

**MINUTES  
OF THE  
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING  
MAY 15, 2024  
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 Paul Fleming, Commissioner Jacques Goudeau, Commissioner Charles R. Greer, Commissioner David Jones, Commissioner Ronald Lattier, Commissioner James F. Maxey, Commissioner Michael Simpson.

**Absent:** Commissioner Michael P. Deville and Commissioner Kenneth Richardson.

**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. Brian Cespiva – Staff Engineer, Mr. Greg Upton - Legal Counsel.

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

**Others Present:** Katy Breaux with the US Army Corps of Engineers, Emily Mott – Executive Director of the Red River Valley Association, Robert Vinet with KSA Engineers, and Phil Penny of Rogue Trails.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the agenda was unanimously approved. Comments from the public were called for, however, none were offered.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

By motion of Commissioner Fleming, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the minutes of the April 17, 2024, meeting were unanimously approved.

**6. TREASURER'S REPORT**

By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Expenditures, Financial Statements, Investment Reports, & Fund Balance Report for the month of April 2024 were unanimously approved.

**7. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a) Contracts**

**Consideration of Approval of Addendum No. 1/Grand Ecore RV Park Operator Agreement:** By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Greer, the Commission unanimously approved Addendum No. 1 to the Grand Ecore RV Park Operator Agreement increasing the park operator's annual compensation by \$38,340.00 due to additional duties associated with the addition of park amenities.

**Consideration of Approval of Boat Spraying Contract/Patriot Pond and Lake Management:** By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Greer, the Commission unanimously approved the contract with Patriot Pond and Lake Management (formerly known as Terminator Pest and Pond) with all other contract terms remaining the same.

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

**Consideration of Award of Public Bid Land Lease/Lock & Dam 2/Tract 3/11 Acres:** By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved award of the 5-year land lease to Big Lake Hunting Club, Inc. for \$1,100.00 for the 5-year lease term.

**Consideration of Award of Leaseback Renewal/Pool 5/Tract 67/40 Acres:** By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved the 5-year leaseback renewal with Ratzburg Farms, LLC for \$2,920.00 for the 5-year term.

**Consideration of Award of Leaseback Renewal/Pool 3/Tract 7 & Grappe Cutoff/Phase II/Tracts 2 & 3/53 Acres:** By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved the 5-year leaseback renewal agreement with Dr. Robert Craig for \$3,975.00 for the 5-year term.

**Consideration of Request to Assign and Assume Land Lease/Once More Realignment/646 Acres:** By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved the request for Timothy Powell to assume the 5 years remaining on the land lease containing 646 acres for \$65,730.50 for the 5-year term.

**Consideration of Request for Disclaimer and Waiver of Interest/Pool 4/Tracts 18, 19 & 20 Segment A:** By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Clark, and one abstention by Commissioner Simpson, the Commission approved the request from 1<sup>st</sup> Source Bank for the Disclaimer and Waiver of Interest.

**c) Recreation**

**Consideration of Adoption of Master Plan/1North Adventure Trails:** By motion of Commissioner Greer, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved and adopted the Master Plan as presented.

**Consideration of Award of Design Contract/1North Adventure Trails/Phase 1A/Initial Parking and General Use Area/Contract No. RRW-832:** By motion of Commissioner Greer, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Commission unanimously approved KSA Engineers, LLC for design and administration of the referenced project, authorized the Executive Director to execute the documents, and approved the corresponding budget amendment.

**Consideration of Award and Design Contract/1North Adventure Trails/Phase 1B/Cross-Country Trails/Contract No. RRW-834:** By motion of Commissioner Greer, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved KSA Engineers, LLC for design and administration of the referenced project, authorized the Executive Director to execute the contract, and approved the corresponding budget amendment.

**Recreation Area Status Report** - Mr. Marcus Long highlighted the prepared report provided in the

meeting packet, noting that there had been 110,000 visitors to the District recreation areas during the month of April 2024. Updated maintenance items include, but not limited to:

- Additional amenities projects at the Grand Ecore RV Park are wrapping up
- Several fishing events using Commission parks have taken place this month
- F1 Powerboat racing scheduled for May 24-May 26, conditions permitting
- Carry The Load Event May 22, 2024, at Teague Parkway

d) **Ports**

**Consideration of Approval of Amendment No. 2 to Cooperative Endeavor Agreement/Natchitoches Parish Port:** By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Maxey, the Commission unanimously approved Amendment No. 2 and the corresponding budget amendment to reserve an additional \$1,573,075.45 for restoring the dock structure at the Natchitoches Port.

**Consideration of Funding Request/Central Louisiana Regional Port/Electrical Substation Manufacturing Facility:** By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved funding up to \$2,612,390.00 subject to terms of the cooperative endeavor agreement and funding mechanisms that will be presented to the Commission at the June meeting.

e) **Public Awareness & Marketing** - None

f) **Personnel** - None

g) **Revenue, Banking & Budget**

**Consideration of Approval of Purchase of ATV on State Contract:** By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the Commission unanimously approved the purchase of a Gator ATV through state contract and a corresponding budget amendment of \$15,000.00

h) **Legislative** – Current session is wrapping up.

8. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Reminder to Commissioners that the required annual Tier 2.1 Financial Statement Disclosure deadline is today, May 15<sup>th</sup>
- Inland Marine was awarded the dredge contract for Red River, and they begin today
- The contributory funds the RRWC transferred to the USACE for dredging are being reimbursed to the Commission in full
- Announcement regarding the legislative session and that Senate confirmations typically occur on the last day of the session. In addition, monitoring a couple of bills that could effect appointments and will keep the Commissioners apprised

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

- Substantial completion of the Grand Ecore Additional Amenities project was given on Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>
- Have received the CEA back from State Parks for the Ft. DeRussy project
- Survey completed for the Brouillette Recreation Area and Comfort Station project
- Surveys being done this week for Bishop Point and Red Oak Seawall Rehabilitation projects
- 1North project – acceptance of Master Plan
- 12 Mile Bayou Boat Ramp project bids to be presented at the June meeting

10. **GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT** - None

11. **CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPORT** – Katy Breaux with the USACE updated the Commission on the following:

- Dredging contract in place for 50 days of dredging. Dredging has begun with Lock 1 upper and will then move to Lock 5 moving southward. USACE is reimbursing the contributory dredging funds back to the Commission
- Alexandria Front Dike contract has been awarded, but have delayed the Notice to Proceed until the river recedes
- Bank area opposite the Alexandria Front Dike to be awarded by September 30<sup>th</sup>
- Lock 2 approach – computer model is completed. Ship simulation takes place this weekend

12. **RED RIVER VALLEY ASSOCIATION** – Emily Mott, Executive Director of the RRVA, updated the Commission on the following:

- 2025 is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the RRVA
- There will not be individual state conferences in 2025
- Working on fundraising efforts for RRVA
- RRVA office has relocated to the Chamber building with new website and social media sites
- Arkansas feasibility study is in the early stages. First draft should be received in the first quarter of 2025. Public input meetings will be held at the end of June
- 12' Channel study is in process now
- Possible funding by LADOTD for oxbow dredging

13. **OTHER BUSINESS** – Executive Director, Colin Brown, announced the following:

- Grand Ecore RV Park additional amenities ribbon cutting May 21 from 11-1 with ribbon cutting at 11:30
- Grand Ecore RV Park trails are open to the public
- Grand Ecore RV Park fire pit area and swimming pool/splash pad are open to RV Park guests

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 Simpson, and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned.

  
JAMES F. MAXEY  
SECRETARY/TREASURER

  
TROY ROUSSELL  
CHAIR DESIGNEE