

**MINUTES
OF THE
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING
APRIL 19, 2023
10:00 AM
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION
5941 HWY 1 BYPASS
NATCHITOCHEES, LOUISIANA**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Red River Waterway Commission was called to order by Chair Designee, Troy Roussell, in the Board Room of the Red River Waterway Commission Office located at 5941 Highway 1 By-Pass 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 Jacques Goudeau, Commissioner Charles R. Greer, Commissioner David Jones, Commissioner Ronald Lattier, Commissioner James F. Maxey, Commissioner Michael Simpson.

Absent:

RRWC Staff Members Present: Mr. Colin Brown - Executive Director, Mr. Marcus Long - Operations & Maintenance Director, Ms. Stephanie Bonnette - Executive Assistant, Mr. Luke Pearson - Real Estate Manager, Mr. Kyle Smith - Engineering Supervisor, Mr. Dustin Hayes – Marketing Director, Mr. Brian Cespiva – Staff Engineer, Mr. Greg Upton - Legal Counsel.

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

Others Present: Ms. Katy Breaux with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; Mr. Matthew McKee with U.S. Congressman Mike Johnson’s office; and Ms. Emily Mott, Executive Director of the Red River Valley Association.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the revised agenda was unanimously approved. The revised agenda to include item four under Land Management, Legal Affairs & Affirmative Action committee to read as follows: Consideration of Approval of Right-of-Entry Permit/Alexandria Front Revetment/Multiple Tracts. And to include under Other Business: Consideration of Approval of Resolution of Appreciation/Randell Fletcher. Comments from the public were called for, however, none were offered.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

By motion of Commissioner Greer, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, the minutes of the March 15, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

By motion of Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the Expenditures, Financial Statements, Investment Reports, & Fund Balance Report for the month of March 2023 were unanimously approved.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Contracts

Consideration of Proposals for Dock Removal/Alexandria Levee Park: By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the Commission unanimously approved the proposal by Merrick, LLC for removal of the Alexandria Levee Park dock at a cost not to exceed \$36,650.00 and a corresponding budget amendment.

b) Land Management, Legal Affairs & Affirmative Action

Consideration of Request for Right-of-Use Dredging Agreement/Pool 5/Parts of Tracts 4, 5, 6 & 11: By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved the request by Elm Grove Aggregates, LLC for a right-of-use dredging agreement in accordance with the Commission’s recently adopted policy and procedure.

Consideration of Request to Assign and Assume Land Lease/Powhatan Realignment/Tract 2/281 Acres: By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Greer, the Commission unanimously approved the request by Mr. Scottie Johnson to assign the three years remaining on his land lease to Mr. Billy Thompson on Powhatan Realignment, Tract 2, containing 281 acres.

Consideration of Request to Advertise for Right-of-Use Agreement/Hadden Ft. DeRussy/Area 5/Segments 30-36/18.7 Acres: By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Commission unanimously approved authorizing staff to advertise the property for a right-of-use agreement with a fixed annual payment of \$500.00 per year, plus a minimum bid of \$1.50 per cubic yard of sand removed. The results of the bid process will be brought back to the Commission at the June 2023 meeting for award to the high bidder.

Consideration of Approval of Right-of-Entry Permit/Alexandria Front Revetment/Multiple Tracts: By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Commission unanimously approved the Right-of-Entry permit for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for entry and work along the Alexandria Front Revetment on the Pineville side of the river.

c) Recreation

Presentation and Discussion of Fish Lake Master Plan: By motion of Commissioner Greer, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the Commission unanimously approved authorizing staff to prepare a scope of work for a master plan of the project for presentation to the Commission at the May 2023 meeting.

Consideration of Funding Request/YMCA of Northwest Louisiana: The YMCA of Northwest Louisiana withdrew their request and no action was taken.

