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**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
SABINE RIVER AUTHORITY
STATE OF LOUISIANA
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HODGES GARDENS STATE PARK
1000 HODGES LANE
FLORIEN, LA 71429
1:00PM THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27TH, 2016**

12 **MEMBERS PRESENT:** **Mr. Byron Gibbs, Chairman**
13 **Mr. Mike McCormic, Secretary**
14 **Mr. Norman Arbuckle**
15 **Mr. Daniel Cupit**
16 **Mr. Frank Davis**
17 **Mr. Jimmy Foret**
18 **Mr. Ned Goodeaux**
19 **Mr. Jerry Holmes**
20 **Mr. Therman Nash**
21 **Mrs. Estella Scott**
22 **Mr. Stanley Vidrine**
23 **Mr. Bobby Williams**

24
25 **MEMBERS ABSENT:** **Mr. C. A. Burgess**
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28 **OTHERS PRESENT:** **Jim Pratt, Executive Director-SRA, Many, LA**
29 **Warren Founds, III, Deputy Dir-SRA, Many, LA**
30 **Becky Anderson, Adm Asst 5-SRA, Many, LA**
31 **Mike Carr, Fac Maint Mgr 3-SRA, Many, LA**
32 **Carl Chance, IT Dir 1-SRA, Many, LA**
33 **Kellie Ferguson, Adm Prog Dir3-SRA, Many, LA**
34 **There were (16) visitors.**
35

36 Mr. Gibbs called the meeting to order Mr. Nash offered the Prayer and Mr.
37 Gibbs led the Pledge. The roll was called and it was noted that Mr. Burgess was absent;
38 however, a quorum was established.

39 Mr. Gibbs asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. Hearing
40 none, Mr. Gibbs asked for a motion to adopt the agenda as circulated. **Mr. Foret**
41 **moved, seconded by Mrs. Scott to adopt the circulated agenda. Motion carried**
42 **unanimously.**

43 Mr. Gibbs stated that the minutes of the September 22nd 2016 meeting were in the
44 packet and asked if there were any corrections; hearing none, Mr. Gibbs asked for motion
45 to approve the minutes. **Mr. Goodeaux moved, seconded by Mr. Arbuckle to approve**
46 **the minutes of the Board meeting of September 22nd 2016 meeting. Motion carried**
47 **unanimously.**

48 **STAFF REPORTS:**

1 **Item#1-TBPJO**-Mr. Founds stated that Mr. Rumsey's report was included in the
2 packet. **Powerhouse Operation:** He stated that Unit #1 of the powerhouse was operated
3 24 hrs/day through the 24th of September, with the exception of three days during the first
4 week of the month. He stated that operation of the powerhouse resulted in a reservoir
5 level of 168.09' msl on October 1st and in accordance with the Operating Guide, power
6 generation ceased. He stated that from October 1st through the 19th, the reservoir level
7 fluctuated around the 168' msl with no releases of water for power generation. He
8 continued that the lack of inflows below the dam and no releases for generation, resulted
9 in lower river elevations than required to accommodate the Diversion Canals located on
10 the lower Sabine River. He stated that in order to meet the downstream obligations, Joint
11 Operations asked the power companies to start generating three hours/day, every other
12 day, beginning on the 20th of October and continue until river conditions allow a change
13 in operation. **Spillway Gate Rehabilitation:** Mr. Founds stated that the last gates in this
14 refurbishment project, Gate #4 and #11, have been finished and were inspected by Layne
15 Bukhair of Freese and Nichols Engineering on the 26th of October. He stated that the
16 gates did pass inspection with only minor adjustments and arrangements are being made
17 to remove the bulkheads blocking the water to the last two refurbished gates, completing
18 the Spillway Gate Rehabilitation Project. **Unit #2 Repairs:** He stated that the new
19 fabricated parts have been installed to allow re-assembly for establishing the length of the
20 shaft connecting the unit to the speed control wheel, the last mechanical piece of the
21 repair. He stated that the Vibration Monitoring System, the Governor Control System
22 and the Over Speed Modifications have been designed, selected and in the approval
23 process by all the engineers involved. He stated that Entergy has ordered some of these
24 components and expects delivery of all control components by early December; currently
25 conduits are being run to accommodate wiring of these new controls. He stated that
26 sealing of the runner hub has been approved and according to Entergy should start next
27 week. He stated that Team Furmanite, the sealing company, expects the job to be
28 completed in approximately one week. He stated that after the sealing is completed, the
29 scaffolding in the draft tube can be removed, the top-side components can be re-installed
30 and the monitoring and control equipment can be installed.

