

MINUTES
OF THE
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING
AUGUST 21, 2024
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 Paul Fleming, Commissioner Jacques Goudeau, Commissioner David Jones, Commissioner Ronald Lattier, Commissioner James F. Maxey.

Absent: Commissioner Charles R. Greer, Commissioner Kenneth Richardson, 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. Brian Cespiva – Staff Engineer, Mr. Greg Upton - Legal Counsel.

3. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Others Present: Mr. Ben Russo, Executive Director of the Central Louisiana Regional Port.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD PURSUANT TO LRS 42:14**

5. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Deville, the revised agenda was unanimously approved. The revised agenda to include a third item under Contracts Committee to read as follows: Consideration of Authorization of Expense of Construction Funds/1North Adventure Trails/Phase 1C/Lake Improvements. Comments from the public were called for, however, none were offered.

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the minutes of the July 17, 2024 meeting were unanimously approved.

7. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Expenditures, Financial Statements, Investment Reports, & Fund Balance Report for the month of July 2024 were unanimously approved.

8. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) **Contracts**

Consideration of Authority to Advertise for Construction Bids/Brouillette Playground and Comfort Station/Project No. 24-01/Contract No. RRW-827: By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the Commission unanimously approved authorizing staff to advertise for construction bids.

Consideration of Authority to Advertise for Construction Bids/Ft. Buhlow Additional Amenities/Project No. 23-01/Contract No. RRW-819: By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Commission unanimously approved authorizing staff to advertise for construction bids.

Consideration of Authorization of Expense of Construction Funds/1North Adventure Trails/Phase 1C/Lake Improvements: By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Commission unanimously approved the authorization of expense, not to exceed \$100,000.00, for the excavation of bleeder ditches to help facilitate the dewatering of the lake bottom.

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

Consideration of Cancellation of Leaseback/Pool 3 Tract 11/20.9 Acres: By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Goudeau, the Commission unanimously approved authorizing staff to cancel the 5-year leaseback agreement with McQuillin Properties, LLC on the aforementioned tract of land.

Consideration of Award of Leaseback/Pool 3 Tract 11/20.9 Acres: By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Jones, the Commission unanimously approved awarding the 5-year leaseback on the aforementioned tract of land to John M. Wardlow for \$1,567.50 for the 5-year term.

c) **Recreation**

Consideration of Approval of Logo/1North Adventure Trails: Discussion only took place in committee. 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 July 2024. Updated maintenance items include, but not limited to:

- Dredge currently working the Socot area and will move to Clarence
- Testament is dredging south of Lock 5 and then will move to the Caddo-Bossier Port
- Spraying for vegetation in Pool 4 by boat and by helicopter in Pool 3 next week
- Suggestion made regarding considering a future plan for tree planting at Grand Ecore RV Park due to loss from storms and age of trees

d) **Ports - None**

e) **Public Awareness & Marketing**

- Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana meeting in New Orleans December 4th and 5th

f) **Personnel – None**

g) Revenue, Banking & Budget

Consideration of Approval of Audit Services Proposal and 2024 Audit Engagement Letters: By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Deville, the Commission unanimously approved the three-year audit services proposal from Payne, Moore & Herrington, LLP and approval of the 2024 Audit and 2024 SAUP Audit engagement letters.

Adoption of 2024 Tax Millage by Resolution: By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Deville, and reflecting a complete vote count, the Commission adopted its 2024 Tax Millage Rates of 1.45 mills for capital outlay and 0.78 mills for operations and maintenance for a total of 2.23 mills. Following is the 2024 Tax Millage Resolution read aloud by Commissioner Crutchfield:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper administrative officials of the Parishes of Avoyelles, Bossier, Caddo, Grant, Natchitoches, Rapides, and Red River, State of Louisiana, be and they are hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to spread said taxes, as hereinabove set forth, upon the assessment roll of said Parish for the year 2024, and to make the collection of the taxes imposed for and on behalf of the taxing authority, according to law, and that the taxes herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject to taxation as herein set forth, and collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law.

The foregoing resolution was read in full, the roll was called on the adoption thereof, and the resolution was adopted by the following votes:

	<u>Yeas</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>Abstained</u>	<u>Absent</u>
	-8-	-0-	-0-	-3-
Commissioner Clark				
Commissioner Crutchfield				
Commissioner Deville				
Commissioner Fleming				
Commissioner Goudeau				
Commissioner Greer				
Commissioner Jones				
Commissioner Lattier				
Commissioner Maxey				
Commissioner Richardson				
Commissioner Simpson				

h) Legislative - None

9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- The Commission will proceed, as discussed, in assisting the Caddo-Bossier Port with dredging needs
- 12' Channel Feasibility charrettes were held last week. The Corps will be performing studies
- The feasibility study for the extension of navigation into Arkansas is ongoing

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

- Alexandria Levee Park project – on-site progress continues
- Brouillette Recreation Area and Comfort Station project is in the design phase
- Ft. Buhlow Additional Amenities is in the design phase
- 1North Adventure Trails Phases A, B and C are in the design phase
- 12 Mile Bayou project – contractor progressing through the clearing stage of the project

11. GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT - None

12. CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPORT - Red River Waterway Commission Executive Director, Colin Brown, provided the following informational update:

- Corps of Engineers received funding for dredging and currently working below Lock and Dam 1 in the gauntlet area
- 12' Channel Study in progress
- Alexandria River Dikes project is underway
- Opposite the Alexandria River Dikes project is in the design phase. Project bidding in 2025

13. RED RIVER VALLEY ASSOCIATION - None

14. OTHER BUSINESS - None

15. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - None

16. EXECUTIVE SESSION

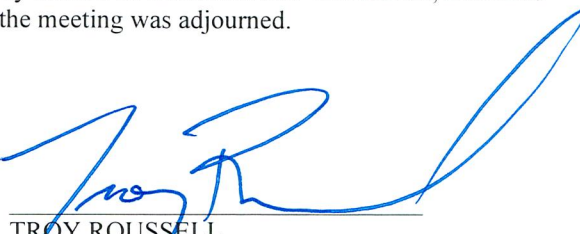
a) Discuss Privileged Matters Pursuant to Louisiana Code of Evidence Article 506:

By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Jones and unanimously approved, the Commission entered into Executive Session. Immediately following Executive Session, by motion of Commissioner Goudeau, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield and unanimously approved, the Commission entered into Regular Session.

17. 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