

**May 14, 2024**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT DURING ROLL CALL: Ryan Byrd, Kenneth Dawson, Rick Webre

ALSO PRESENT: Brian Lezina, CPRA; Ed Knight, LADOTD; Monica S. Gorman and Blaine Sheets, PLD; ARBC, Executive Secretary Toni Guitrau, ARBC; Legal Counsel Larry Bankston, Bankston & Associates/ARBC; Lawrence E. Marino, Oats & Marino

**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 Cointment, seconded by Bailey to approve the April 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 March and April 2024 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements, as presented.

**6. Proposed Administrative Budget 2024-2025:** The Board unanimously approved the Proposed Administrative Budget of 2024-2025, which includes a 7% raise for Toni Guitrau, ARBC Executive Secretary.

**7. Report by ARBC President**

- The Board discussed the vacant Executive Director's position and the proposed hiring of an interim program manager.  
G. O'Neal suggested readvertising for an Executive Director, advertising for an RFP for longer term in the interim for program management or to find someone in the interim period through phone calls or email quotes. This would be based on Time and Material and be a Professional Service. After much discussion, the Board unanimously approved a motion by O'Neal, seconded by Cointment to authorize ARBC to solicit for phone calls and emails quotes for interim program or project management and to issue a RFP's using the RFP process for program management activities on a longer term basis, and also readvertise/post for the position of Executive Director.
- Public Comment: Cindy O'Neal asked if the Board could be notified when there are LWI meetings.

**8. Report by Legal Counsel**

- SB 395 by Senator Foil. This bill provides for the ARBC boundaries revision as a result of Act 490 of 2022. Bankston stated it passed out of the Senate and House Transportation Committee. He will continue to update the Board on this bill. It is currently on the House floor awaiting final approval.  
HB 2. Capital Outlay: All items currently in the bill that are of interest to ARBC remain in the bill at this time.

**9. Old Business** – There were no public comments.

- Amendment #1, IGA with CPRA: This item was deferred until the June 11, 2024, ARBC meeting.
- Approval of Scope of Work with Dewberry: Presentation by Sam Cramptom. The Board discussed Schedule 1 vs. Schedule 2, and whether to include historical data. After discussion the Board unanimously approved a motion by Cointment, seconded by Delatte to authorize the ARBC President to establish a committee to review and approve tasks, and for Dewberry to proceed. Harris said it would be a version between Schedule 1 and 2. This would give time for a draft by year end and the final by the deadline of the 2025 legislative

## MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE &amp; WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Location: Livingston Parish Council Chambers, 20355 Government Blvd., Livingston, La 70754

session. Bankston stated that as discussed, the ARBC President may form a committee to review the tasks and approve them without waiting for ARBC monthly meetings. YEAS: Clark, Harris, Bailey, Cointment, Delatte, Ferlito, Fitch, G. O'Neal, Parker, Raiford, NAYS: None, ABSENT: Byrd, Dawson, Webre, ABSTAIN: None

- LWI Region 9 Coordinator Update: Clark said the Master Plan can be used as a required watershed plan for Region 9 which is due by the end of the year. A submission for approximately \$136,000 was turned in for reimbursement. The amount calculated is being questioned and may be approximately \$116,000.
- Bayou Manchac Project Update: The Project Committee met with PLD. A meeting on May 16<sup>th</sup> is scheduled to meet with PLD to discuss proposed middle ground regarding this project.
- LWI Round 1 Updates: No new updates.
- CRDC Project Status. Bankston stated the main issue remains the Florida Gas Pipeline. Real Estate Status: 85 out of the required 89 parcels acquired. Utility Relocations Status: USACE sent new HDD guidelines to DOTD on July 27, 2022, that was immediately passed to utilities. Utilities are trying to be incorporated into designs now causing some redesigns and in return delays. 45 out of 60 relocations were completed. The other 15 are under various stages LA 964 Bridge is 57% complete. LA 67 Bridge 60% complete. LA 19 Bridge under assembly period, redesign to avoid FGT. Monthly updates can be found on the ARBC website at [www.amitebasin.org](http://www.amitebasin.org) as provided by the USACE. Bankston explained to the Board the history of the role that ARBC played in the CRDC Project. The original agreement included USACE, DOTD, EBR Parish, and ARBC. The main function for ARBC in the agreement was for ARBC to produce a Floodplain Management Plan. However, over the years ARBC took over many roles to keep the project moving. ARBC holds title to property that it purchased at risk to keep the CRDC Project moving. ARBC does not have control over the project. Bankston stated that if it wasn't for ARBC's prior actions the project would be even further behind.
- LWI-OCD Region 9: No update.
- ARBC Office Space: It was decided to postpone plans to move the ARBC office at this time.

**10. New Business** – There were no public comments.

- Resolution 1178- The Board unanimously approved a motion by Cointment, seconded by Parker to approve Resolution 1178. A Resolution supporting the actions of Livingston Parish's endeavor for obtaining Permit Approval from the United State Army Corps of Engineers to implement a maintenance project on the Lower Amite River in the vicinity of LA Highway 22 to Lake Maurepas to remove the excessive accumulations of silt from the channel to natural bottom in order to help alleviate both local and regional flooding in the Basin, to help restore the adjacent shoreline, and to mitigate potentially negative impacts caused by other drainage projects being implemented upstream of the project area. In addition, the project will also help improve water quality, natural habitat, navigation, and public safety.
- Bankston & Associates Contract Renewal: The Board unanimously approved a motion by Bailey, seconded by G. O'Neal to approve Bankston & Associates Contract/resolution for one year.

**11. General or Non-Agenda Item(s) Public Comments:** Cointment suggested the ARBC begin using Comment Cards for public comments.

**12.** The Board unanimously approved a motion by O'Neal, seconded by Bailey, to adjourn the meeting at 12:03 pm.

APPROVED:

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/s/John Clark/ARBC President

Date: June 11, 2024

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/s/ Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary