

**MINUTES
OF THE
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING
FEBRUARY 16, 2022
10:00 AM
GRAND ECORE RV PARK ACTIVITY CENTER
1071 TAUZIN ISLAND ROAD
NATCHITOCHE, LOUISIANA**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Red River Waterway Commission was called to order by Chair Designee, Troy Roussell, 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: Chair Designee, Troy Roussell, Commissioner Versa Clark, Commissioner David L. Crutchfield, II, Commissioner Michael P. Deville, Commissioner Paul Fleming, Commissioner Randell Fletcher, Commissioner Jacques Goudeau, Commissioner Charles R. Greer, Commissioner Ronald Lattier, Commissioner Michael Simpson. In accordance with Louisiana R.S.42.17.1 (Act 302) Commissioner David Jones participated virtually.

Absent: Commissioner James F. Maxey

RRWC Staff Members Present: Mr. Colin Brown - Executive Director, Ms. Stephanie Bonnette - Executive Assistant, Mr. Luke Pearson - Real Estate Manager, Mr. Ryan Ingles - Engineering Supervisor, Mr. Eric Gilmore - Marketing Director, Mr. Greg Upton - Legal Counsel.

3. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD PERSUANT TO LRS 42:14

Others Present: Mr. Ben Russo, Executive Director of the Central Louisiana Regional Port and Mr. Rich Brontoli, Executive Director of the Red River Valley Association who participated virtually.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Deville, the revised agenda was unanimously approved by roll call vote. The revised agenda to include item four under Land Management, Legal Affairs & Affirmative Action Committee to read as follows: Consideration of Reservation of Mitigation Acreage in Caddo Parish. Comments from the public were called for, however, none were offered.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the minutes of the January 19, 2022 meeting were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Financials and Fund Balance Report for the month of December 2021 and the Expenditures, Financial Statements, Investment Reports, and Fund Balance Report for the month of January 2022 were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Contracts

Consideration of Mowing Proposals/Colfax RV Park, Ft. Buhlow, Lock & Dam 2, Poland, Ben Routh, and Brouillette/Contract No. RRW-809: By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, award of the mowing contract to Jeff's Lawn & Landscape with a total per cycle cost of \$6,292.00 for all six parks.

Consideration of Approval of Revised By-Laws/Per Diem: By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, the revised By-Laws of the Red River Waterway Commission to reflect a Commissioner per diem increase to \$150.00 effective as of February 16, 2022. Note: As required by statute, Governor Edwards had approved the increase.

Consideration of Approval of Grand Ecore RV Park Operator Agreement: No action was taken on this item.

b) Land Management, Legal Affairs & Affirmative Action

Consideration of Request for Subsurface Servitude/Lock & Dam 5/Tract 6 and Pool 5/Tract 64: By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, the request by Chesapeake Operating, LLC for a subsurface servitude for two well bores to be located under inundated Commission land in Caddo Parish at a per well rate of \$12,000.00 for a total amount of \$24,000.00.

Consideration of Special Use Permit to Hunt Feral Hogs/Lock & Dam 5/Portions of Tracts 2, 3 & 6: By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, granting a special use permit to Clark Chandler and Joseph Teal Carpenter to hunt feral hogs on 300 acres of Commission owned land at Lock & Dam 5. Agreement to include additional language reflecting reporting requirements, no permanent structures allowed, and disposal/removal from the property of any hogs.

Consideration of Proposals for Tree Removal/Ft. Buhlow Recreation Area Waterline Right-of-Way: By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Lattier the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, accepting proposal from Bynog's Tree Service in the amount of \$10,400.00 for tree removal for the Ft. Buhlow Recreation area waterline right-of-way and approved a corresponding budget amendment of \$15,000.00 for the cost of tree removal including \$4,534.88 to MHL Contractors, LLC for services rendered locating and marking the waterline.

