

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
Location: Louisiana State Capitol 900 North 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Baton Rouge, LA 70802

**October 10, 2023**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT DURING ROLL CALL: Robert Carter, Peter Dufresne, Mark Harrell

ALSO PRESENT: Bren Haase, CPRA; Ed Knight, LADOTD; Executive Secretary Toni Guitrau, ARBC; Legal Counsel Larry Bankston, ARBC; Lawrence E. Marino, Oats & Marino

Not Present: ARBC Executive Director Rachael Lambert, and Pontchartrain Levee District

**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 Bailey, seconded by Dawson to approve the September 12, 2023 Regular Meeting Minutes, as presented.

**5. Financial Statements – There were no public comments.**

The Board unanimously approved a motion by Harris, seconded by O'Neal to approve the September 2023 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements, as presented.

**6. 2023-2024 Administrative Budget, Amendment #1 – There were no public comments.**

The Board unanimously approved a motion by Bailey, seconded by Dawson to approve Amendment #1, 2023-2024 Administrative Budget, as presented.

**7. Report by ARBC President – There were no public comments.**

President Clark stated the ARBC Executive Director has been working on the application for the \$800,000 Region 9 Coordinator funding. CPRA has secured CSRS as a contractor for the Annual Plan. This will be further discussed under Old Business.

**8. Approval to allow an access road at White's Bayou to remain – There were no public comments.**

Bankston explained that this is through a construction contract with the Corps. Raiford reminded the Board that this property will eventually be transferred to EBR City-Parish. It will then be the responsibility of EBR City-Parish to maintain it. After discussion, the Board unanimously approved a motion by Parker, seconded by Bailey to allow Bankston to propose an amendment to the contract upon completion to allow the access road to remain at White's Bayou, but to include the installation of a gate and address any concerns of drainage in the roadside ditches. The CRDC Project is not yet completed in the area.

**9. Report by Legal Counsel – None.**

**10. Old Business - There were no public comments on Old Business agenda items.**

- **LWI Region 9 Coordinator Funding for Region 9.** Bankston stated that the Executive Director is working on a draft application to request and secure \$800,000. Resolution 1171 was approved by the Board at its September 12, 2023 Regular Meeting. This resolution will be included in the application.
- **\$3.5 million/GOHSEP Hazard Mitigation Funds for Region 9.** At the ARBC meeting held on September 12, 2023, the Board approved the submission of a Letter of Intent for a project in Region 9 that was in the Bayou Manchac Watershed. The project would redirect the mouth of Wards Creek and would be beneficial to

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EBR, Iberville and Ascension Parishes. However, Raiford informed the Board it has since been determined that it does not meet the Cost Benefit Ratio. O'Neal said that if the Board can come up with a potential alternate project that is technically feasible and cost effective, he would volunteer to work with the Board to get it submitted to GOHSEP. He said the Board needs to decide on a project that would work with the \$3.5 million and is oriented towards localized flood risk reduction. It will be a lengthy process that takes time to get through Phase 1 and 2. Funding is reimbursable and includes the project from conception to completion for the \$3.5 million. In this case, there will be no required match. After discussion regarding any other projects the Board would like to consider, Cointment said Ascension Parish has a project ready to go. Cointment said that it introduces the water from Spanish Lake and Bluff Swamp into Marvin Breaux Basin. It is a portion of the New River Pump Station. After discussion, the Board unanimously approved a motion by Parker, seconded by Bailey to support said Ascension Parish project, as described.

- **ARBC Annual Plan.** ARBC previously authorized CPRA to develop a task order. Haase said that CPRA issued a task order scope to CSRS. Stokka Brown, and Mark Goodson, CSRS, gave a presentation to the Board. Mr. Brown stated that CSRS would have an Annual Plan Outline by October 16, 2023. A Draft Annual Plan, One-Pager Summary Document and PowerPoint Presentation by November 15, 2023. A Final Annual Plan, One-Pager Summary Document and PowerPoint Presentation by December 15, 2023. The Initial Annual Plan would be submitted to the Louisiana Legislature by January 1, 2024.
- **Capital Outlay.** Bankston said the deadline for submission is November 1, 2023, if the Board wishes to submit items. Matching funds are 25%.
- **ARBC Proposal and Qualification-based RFP/RFQ Procurement Process.** After discussion, the Board unanimously approved a motion by O'Neal, seconded by Bailey to approve the RFP/RFQ Procurement Process, as presented.
- **CRDC Project Status.** Updates can be found on the ARBC website at [www.amitebasin.org](http://www.amitebasin.org) as provided by the USACE. The ARBC does not have a role in construction. Bankston said that two separate areas are problematic. Flyovers show substantial work has been completed. The major holdup is the Florida Gas Pipeline relocation. O'Neal asked if the project is 50% completed as this could lower the cost of flood insurance. Ed Knight, with LADOTD will check into this matter. Bankston said that Congressman Graves continues to ask this same question as he is aware this would lower the cost of flood insurance. Clark said the public can look on the ARBC website to see the drone video of the CRDC Project progress.

**11. New Business - None**

**12. General Public Comments.** There were no public comments.

**13.** The Board unanimously approved a motion by O'Neal, seconded by Dawson to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED:

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/s/John Clark/ARBC President  
Date: November 14, 2023

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/s/ Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary