

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

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

August 30, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT DURING ROLL CALL: Ben Babin, David Hoover, Lionel Bailey, Willie George Lee, James “Jimmy” Little, Terry Louque, Anthony “Tony” Rouchon, Jerry Thibeau, Larry Thomas, Don Thompson, Kenneth “Wade” Welborn

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Vacant Seat(s) EBR Parish, and St. Helena Parish

ALSO PRESENT: ARBC Executive Director Dietmar Rietschier, ARBC Executive Secretary Toni Guitrau, ARBC Legal Counsel Larry Bankston DOTD and USACE Representatives.

1. The Special Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Babin.
2. Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance
3. Public Comments on Agenda Items: None
4. Status of Comite River Diversion Canal: Rietschier stated that with a flooding event of such magnitude that occurred no one project would have solved all flooding issues. Federal funding is needed to build two bridges. The Amite River Basin Commission and DOTD through Capital Outlay funding is ready to move forward with utility relocation as soon as the USACE announces they are ready to build the two bridges.

Presentation by Bob Jacobsen: Bob Jacobsen PE, a professional hydrologist, made a short presentation on the need for surveying high quality High Water Marks (HWMs) throughout the entire Amite River Basin following the 2016 Flood. High quality HWMs are needed not only to document the flood peak for damage assessments, but also for long-term planning purposes. The latter include development of state-of-the-art hydrologic/hydraulic models for flood forecasting, flood hazard analyses, and the evaluation of flood mitigation alternatives. The highest quality HWMs are obtained from well-established visible scum lines in building interiors, which have not been disturbed. The elevation of the HWM is determined by a professional surveyor in the North American Vertical Datum of 1988, consistent with other hydrologic elevation measurements. When interior HWMs are not available, the HWMs are evaluated from scum lines on building exteriors, or reasonable evidence provided by a building owner/representative. Mr. Jacobsen recommended that the ARBC coordinate with the US Geological Survey (who is surveying HWMs on behalf of FEMA) and the US Corps of Engineers (who is collecting some HWM data) to ensure comprehensive surveying of HWMs throughout the Amite River Basin. Mr. Jacobsen recommended that the ARBC support the collection of HWMs at 200 to 300 locations across the Amite River Basin, with an initial focus on documenting the peak flood profile along key reaches of major named tributaries. Mr. Jacobsen showed example recommended HWM locations using Google Earth for tributaries within the Comite River and Colyell Creek watersheds.

5. Ratification of contracts to survey high water marks in the Amite River Basin: Discussed the need for quick response of recording interior water marks. SJB Group LLC contract \$46,000, Stantec contract \$46,000, Bob Jacobsen \$30,000. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Rouchon second by Hoover to ratify all 3 contracts and approve an additional total amount, including the 3 contracts, not to exceed \$175,000.

The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thomas, second by Rouchon to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED:

/s/ Ben Babin

Ben Babin, ARBC President

Date: September 20, 2016

/s/ Toni B. Guitrau

Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary