

MINUTES
OF THE
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 20, 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 Jacques Goudeau, Commissioner Ronald Lattier, Commissioner James F. Maxey, Commissioner Kenneth Richardson.

Absent: Commissioner Michael P. Deville, Commissioner Paul Fleming, Commissioner Charles R. Greer, Commissioner David Jones, Commissioner Michael Simpson.

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

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

Others Present: Katy Breaux, Brian Jordan, Jimmie Elliott, and Hunter Simrall with the US Army Corps of Engineers-Vicksburg District.

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Richardson, 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 Crutchfield, the minutes of the August 16, 2023 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 August 2023 were unanimously approved.

7. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) **Contracts**

Consideration of Ratification of Change Order No. 4/RRWC Project No. 21-11/Contract No. RRW-806/Poland Floating Dock & Comfort Station: By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Commission unanimously approved the change order for change in scope of work to include an additional 20 square yards of sidewalk at a cost of \$43,477.00 bringing the construction cost to \$1,437,074.00 and an additional fourteen days to complete the work.

Consideration of Authority to Purchase Surface Drive Boat: By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Richardson, the Commission unanimously approved the purchase of a Pro Drive 18x48 boat with a 40hp Pro Drive motor and a corresponding budget amendment of \$35,000.00.

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

Consideration of Approval of Leaseback Renewal and Revised Acreage/Pool 3/Tracts 44, 45 & 46/241 Acres: By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved the 5-year leaseback agreement with additional acreage to AA Western Store, Inc. and J. Corwyn Aldredge Jr. et al for \$7,230.00 (241 acres at \$6.00 per acre) for the 5-year term.

Consideration of Request for Access Servitude/Alexandria Front Revetment: No action was taken on this matter. The Commission directed staff and general counsel to produce a letter stating that in the event there is a prospective buyer with contract and prospective servitude the Commission will agree to take the request under consideration.

c) **Recreation**

Discussion of 2024 Recreation Projects List: In-committee discussion took place, but no action was taken.

Recreation Area Status Report - Mr. Marcus Long highlighted the prepared report provided in the meeting packet, noting that there had been 140,000 visitors to the District recreation areas during the month of August 2023. Updated maintenance items include, but not limited to:

- Testament is completing necessary dredging
- Terminator, provider of aquatic vegetation spraying, is working in pools 3 and 4
- Ft. Buhlow Recreation Park - There was theft of an ATV. Additional security cameras are being installed.

d) **Ports - None**

e) **Public Awareness & Marketing**

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

- Grand Ecore reservation policy system changes are 75% complete with an anticipated completion date of September 30th
- Colfax RV Park reservation system and website are at 75% completion and anticipate completion October 20th
- Introductory meeting with Katy Vanderlick of the Alexandria/Pineville Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Attended SunGas Beaver Lake Renewable Energy event
- Attended the groundbreaking ceremony at the Caddo-Bossier Port for the 40,000 sq' warehouse

- Crappie Expo – September 22-24 in Birmingham, AL
- Ports Association of Louisiana reception and meeting is November 8th and 9th
- Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana Annual Meeting in New Orleans on December 6th and 7th
- Louisiana Bassmasters Junior Tournament - September 24th at Red River South Marina
- American Bass Trail Tournament - September 25 thru October 1
- Natchitoches Bassmaster Rolling on the Red – September 30th at the Grand Ecore boat launch

- f) **Personnel** - None
- g) **Revenue, Banking & Budget** - None
- h) **Legislative** - None

8. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Participated in congressional visits last week along with representatives from the Red River Valley Association and Transportation Department
- Reminder to Commissioners of upcoming annual training requirements
- In the initial stages of the annual budgeting process

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

- Grand Ecore Additional Amenities project – brick laying of the fire pit area, pool maintenance building formed and plumbed, 2.5 miles of walking trail completed as well as parking lot, trail recreation stations installing this week
- Fish Lake project – Lidar and hydrological surveys completed and moving along with Masterplan
- Twelve Mayou Bayou project – under design
- Lock 2 Seawall Rehabilitation project – nearing completion
- Poland Floating Dock and Comfort Station project – sidewalks poured, final grading and sod installation, rip rap and dock nearing completion

10. **GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT** - None

11. **CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPORT**

- Alexandria Front Dike in contracting phase. Should award by end of November
- Opposite of Alexandria Font Dike on Pineville side – revetment to be extended
- End of August – planning meeting regarding lower approach to Lock 2
- Currently there is no dredging being done by the Corps on Red River

12. **RED RIVER VALLEY ASSOCIATION** - None

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 Clark, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned.


JAMES F. MAXEY
SECRETARY/TREASURER


TROY ROUSSELL
CHAIR DESIGNEE