Consideration of Reservation of Mitigation Acreage in Caddo Parish: By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Commission approved, by roll call vote, temporarily reserving 930.75 acres of a 3,661.25 acre tract of land located primarily west of Highway 71 and east of I49. The remaining 2,730.50 acres lying east of Highway 71 being adopted by the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries and designated as the John Franks Wildlife Management Area. The Commission additionally approved a corresponding budget amendment of \$35,000.00 for the maintenance/upkeep of the 930.75 acres.

c) Recreation

Consideration of Approval of Funding Request/Mr. Crappie: By motion of Commissioner Greer, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, the funding request from Wally Marshall "Mr. Crappie" to host the Mr. Crappie Invitational Qualifier in Natchitoches in the amount of \$20,000.00 for the hosting fee and dinner for anglers. The Commission additionally approved a corresponding budget amendment in the amount of \$20,000.00 for the funding of the event.

Recreation Area Status Report - Mr. Ryan Ingles highlighted the prepared report provided in the meeting packet, noting that there had been 93,000 visitors to the District recreation areas during the month of January 2022. Updated maintenance items include, but not limited to:

- Significant repairs to the floating dock in Colfax are being completed
- Continuation of striping parking lots at the various recreation areas

d) Ports

Consideration of Approval of Cooperative Endeavor Agreement/Central Louisiana Regional Port/Marine Crane: By motion of Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Central Louisiana Regional Port for the upfront funding of the entire project at a cost of \$217,819.36. The Red River Waterway Commission will be reimbursed by Central Louisiana Regional Port/Port Priority Program less 10% construction costs and 100% of the engineering soft costs with a total cost to the Commission of \$39,603.52 for the project.

e) Public Awareness & Marketing

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

- The approved Mr. Crappie event
- Last week in Mount Pleasant with the Caddo-Bossier Port
- Site visits taking place at all Ports
- Ports Association of Louisiana is March 06 – March 07 in New Orleans. Commissioners interested in attending are to contact Eric Gilmore

f) Personnel - None

g) Revenue, Banking & Budget - None

h) Legislative – Acting Chair, Troy Roussell updated the Commission on the following:

- Currently the State is going through a re-districting process
- Legislative sessions will begin in March.

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Commissioners should have received invitations from the Shreveport Regional Arts Council for the Texas Street Bridge Lighting Ceremony. Ceremony events include: February 21, 2022 seated dinner and February 22, 2022 bridge lighting from 4:45 – 9:00 p.m.
- Red River Valley Association annual conference being held February 23 – 24, 2022.
- The Office of State Travel updated the State of Louisiana Travel Guide amending the reimbursable mileage rate to \$0.58 per mile as of January 10, 2022.

9. STATUS OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY/ENGINEERING REPORT - Prepared reports were provided in the meeting packets.

- Alexandria Levee Park Riverfront Stage Project – six foundation pedestals are in place and cordoned off until band shell installed
- Alexandria Levee Park Riverfront Project – wrapping up cost estimates for Phase II of the project that will be presented to the Commission at the March or April meeting
- Teague Trails Extension Project – striping, signage, parking bumpers, and grass install all underway
- Comfort Stations Project – all three comfort station sites are underway
- Randell Smoak will provide a schedule update on the Grand Ecore Amenities Project at the March Commission meeting
- Poland Floating Dock Project – survey completed, the notice to proceed has been given, and beginning the permitting process

10. GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT - None

11. CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPORT - None

12. RED RIVER VALLEY ASSOCIATION – Richard Brontoli, Executive Director of the RRVA provided the Commission with the following update:

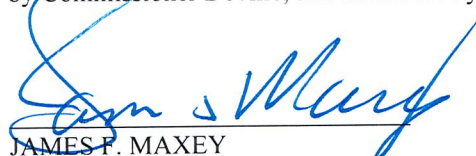
- Red River is in great shape. River levels are on the rise below Lock 1 and navigation should be in great shape through March
- Red River Valley Association Convention is February 23-24, 2022. February 23rd at 2:30 p.m. is the navigation meeting providing updates on Lock 1 dewatering. Full convention schedule can be found on the RRVA website
- There is funding in the President's Budget for fiscal year 2023 as well as funding for Old River Lock

13. OTHER BUSINESS - None

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - None

15. ADJOURNMENT

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


JAMES F. MAXEY
SECRETARY/TREASURER


TROY ROUSSELL
CHAIR DESIGNEE