

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

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

May 15, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT DURING ROLL CALL: Ben Babin, Jerry Thibeau, David Hoover, Lionel Bailey, James Little, Larry Thomas, Don Thompson, Kenneth "Wade" Welborn

MEMBERS ABSENT: Burrell Carter, Willie George Lee, Matt Milazzo, Tamiara Wade

Vacancy: East Feliciana 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 Babin.
2. Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Public Comments on Agenda Items:
4. Minutes

The Board unanimously approved a motion by Hoover, second by Thompson to approve the April regular meeting minutes, as presented.

5. Financial Statement Report:

6. Hoover presented to the Board the April 2018 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thomas, second by Welborn to approve the April 2018 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements.

7. Executive Director Report

- Briefly discussed, based on previous discussions, the restricted funds under which ARBC operates, that it is not possible to send all the commissioners to conferences as the Louisiana Levee Association, the Louisiana Floodplain Management Association etc. Normally, the Executive Director attends these events and reports back to the Commissioners. All ARBC Commissioners can take the annual ethics training class online for free on the Louisiana Ethic's Board's website. Commissioners may attend conferences but at their own expense.
- Federal funding for the CRDC is being discussed by the USACE at this time. The final determination can be expected in June or July 2018. Nationwide, the Corps received \$15 billion and the CRDC Project is part of the package.
- DOTD and ARBC are working on the utility relocations at the crossing of the future canal and LA Hwy. 61. ARBC is required to provide the permitting and Right of Entry for all property owned by ARBC.
- Discussed mowing of property owned by ARBC.
- Rietschier asked the Board to consider advertising for bid several dwellings owned by ARBC to be demolished due to decay, mildew, vagrants etc. The commission agreed to bid all dwellings bundled together and then each separately. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Bailey, seconded by Thompson to authorize Bankston to prepare the bid documents to be published.
- DOTD Report by William Delmar: DOTD is currently waiting on right of way information from the Corps before they can move forward with acquiring the construction servitude associated with the Bypass Road tie-ins at US61 and the permanent servitude needed for the Barnett Road relocation. Utility relocation designs are ongoing at this time. DOTD is working with the utilities and the Corps to provide any assistance possible in clearing wetland concerns in areas where HDD pits and pipe laydown will be occurring.

8. ARBC Legal Counsel

- Bankston updated the Board on the status of several bills in regard to the ARBC. SB 513, a bill to attempt to prohibit establishment of an ARBC OPEB Trust Fund, and SB 421, would remove the authority of the ARBC to select its own attorney. SB 421 would appoint the attorney general as the attorney for the board of commissioners for the ARBC. Both of these bills have been in effect removed from consideration for this legislative session. SB 539, a bill to require ARBC to hold quarterly ARBC meetings in alternate parishes of Ascension, EBR, and Livingston has passed and waits for the signature of the governor. Babin said that this will be costly and that some commissioners won't be able to attend. Thomas said the meetings should be informational only. Bankston suggested having presentations by ARBC and the other partners of the CRDC Project. The Board agreed.

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9. Old Business

- The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thompson, seconded by Thibeau, granting authorization for Bankston to send a letter to DOTD, as presented, stating that ARBC will comply with its obligation to transfer \$10,000,000 to DOTD in contributed funds in accordance with the “white paper.” ARBC asked that DOTD make a formal request for the funds.
- Open Sealed Bids – Tract 46 Trailer: No bids were received.

10. New Business

- Legal Contract – Resolution 1138
The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thibeau, second by Hoover to renew the legal contract with Bankston and Associates for the term of one year, as presented, and with no increase in fees or attorney rates.
- ARBC Policies and Procedures – The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thomas, second by Hoover to adopt the ARBC Policies and Procedures, as presented. This was a requirement of the Louisiana Legislative Auditor. These policies and procedures may be modified in the future.

11. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Hoover, second by Thompson to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED:

/s/ Ben Babin, ARBC President

Date: June 19, 2018

/s/ Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary