

**MINUTES  
OF THE  
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 16, 2020  
10:00 AM  
GRAND ECORE RV PARK ACTIVITY CENTER  
1071 TAUZIN ISLAND ROAD  
NATCHITOCHE, LOUISIANA 71457**

**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 Crutchfield, II, Commissioner Michael Deville, Commissioner Paul Fleming, Commissioner Randell Fletcher, Commissioner Jacques Goudeau, Commissioner David Jones, Commissioner Ronald Lattier, Commissioner James Maxey, Commissioner Michael Simpson. In accordance with Louisiana R.S.42.17.1 (Act 302) Commissioners David Jones and James Maxey participated virtually.

**Absent:** 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. Rich Brontoli of the Red River Valley Association - participating virtually.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher, the minutes of the August 19, 2020 meeting were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

**6. TREASURER'S REPORT**

By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, the Expenditures, Financial Statements, Investment Reports, & Fund Balance Report for the month of August 2020 were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

**7. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) **Contracts**

1. **Consideration of Award of Colfax Activity Center Porch Addition Bids/RRWC Project No. 20-05:** By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved by roll call vote award of bid to Martin Metal Construction in the amount of \$59,760.00 (base bid plus alternate 1) along with a corresponding budget amendment increase to \$70,000.00.

2. **Consideration of Approval of Channel Dredging for Navigation:** No action taken.

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

1. **Consideration of Authority to Advertise for Public Bid Lease/Kateland Realignment/Tracts 1, 3, 5 & 7/100 Acres:** By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the Commission unanimously approved by roll call vote authorizing staff to advertise for public bid lease the property described as being Kateland Realignment, tracts 1, 3, 5 & 7, consisting of 100 acres at a minimum bid price of \$20.00 per acre.

c) **Recreation**

1. **Recreation Area Status Report**

Mr. Mike Boydston highlighted the prepared report provided in the meeting packet, noting that there had been 151,000 visitors to the District recreation areas during the month of August 2020. Updated maintenance items include, but not limited to:

- Dredging Oxbows and backwater areas
- Dredging from Alexandria to Shreveport is mostly completed. Currently finishing up at the Stoner Avenue location
- Cutterhead dredge is in Pool 5
- Hurricane Laura storm cleanup has been taking place at all 19 sites. Grant parish area, specifically the Boyce area required extensive cleanup
- Ft. Buhlow recreation area is still without power. Awaiting a bid from an electrical contractor

d) **Ports**

1. **Consideration of Approval of Settlement Documents/Cool Planet:** By motion of Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Commission unanimously approved by roll call vote the presented Settlement Agreement with Cool Planet.

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

1. **Marketing Update**

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

- Caddo-Bossier Port is seeing increase in usage due to barging of steel
- Central Louisiana Regional Port traffic increased due to CLECO being back in operation as well as ongoing military rotations
- A Cooperative Endeavor Agreement is in process with the City of Natchitoches and the Natchitoches Convention & Visitors Bureau with the Red River Waterway Commission sponsoring a National Catfish Tournament

f) **Personnel - None**

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

h) **Legislative - None**

**8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Staff is thoroughly engaged in the recovery process post Hurricane Laura
- Phase III of Covid-19 Recovery is in effect
- Monthly meetings of the Red River Waterway Commission will continue being held at the RRWC Grand Ecore RV Park Activity Center until further notice
- Ben Russo has been named the new Executive Director of the Central Louisiana Regional Report. Mr. Russo's tenure begins October 01, 2020
- Testament LLC was awarded contract for the removal of the Stoner barge
- Staff will begin preparing the 2021 Budget for presentation (and review) to the Commission at the November monthly meeting

**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:

- Amphibex dredge is at the Poland Recreation Area
- Coushatta dock construction should be completed within the next 30 - 45 days
- Phase I of the Alexandria Riverfront development plans are at 90% completion. Goal to begin bid process by year end

**10. GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT - None**

**11. CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPORT - None**

**12. RED RIVER VALLEY ASSOCIATION – Mr. Rich Brontoli updated the Commission on the following items:**

- Navigation is completely open along the entire waterway system
- Continuous watch of the ACME guage
- Old River Lock will be closing in periodic intervals lasting 3 - 4 days with each occurrence and to begin September 29<sup>th</sup>

**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 Deville, and unanimously approved by roll call vote, the meeting was adjourned.



JAMES F. MAXEY  
SECRETARY/TREASURER



TROY ROUSSELL  
CHAIR DESIGNEE