Recreation Area Status Report - Mr. Marcus Long highlighted the prepared report provided in the meeting packet, noting that there had been 131,000 visitors to the District recreation areas during the month of March 2023. Updated maintenance items include, but not limited to:

- Ongoing routine maintenance including mowing cycles fully engaged
- Stoner Avenue and Teague Parkway boat ramps closed due to elevated water levels
- Three Commission vehicles were purchased per prior approved authorization at a final cost of \$116,000.00.

d) **Ports** - None

e) **Public Awareness & Marketing**

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

- There have been five events since the March 2023 Commission meeting
- 2023 BassMaster Classic had a record attendance of 163,914 participants with a \$35,000,000.00 economic impact to the host city
- Ray Scott National Championship brought in anglers from a 12 state area

f) **Personnel** - None

g) **Revenue, Banking & Budget** – By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, and reflecting a complete vote count, the Commission adopted its 2023 Tax Millage Rates of 1.52 mills for capital outlay and 0.82 mills for operations and maintenance for a total of 2.34 mills. Following is the 2023 Tax Millage Resolution read aloud by Commissioner Crutchfield:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper administrative officials of the Parishes of Avoyelles, Bossier, Caddo, Grant, Natchitoches, Rapides, and Red River, State of Louisiana, be and they are hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to spread said taxes, as hereinabove set forth, upon the assessment roll of said Parish for the year 2023, and to make the collection of the taxes imposed for and on behalf of the taxing authority, according to law, and that the taxes herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject to taxation as herein set forth, and collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law.

The foregoing resolution was read in full, the roll was called on the adoption thereof, and the resolution was adopted by the following votes:

<u>Yeas</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>Abstained</u>	<u>Absent</u>	<u>Vacant</u>
-10-	-0-	-0-	-0-	-1-

Commissioner Clark
Commissioner Crutchfield
Commissioner Deville
Commissioner Fleming
Commissioner Fletcher – vacant seat as of April 12, 2023
Commissioner Goudeau
Commissioner Greer
Commissioner Jones
Commissioner Lattier
Commissioner Maxey
Commissioner Simpson

h) **Legislative** - None

8. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Park Maintenance employee David Brewster retired
- Mr. Brandon Conant was hired for the vacant Park Maintenance position
- The 2023 Regular Session is underway and ends June 08th
- Reminder to Commissioners that the annual Tier 2.1 Financial Disclosure is to be completed by May 15th

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

- Grand Ecore Additional Amenities Project – slow progression due to continued rounds of adverse weather conditions
- Poland Floating Dock Project – Pilings for the dock are on-site; comfort stations construction and pavilion construction underway
- Lock & Dam 2 – failure of an area of the retaining wall and subsequent bank erosion/caving. Merrick is to perform a site visit and help devise a plan of action
- Alexandria Levee Park – band shell is completed. There is an event scheduled next Saturday at that location
- 12 Mile Bayou – project is in the design phase which will offer site selection for location of the dock project
- Ft. Buhlow Park Project – preliminary sketches being developed for review and feedback
- Fish Lake Project – continued discussion for development and creation of a master plan

10. **GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT** - None

11. **CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPORT** – Ms. Katy Breaux with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers updated the Commission of the following:

- Alexandria Front Dike project – going through inhouse reviews and should be ready to advertise for bids in May with possible construction in September or October
- Opposite the Alexandria Front Dike – work is being done in this area mainly by water
- Approach to Overton Lock (Lock 2) – analysis is being done on this area. Once completed it will move to the design implementation phase. Anticipate those processes will put the project 2 years out before the bidding process
- The visitor centers in Shreveport and Natchitoches at Grand Ecore are now manned 5 days a week. Shreveport visitor center hours: Tuesday thru Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Natchitoches/Grand Ecore visitor center hours: Wednesday thru Sunday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

12. **RED RIVER VALLEY ASSOCIATION** - None

13. **OTHER BUSINESS**

a) *Consideration of Approval of Resolution of Appreciation/Randell Fletcher:* By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved the Resolution of Appreciation for former Commissioner Randell Fletcher for all his years of service to the Commission.

14. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC** - None

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

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



JAMES F. MAXEY
SECRETARY/TREASURER



TROY ROUSSELL
CHAIR DESIGNEE