included within the meeting packet and explained the final budget for FY'18 would not be completed for approval until June 2017 depending upon any changes made by the Joint Legislative Committee.

**5) Water Sales:** No meeting.

**6) Fishery & Lake Management:** No meeting.

**LEGAL REPORT:** Mr. Burgess moved, seconded by Mr. Goodeaux to move into Executive Session. Mr. Vidrine moved, seconded by Mr. Goodeaux to reconvene from the Executive Session. No action necessary.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Mr. Pratt stated that he had nothing to report.

Mr. Gibbs stated that the next meeting would be April 27<sup>th</sup> 2017 at 1:00pm at Pendleton Bridge Office Many, Louisiana.

With no further business to discuss, Mr. Gibbs asked for a motion to adjourn.

**Mr. Goodeaux moved, seconded by Mr. Davis to adjourn. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 3:08p.m.**

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**BYRON GIBBS, CHAIRMAN**

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**C.A. BURGESS, VICE-CHAIRMAN**

**ATTEST:**

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**MIKE MCCORMIC, SECRETARY**