

**MINUTES
OF THE
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 18, 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 Paul Fleming, Commissioner Jacques Goudeau, Commissioner David Jones, Commissioner Ronald Lattier, Commissioner Kenneth Richardson, Commissioner Michael Simpson.

Absent: Commissioner Michael P. Deville, Commissioner Charles R. Greer, Commissioner James F. Maxey.

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. Dan Hodnett with Testament, LLC.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD PURSUANT TO LRS 42:14

5. 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.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Jones, the minutes of the August 21, 2024 meeting were unanimously approved.

7. 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 2024 were unanimously approved.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) **Contracts** - None

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

Consideration of Award of Public Bid Land Lease/Lock & Dam 2/Tract 14/Segments A & B/20 Acres:

By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Commission unanimously approved award of lease to Mr. Charles Bob Stevens in the amount of \$3,000.00 for the 5-year term.

Consideration of Revised Offer to Sell/U.S. Army Corps of Engineers/1North Adventure Trails

Mitigation Tract/437.57 Acres: By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved the revised "Offer to Sell Real Property" to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in the amount of \$2,845,000.00 for the conveyance of 432.17 acres.

c) **Recreation**

Consideration of Revised Rates/Colfax RV Park: By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Richardson, the Commission unanimously approved terminating the America the Beautiful discount at the Colfax RV Park and revising the daily rate to \$24/night effective as of June 1, 2025.

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 2024. Updated maintenance items include, but not limited to:

- Dredging is finishing up
- Aerial spraying of vegetation in the Colfax area and boat spraying following up in the oxbows
- Grand Ecore RV Park pool is officially closed for the winter

d) **Ports** - None

e) **Public Awareness & Marketing**

- National Waterways Conference this week
- Association of Levee Boards in December

f) **Personnel** - None

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

h) **Legislative** - None

9. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Reported that the Red River Parish Port was awarded the LED Certified Industrial Site designation by Louisiana Economic Development (LED)
- Beginning processes for the 2025 budget are underway. The initial presentation will be at the November Commission meeting
- Announced that Staff Engineer, Brian Cespiva, recently attained his Professional Engineer's license in the state of Louisiana

10. **STATUS OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY/ENGINEERING REPORT** - Prepared reports were provided in the meeting packets.
 - Continued progress in construction at the Alexandria Levee Park
 - 1North Adventure Trails Lake Improvements project – lake is draining well via the bleeder ditch
 - 12 Mile Bayou project – roadway being built up. Recent press release on the project
11. **GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT** - None
12. **CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPORT** - None
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 Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield and unanimously approved, the Commission entered into Executive Session. Immediately following Executive Session, by motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Jones and unanimously approved, the Commission entered into Regular Session.
17. **MOTION TO AMEND AGENDA** - By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Clark and unanimously approved, the Commission amended the agenda to add the following:
 - a) **Consideration of Reporting Requirements under Louisiana Revised Statute 24:523.** By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved directing the Executive Director to report the unauthorized dirt removal from Red River Waterway Commission property per requirements of Louisiana R.S. 24:523 to the District Attorney, Legislative Auditor, and to report to the Louisiana Board of Ethics.
19. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

JAMES F. MAXEY
SECRETARY/TREASURER



TROY ROUSSELL
CHAIR DESIGNEE