

**MINUTES  
OF THE  
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING  
JULY 21, 2021  
10:00 AM  
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION  
5941 HWY 1 BYPASS  
NATCHITOCHE, LA 71457**

**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 Crutchfield, II, Commissioner Michael Deville, Commissioner Paul Fleming, Commissioner Randell Fletcher, Commissioner David Jones, Commissioner Ronald Lattier, Commissioner James Maxey, Commissioner Michael Simpson.

**Absent:** Commissioner Jacques Goudeau and Commissioner Charles Greer

**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. Ben Russo, Executive Director of the Central Louisiana Regional Port and Ms. Katy Breaux with United States Corps of Engineers – Vicksburg.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

By motion of Commissioner Fletcher, seconded by Commissioner Maxey, 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 Fletcher, the minutes of the June 16, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved.

**6. TREASURER'S REPORT**

By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Jones, the Expenditures, Financial Statements, Investment Reports, & Fund Balance Report for the month of June 2021 were unanimously approved.

**7. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) **Contracts**

1. **Consideration of Bids/RRWC Project No. 20-07/Contract No. RRW-792/Teague Trails Extension (2020 Request):** By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Jones, the Commission unanimously approved award of bid to Testament Construction Services, LLC in the amount of \$1,318,408.37 for construction of Teague Trails Extension rehabilitation project.

2. **Consideration of Request from City of Alexandria to Amend Cooperative Endeavor Agreement/Alexandria Levee Park Development:** By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Commission unanimously approved amending the cooperative endeavor agreement with the City of Alexandria, Phase I of the Alexandria Levee Park bandshell/cover. The cooperative endeavor agreement will be amended as follows: Realigning the existing financial commitment by the RRWC within the project to cover the increase in construction cost of the bandshell/cover by reducing the monies committed for future phase(s).

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

1. **Consideration of Approval of Land Lease Extension/Coushatta Recreation Area/0.36 Acres:** By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, the Commission unanimously approved the 5-year lease extension to Mr. Johnny Rockingham for a total lease amount of \$1,250.00 for the 5-year lease term or \$250.00 per year for 5 years.

c) **Recreation**

1. **Recreation Area Status Report**

Mr. Mike Boydston highlighted the prepared report provided in the meeting packet, noting that there had been 149,000 visitors to the District recreation areas during the month of June 2021. Updated maintenance items include, but not limited to:

- Dredging updates: Spud barge and track hoe completed dredging at Tegue Parkway recreation site and will be completed with Stoner Avenue recreation site in a day or two. Dredging will continue and move to Coushatta, Hampton Lake oxbow entrance, Alexandria, and various sites before returning to the Shreveport area. Cutterhedge dredge is moving to Clarence oxbow & Pool 3 oxbows
- Mowing cycles have been increased to every 10 days due to weather-induced needs

d) **Ports - None**



e) **Public Awareness & Marketing**

1. **Marketing Update**

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

- Port of Caddo site visitation
- Numerous projects in motion with ports
- Central Louisiana Regional Port facility site tour
- Upcoming events/conferences: Mr. Crappie Expo in early October, Kayak Bass Fishing Tournament in October, site visit scheduled for the end of August for the King Kat Tournament to be held in Natchitoches in November

f) **Personnel - None**

g) **Revenue, Banking & Budget**

1. **Consideration of Audit Engagement Proposal:** By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, the Commission unanimously approved a 3-year (2021 – 2023 term) audit engagement with Payne, Moore & Herrington, LLP.

h) **Legislative – Veto session recently held**

8. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Updated Commissioners on the status of Commissioner Greer
- Groundbreaking event for the Alexandria Levee Park bandshell/cover took place July 7<sup>th</sup>. The Red River Waterway Commission was recognized and received a plaque of appreciation. Each Commissioner received a commemorative memento
- River levels are slowly receding
- Corps of Engineers updates: currently dredging Lock 1, they are in receipt of the \$3,000,000.00 in contributed funds from the RRWC to supplement their dredging funds. Corps has purchased a 12" cutterhead dredge and working in Lock 5
- Teague Trails Extension project bid opening was July 13<sup>th</sup> and bid awarded today to Testament Construction, LLC
- Texas Street Bridge Lighting project recent bid opening. Bid awarded to Feazel in the amount of \$944,900.00
- Upcoming travel: Quachita River Valley Association August 12 & 13 in West Monroe, National Waterways Conference September 22 – 24 in Baltimore, looking into September for Congressional visits
- Updated sound system installed in the board room. Any feedback is welcomed
- Commission will continue moving forward with monthly meetings being held at headquarters unless conditions change

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:

- Contracts will be executed with Testament Construction, LLC for Teague Trails Extension project
- Design work of comfort stations and final plans received. Waiting to go to bid as soon as waterline service to Red Oak recreation area addressed
- Design work, surveying, and soil boring all completed with respect to the Grand Ecore Additional Amenities project
- Addendum to the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the City of Alexandria- Alexandria Levee Park will be presented to the Commission at the August 2021 meeting

10. **GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT - None**

11. **CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPORT –** Corps of Engineers' representative Katy Breaux updated the Commission on the following:

- Dredging at Lock 1 and will then move to Lock 3
- Rock is being placed at the base of the bluff at Grand Ecore

12. **RED RIVER VALLEY ASSOCIATION –** Was noted that dredging is taking place on the river and the potential of Congressional visits in September.

13. **OTHER BUSINESS –** Commissioner Ronald Lattier has been reappointed to his position by Governor Edwards.

14. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

CLRP Executive Director, Ben Russo, thanked the Commission for all its assistance with the Port. Updated the progress of Avant project.

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

  
JAMES F. MAXEY  
SECRETARY/TREASURER

  
TROY ROUSSELL  
CHAIR DESIGNEE