

**MINUTES
OF THE
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING
JUNE 15, 2022
10:00 AM
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION
5941 HWY 1 BYPASS
NATCHITOCHE, LOUISIANA**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Red River Waterway Commission was called to order by Executive Director, Colin Brown, 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: Commissioner Versa Clark, Commissioner David L. Crutchfield, II, Commissioner Michael P. Deville, Commissioner Randell Fletcher, Commissioner Jacques Goudeau, Commissioner David Jones, Commissioner Ronald Lattier, Commissioner James F. Maxey, Commissioner Michael Simpson.

Absent: Chair Designee, Troy Roussell, Commissioner Paul Fleming, and Commissioner Charles R. Greer

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. Eric Gilmore - Marketing Director, Mr. Brian Cespiva - Staff Engineer, 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.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

By motion of Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Deville, the minutes of the May 18, 2022 meeting were unanimously approved.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

By motion of Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the Expenditures, Financial Statements, Investment Reports, & Fund Balance Report for the month of May 2022 were unanimously approved.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Contracts

Consideration of Proposals/Fort Buhlow Comfort Station and Pavilion Roof Rehabilitation: By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Deville, the Commission unanimously approved award of contract to Martin Metal Construction in the amount of \$33,898.00 to furnish materials and install roofs for the Fort Buhlow comfort station and pavilions.

Consideration of Proposals/Fort Buhlow Comfort Station and Pavilion Painting: By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved award of contract to Professional Coating & Inspection Services in the amount of \$25,620.00 to furnish and apply paint to the Ft. Buhlow ranger station, three comfort stations and three pavilions.

Consideration of Approval of Amendment No. 1/Contract No. RRW-776/Terminator Pest and Pond Management, LLC: By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Clark and one abstention by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Commission approved amending the contract to the requested increase in price to \$137.25/acre (an increase of \$24.25/acre).

b) Land Management, Legal Affairs & Affirmative Action

Consideration of Award of Public Bid Land Lease/Pool 3/Tract 24/82 Acres: By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher, the Commission unanimously approved award of the 5-year lease to Shannon Dubois of S & J Dubois Rental, LLC, for \$6,560.00 (\$16.00 per acre annually) for the 5-year term.

Consideration of Renewal of Leaseback Agreement/Lock & Dam 1/Tract A/640 Acres: By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved award of the 5-year leaseback renewal to Delta Ridge Ranch, LLC for \$86,400.00 for the 5-year term.

Consideration of Request to Cancel Land Lease and Authority to Re-Advertise/Grand Ecore Recreation Area: By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Commission unanimously approved the request from Doug Heimer to cancel the lease on the 300 acres of land at the Grand Ecore Recreation Area with an early cancellation fee of \$200.00 and authorized staff to re-advertise the property for public bid land lease at the revised 211 acres and a minimum bid of \$30.00 per acre.

Consideration of Options on Acquisition of Mitigation Land: By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously agreed to reject the presented Buy-Sell Agreement with the sales price of \$2,430,000.00 and to submit a counteroffer at a sales price of \$6,300.00 per surveyed acre contingent upon the following:

1. The ability of the Commission to execute a Buy-Sell agreement for \$45,000 on the adjoining 2.5 acres owned by Harlan David Lawler.
2. The \$6,300.00 per acre sales price is to be based on the final surveyed acreage.
3. A Market Value appraisal performed by an appropriately licensed and qualified third-party appraiser at a minimum value of the \$6,300 per acre sales price.
4. Satisfactory Environmental and Cultural Assessments of the property.
5. The ability of the Commission to obtain a title insurance policy on the property.

Additionally the Commission authorized Executive Director, Colin Brown, to execute a Buy-Sell Agreement for \$45,000.00 on the 2.5 acres of land owned by Harlan David Lawler.

c) **Recreation**

Consideration of Funding Request/City of Alexandria/Alexandria Levee Park Riverfront Improvement Project: By motion of Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Jones, the Commission unanimously approved the City of Alexandria's request of the Commission to increase its funding commitment to \$3,952,468.00 (an increase of \$703,348.00) for Phase II of the project. The Commission instructed the staff to prepare an amended Cooperative Endeavor Agreement to reflect the funding increase of \$703,348.00.

Recreation Area Status Report - Mr. Marcus Long, Operations and Maintenance Director, highlighted the prepared report provided in the meeting packet, noting that there had been 130,000 visitors to the District recreation areas during the month of May 2022. Updated maintenance items include, but not limited to:

- Routine maintenance at area parks
- Improvements to disc golf course in progress

d) **Ports** - None

e) **Public Awareness & Marketing**

Consideration of Approval of Exclusive Use Agreement/Teague Parkway Recreation Area South

Parking: By motion of Commissioner Fletcher, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the Commission unanimously approved the exclusive use permit to Pyromania Fireworks for the use of the Teague Parkway south parking lot to launch the fireworks show for the cities of Shreveport and Bossier City for July 04, 2022. The south parking lot will be closed to the public from 6 a.m., July 03, 2022, through 12 a.m., July 05, 2022.

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

- Presented travel calendar for upcoming events and conferences
- Attended Maritime Association roundtable
- Ports will receive an 80/20 match for designated "Maritime Highway Projects"

f) **Personnel** - None

g) **Revenue, Banking & Budget** - None

h) **Legislative** – Red River Waterway Commission Executive Director, Colin Brown, noted that the Legislative Regular Session has concluded and the Legislative Special Session will conclude June 20, 2022.

8. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Announcement of confirmation of Commissioners Crutchfield and Lattier during the recent Legislative Session
- The Corps of Engineers has mobilized their dredge on Red River

9. **STATUS OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY/ENGINEERING REPORT** - Prepared reports were provided in the meeting packets. In addition, Staff Engineer, Brian Cespiva updated the Commission on the following:

- Comfort Station projects should be at substantial completion by month-end
- Grand Ecore Additional Amenities project will go out for bid in July. Anticipate final plans in July
- Poland Floating Dock project – Corps of Engineers will review the waterline easement in July

10. **GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT** - None

11. **CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPORT** – Red River Waterway Commission Executive Director, Colin Brown, announced the change in command with the Corps - Vicksburg District

12. **RED RIVER VALLEY ASSOCIATION** - A report update was provided to the Commissioners. Following are some of the updates:

- Arkansas Feasibility Study in progressive stages
- Old River and Lock 1 closures for dewatering is now scheduled for August 30, 2022. Old River will be a full 75-day closure and Lock 1 will be a 75-day closure with a 2-week opening midway through the 75-day closure process

13. **OTHER BUSINESS** - None

14. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC** - Central Louisiana Regional Port (CLRP) Executive Director, Ben Russo, provided the following update to the Commission:

- Corps of Engineers is working with CLRP on the "outages" that will be due to the dewatering closures.
- Army rotation staging currently scheduled for August/September will be moved from CLRP to Three Rivers

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