

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE
AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**
3535 S. Sherwood Forest Boulevard, Suite 135, Baton Rouge, LA

April 19, 2011

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lawrence Callender, Terry Louque, Don Thompson, Alvin Bargas, John Brass, Russell Cornette, Joel Louque, Anthony Rouchon, Randolph Saucier, Jerry Thibeau, Larry Thomas, Dale Zuelke

MEMBERS ABSENT: Willie George Lee

ALSO PRESENT: Dietmar Rietschier, Executive Director
Toni Guitrau, Executive Secretary
Larry Bankston, Attorney

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Callender.
2. Public Comments on Agenda Items: None
3. Minutes
The Board unanimously approved a motion by Rouchon second by Thompson to approve the March 2011 meeting minutes as presented.
4. Financial Statement Report
 - T. Louque presented to the Board the March 2011 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements. The Board unanimously approved a motion by J. Louque, second by Rouchon to approve the March 2011 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements.
 - Amended Budget of 2010/11.
The Board unanimously approved a motion by Rouchon second by J. Louque to approve the Amended Budget of 2010/11, as recommended and presented by the Finance Committee.
 - Proposed Budget 2011/12.
A Public Hearing is scheduled to take place at the next regular meeting on May 17, 2011, 6 p.m., at the ARBC office, 3535 S. Sherwood Forest Blvd., Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Suite 135.
5. Report by Executive Director
 - Presented the status of the Comite River Diversion Canal Project.
 - Reported on the meeting with the USACE.
 - Met with Panhandle Energy representatives to discuss the relocation of high pressure gas lines that cross the canal alignment.
 - Discussed soil stockpile, mitigation property, and the consideration of task oriented contract(s) for Professional Services to assist when needed. This will be discussed at the next monthly meeting.
6. ARBC Legal Counsel Report – Old Business
 - The Board unanimously approved a motion by J. Louque, second by Bargas to approve a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the LA DOTD and ARBC, as presented. The LA DOTD is in receipt of the draft CEA.
 - The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thibeau second by Rouchon to approve the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for retainer contract for professional surveying and abstracting services, as presented. The deadline for submission of proposals is May 30, 2011. After proposals are received and scored, the Board will select a contractor.
 - The Board unanimously approved a motion by Rouchon second by Cornette to start the process of expropriation on Tracts 480-485, which is land located under LA Hwy. 67.

- The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thompson second by J. Louque to request an Attorney General opinion in regard to the Post Employment Benefit fund and to open a temporary separate fund account for the unfunded liabilities.
- Reviewed a draft of legislation – HB 423
- The ARBC will hold two public meetings in regard to mitigation property as follows:
 1. Zachary Library on April 28, 2011 6:30 p.m.,
 2. Central DEMCO Training Facility on May 4, 2011, 6:30 p.m.
- Discussed pending litigation matters.

7. New Business

- The Board unanimously approved a motion by Cornette, second by Thibeau to open the floor for a Public Hearing. There being no public comments the Board unanimously approved a motion by Thibeau, second by Cornette to close the Public Hearing. A motion was made by Rouchon, second by Thompson to approve Resolution No. 1086, as presented, to adopt the millage rate of 2.650 mills for the tax year 2011. A ye and nay vote was called for and resulted as follows:

YEAS: Lawrence Callender, Terry Louque, Don Thompson, Alvin Bargas, John Brass,
 Russell Cornette, Joel Louque, Anthony Rouchon, Randolph Saucier, Jerry
 Thibeau, Larry Thomas, Dale Zuelke

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Willie George Lee

ABSTAIN: None

- The Board unanimously approved a motion by J. Louque second by Cornette to approve an authorization resolution to seek right-of-entry authority or notification in accordance with statute as to any property that may be required for the Comite River Diversion Canal Project.

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

APPROVED:

 /s/Lawrence Callender, ARBC President

 /s/Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary

Date: May 17, 2011