

**MINUTES
OF THE
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING
JANUARY 20, 2021
10:00 AM
GRAND ECORE RV PARK ACTIVITY CENTER
1071 TAUZIN ISLAND ROAD
NATCHITOCHE, LOUISIANA 71457**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Red River Waterway Commission was called to order by Vice Chair, Commissioner Paul Fleming, in the Activity Center of the Red River Waterway Commission Grand Ecore RV Park located at 1071 Tauzin Island Road in Natchitoches, Louisiana.

2. ROLL CALL

Roll was called and a quorum was present. Others in attendance were asked to identify themselves and offer any comments they may have regarding the agenda. However, no comments were offered.

Present: Commissioner David Crutchfield, II, Commissioner Michael Deville, Commissioner Paul Fleming, Commissioner Randell Fletcher, Commissioner Jacques Goudeau, Commissioner David Jones, Commissioner Ronald Lattier, Commissioner Michael Simpson. In accordance with Louisiana R.S.42.17.1 (Act 302) Commissioner Versa Clark, Commissioner Charles Greer, and Commissioner James Maxey participated virtually.

Absent: Chair Designee, Troy Roussell

RRWC Staff Members Present: Mr. Colin Brown - Executive Director, Mr. Mike Boydston - Operations & Maintenance Director, Stephanie Bonnette - Executive Assistant, Mr. Luke Pearson - Real Estate Manager, Mr. Ryan Ingles - Engineering Supervisor, Mr. Eric Gilmore - Marketing Director, Mr. Brian Cespiva - Staff Engineer, Mr. Greg Upton - Legal Counsel.

3. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS & PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD PURSUANT TO LRS 42:14

Others Present: Mr. Robert Weeks with the City of Alexandria, Mr. Richard Johnson with the City of Alexandria, and Juanice Gray, editor for the Natchitoches Times, participating virtually.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, the Commission unanimously approved by roll call vote, amending the agenda to reflect the following addition to the Revenue, Banking & Budget Committee: Consideration of Approval of Grand Ecore Activity Center Audio Upgrades. Comments from the public were called for, however, none were offered.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

By motion of Commissioner Fletcher, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the minutes of the December 16, 2020 meeting were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, the Expenditures and Investment Reports for the month of December 2020 were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) **Contracts**

1. **Consideration of Authority to Award Design Contract/Bishop Point, Red Oak, Natchitoches Recreation Areas – Comfort Stations/RRWC Project No. 21-01/Contract No. RRW-793:** By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Deville, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, award of design and administration of project to Cothren, Graff, Smoak Engineering, LLC.
2. **Consideration of Cooperative Endeavor Agreement/Bossier Parish Police Jury/Teague Trails Extension (2020 Request):** By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, to enter into the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement for the Teague Trails Extension project with the Bossier Parish Police Jury for a total cost of \$1,800,000.00.
3. **Consideration of Memorandum of Understanding/Department of Interior (Fish and Wildlife Service)/Teague Trails Extension (2020 Request):** By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, the Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of the Interior for the Teague Trails Extension project.
4. **Consideration of Special Use Permit/Department of Interior (Fish and Wildlife Service)/Teague Trails Extension (2020 Request):** By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, the Special Use Permit with the Department of the Interior for the Teague Trails Extension project.
5. **Consideration of Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Shreveport and Bossier City/Texas Street Bridge Lighting:** By motion of Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission approved, by roll call vote, the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the cities of Shreveport and Bossier City for the Texas Street Bridge Lighting project. Commissioner Lattier abstained. Project stipulations include: the Red River Waterway Commission having no obligation for operation and/or maintenance of the project and funding project up to \$1,000,000.00.

b) **Land Management, Legal Affairs & Affirmative Action**

1. **Consideration of Authority to Re-Advertise Public Bid Land Leases Expiring in 2021 and January 2022:** By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, authorizing staff to re-advertise the referenced applicable properties for public bid lease: Lock & Dam 2, Tract 2; Pool 3, Tract 85; Red Oak Lake; Powhatan Realignment; Pool 3, Tracts 68 & 88; St. Maurice Cut-off, Tract 4; Coushatta Boat Ramp, Tract 4.
2. **Consideration of Authority to Re-Appraise Leasebacks Expiring in 2021:** By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, authorizing staff to re-appraise the referenced applicable leaseback properties: Piermont Realignment; Saline Revetment; Lock & Dam 2, Tracts 4 & 9; and Tyrouge Revetment.

