

**MINUTES
OF THE
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING
AUGUST 16, 2023
10:00 AM
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION
5941 HWY 1 BYPASS
NATCHITOCHEs, 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 Charles R. Greer, Commissioner David Jones, Commissioner Ronald Lattier, Commissioner James F. Maxey, Commissioner Michael Simpson.

Absent: Commissioner Paul Fleming, Commissioner Jacques Goudeau, 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. Kyle Smith - Engineering Supervisor, Mr. Dustin Hayes – Marketing Director, Mr. Greg Upton - Legal Counsel.

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

Others Present: Ms. Katy Breaux with the US Army Corps of Engineers, Mr. Ben Russo with Central Louisiana Regional Port, and Mr. Joseph Montulvo with the LA DOTD.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the minutes of the July 19, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

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

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Contracts

b) Land Management, Legal Affairs & Affirmative Action

Consideration of Approval of Leaseback Renewal/Pool 4/Tract 15 and Nicholas Realignment Tract 4/50

Acres: By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, the Commission unanimously approved the 5-year leaseback renewal with Charles O. Webb, II and Hall Family Enterprises, LLC in the amount of \$3,175.00 for the 5-year leaseback term.

c) Recreation

Consideration of Revision to Grand Ecore RV Park Policy and Procedures: By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved the following revisions to the reservation policy of the Grand Ecore RV Park:

- Reservations may be made at a max of 11 months in advance
- Cancellation of reservations made from January 01 to November 14 of each calendar year will incur a one-night non-refundable fee
- Reservations made from November 15 to December 31 of each calendar year are a three (3) night minimum stay paid in advance. Cancellation of reservations during this time period will incur a three-night non-refundable fee

Recreation Area Status Report - Mr. Marcus Long highlighted the prepared report provided in the meeting packet, noting that there had been 150,000 visitors to the District recreation areas during the month of July 2023. Updated maintenance items include, but not limited to:

- Two dredge contractors are still operating in necessary areas of the river
- Spraying vegetation in burdened areas of the river
- Ongoing routine maintenance items

d) Ports

Consideration of Approval of Cooperative Endeavor Agreement/Central Louisiana Regional Port/Facilities Expansion:

By motion of Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the Commission unanimously approved the cooperative endeavor agreement with the Central Louisiana Regional Port in the amount of \$3,743,509.00 along with a corresponding budget amendment and the reservation of funds.

e) Public Awareness & Marketing

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

- A copy of the 2023 travel calendar was provided in the meeting packet. Commissioners are advised to contact Dustin if they have interest in any of the upcoming events
- Attending the Water Resource Conference, Red River Valley Association, in Oklahoma August 17, 2023
- Mississippi River Low Water Inspection to take place next week
- Colfax RV Park website and reservation systems are being updated

f) Personnel – None

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

h) **Legislative** – None

8. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Congressional visits in Washington, D.C. are being scheduled for September 10 – September 13/September 14
- Flow studies of Pools 1 – 4 will be updated next month
- Introduction of new hire, Park Maintenance Technician, Mr. B.J. Taylor
- Announced that Park Ranger, Todd Meyers, Retired in July

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

- Grand Ecore additional amenities project – fire pit area framed up, concrete poured, and brick work to begin next week. Parking lot has been completed. Walking trail is 100% asphalted
- Lock 2 seawall repair is underway
- Poland floating dock, pavilion, and comfort station project – sidewalk has been poured, comfort station has been completed, and the gangway and floating dock are in place for installation
- Fish Lake project - Cultural assessment is underway. Corps is in the process of acquiring the property from the Commission and should be completed by year-end. Drone lidar survey taking place this weekend. The hydrological survey will be next week. Meeting with KSA Engineers and Rogue Trails next Friday
- Twelve Mile Bayou project – under design
- Ft. Buhlow project – working the general scope of the overall project
- September Commission meeting will include the annual recreation projects discussion

10. **GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT** - None

11. **CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPORT**

- Alexandria Front Dike project to be awarded November 30th
- Redesign of approach to Lock 2 will include a two-day site visit of the lock scheduled for August 29-31, 2023
- FY 2024 Earmarks – funding options designated for the Red River.
- \$500,000 allotted for study of the 12' Channel
- Mitigation property update – completing purchase of last of mitigation land
- Navigation meeting next Wednesday at the Red River Waterway Commission Headquarters
- Inspection trip completed of dykes and revetments

12. **RED RIVER VALLEY ASSOCIATION**

- Upcoming committee and Congressional visits in Washington, D.C.
- Corps dredging – lock 5 completed. Moving to Lock 4 then to Locks 2 & 1

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 Simpson, and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned.


JAMES F. MAXEY
SECRETARY/TREASURER


TROY ROUSSELL
CHAIR DESIGNEE