3. **Consideration of Request for Land Lease Extension/Lock & Dam 3/Tracts 1, 2 & 3/399 Acres:** By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, the request for a 2-year lease extension at the current rate to Petred Hunt Club, LLC on Lock & Dam 3, Tracts 1, 2 & 3, containing 399 acres.
4. **Consideration of Award of Public Bid Lease/Lock & Dam 4/Parts of Tracts 1, 8 & 9/30 Acres:** By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, award of 5-year lease to Mr. Christopher Turner for \$3,000.00 (\$20.00 per acre) for the 5-year term.
5. **Consideration of Request for Temporary Waterline Right-of-Way/Lock & Dam 5/Tracts 2 & 3:** By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, the request from BPX Energy, Inc. for a 2,800 foot temporary above ground waterline Right-of-Way at Lock & Dam 5, Tracts 2 & 3, for up to two waterlines at \$3.00 per linear foot of waterline (\$8,400.00 per waterline).

c) **Recreation**

1. **Recreation Area Status Report**

Mr. Mike Boydston highlighted the prepared report provided in the meeting packet, noting that there had been 82,000 visitors to the District recreation areas during the month of December 2020. Updated maintenance items include, but not limited to:

- Slight river-rise has impacted Teague Parkway and Stoner Avenue recreation areas. Monitoring of weather systems continues and there is a possibility for beginning cleanup of ramps for usage during the upcoming weekend.
- Dock projects at St. Maurice, Natchitoches, Grand Ecore, and Colfax recreation areas to begin February 2021

d) **Ports - None**

e) **Public Awareness & Marketing**

1. **Consideration of Approval/2021 Out-of-State Travel Calendar:** By motion of Commissioner Fletcher, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, the 2021 travel calendar.

2. **Marketing Update**

A prepared report was provided in the meeting packet. In addition, Marketing Director, Mr. Eric Gilmore discussed:

- Due to COVID-19 pandemic many organizational events and conferences have not established dates for 2021
- BassMaster Classic has been postponed to June 2021
- Fall events are still projecting to take place on the currently established dates
- Development and usage at the ports has increased

f) **Personnel - None**

g) **Revenue, Banking & Budget**

1. **Consideration of Approval of 2020 Audit Compliance Questionnaire:** By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, the 2020 Audit Compliance Questionnaire and authorized the Secretary-Treasurer and Executive Director to execute the document.
2. **Consideration of Approval of Grand Ecore RV Park Activity Center Audio Upgrades:** By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Maxey, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, award of contract to Claiborne Sharp Professional Audio, Inc. for installation of upgraded audio system at the Grand Ecore RV Park Activity Center with a corresponding budget amendment of \$35,000.00.

h) **Legislative - None**

8. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Staff has begun work in preparation of the 2020 audit
- River stages have impacted recreational areas and the potential for dredging needs
- Red River Valley Association conference has been postponed to June 2021
- Per the Commission approved travel policy, staff is currently travel-restricted due to the COVID-19 pandemic

9. **STATUS OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY/ENGINEERING REPORT**

Prepared reports were provided in the meeting packet. In addition, Engineering Supervisor, Mr. Ryan Ingles discussed the following:

- Update on cost share status with the Corps of Engineers for recently completed Commission projects
- Updated cost share status with the Corps of Engineers for upcoming 2021 Commission projects
- Colfax Activity Porch Addition project – slab and split-faced columns in place. Framing and roofing within next 30 days
- Preliminary work underway for the Bishop Point, Red Oak, and Natchitoches Recreation area comfort stations

10. **GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT - None**

11. **CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPORT - None**

12. **RED RIVER VALLEY ASSOCIATION - An update was provided to the Commission:**


- Fiscal Year 2020 Appropriations – Corps of Engineers has 60 days, February 27, to provide Congress with a Work Plan to spend the “additional funds”
- Providing ongoing navigation updates and conference calls. For inclusion of these updates, email Mr. Brontoli at rrva@rrva.org
- Vicksburg District of the Corps of Engineers is scheduling a closure at Lock 1 beginning February 02, 2021 and ending February 08, 2021 for repairs to the main hydraulic lines that operate the lock
- Navigation into Arkansas feasibility study currently on hold

13. **OTHER BUSINESS - None**

14. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC** - Representatives from the City of Alexandria updated the Commission on the Alexandria Riverfront Improvement project.

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct at this time, by motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Deville, and unanimously approved by roll call vote, the meeting was adjourned.



JAMES F. MAXEY
SECRETARY/TREASURER



TROY ROUSSELL
CHAIR DESIGNEE