1 **Item #2-Shoreline:** Mr. Chance stated that activity for the Shoreline department
2 during the month of August 2016: **New Structures: 10 @ \$35; Transfer Structures: 2**
3 **@ \$35; New Water Withdrawals: 0 @ \$100; Transfer Water Withdrawals: 2 @**
4 **\$100 for a total of 14 permits with total receipts \$620.** He stated that staff continues
5 the work with FERC compliance issues. He stated that the environmental consultants
6 from CRA doing studies along the shoreline for FERC license compliance is nearing
7 completion for this year field work. He stated that he site monitoring for sites evaluated
8 in other studies and evaluation of any new sites will be done after internal checks of the
9 field work is complete. He stated that staff is continuing to work and plan to implement
10 the Revised Upstream Passage Plan for Juvenile Eels as required by the license on April
11 1, 2017. He stated that the releasing of water through the spillway gate will begin on
12 Monday October 31st as work on the gates is complete and our temporary variance period
13 will end. He stated that the draft Drought Contingency Plan comment period will end
14 November 5th and those items will be addressed and this Plan submitted to FERC as soon
15 as possible. He stated that the first year encroachment audit report is nearing completion
16 and will be finalized and submit to FERC on time. He stated that the check has been sent
17 to USFS for the Chinese Tallow Treatment for the year in the amount of \$20,677.00. He
18 stated that the Cypress Bend Facebook page continues to get over 1,000 hits per week
19 and the SRA Facebook Page reached over 3,000 hits just this past week.

20 **Item #3-Operational:** Mr. Carr stated that from the **Toledo Bend Division,** the
21 work continues on the new San Miguel Office. He stated that the San Miguel Office
22 project has been completed and staff will be moving in as soon as the blacktop work is
23 complete. He stated that the buoy crews have been on the reservoir maintaining our 180
24 miles of boat lanes and over 10,000 buoys. He stated that all the lights under the Lanana
25 Bridge and three (3) under the Pendleton Bridge have been repaired. He stated that the
26 crew has completed the retaining walls at Cypress Bend Resort on holes #11, 14, and 16.
27 He stated that the entire project was approximately 300 ft. He stated that materials for
28 the new roof to be put on the file building has been received and currently is being
29 installed. He state that the Park maintenance and callouts continue. He stated that our
30 crew along with the inmates are working at Hodges Gardens to prepare the park for the
31 upcoming Christmas season. He stated that this was the fifth year of the five-year

1 agreement. **Sabine Diversion Canal:** He stated that the Servitude for Coach Williams
2 Drive extension has been completed by SRA and accepted by the Calcasieu Parish Police
3 Jury. He stated that the third pump for Stations #3 and #4 has been ordered and delivery
4 time could take up to 300 days. He stated that bid price was \$198,900. He stated that the
5 servitude has been issued to Sasol to set the pipe rack across our canal just north of Pump
6 Station #3 which has been installed as planned. He stated that several different projects
7 were inspected by Bart, Warren, and me including the KCS project and Pump Station 33
8 and 34 Bypass Projects. He stated that no permit has been received from the Corp
9 regarding the dredging of Canal #1. He stated that a portion of the land surrounding
10 Canal #1 is considered wetlands which prevent any spoils from being located there. He
11 stated that staff will keep the Board informed of any action on this Project. He stated that
12 all four of the hot taps were successfully completed by Forterra who is the manufacture
13 of our original piping, two each at Pump Station #3 and , and is installing the new pipe
14 which is approximately 85% complete. He stated that staff has been working with Lake
15 Charles Methanol on their new Pump Station that is to be erected on Canal #6, just up
16 from Pump Station #4 which will be built and funded by their company and no expense
17 to SRA. He stated that total monthly revenue from reservation only \$22,338. He stated
18 that for FY '16 ending June 30th 2016, revenue was \$236,520. He stated that the total
19 gallons reserved is 50,000 GPM. He stated that Warren and I traveled to Sulphur last
20 week to meet with Axiall concerning the capability of our pipeline and the meter loop to
21 provide the extra 8,000 GPM that they have reserved. He stated that our water budget at
22 Pump Station 33 has reached its maximum and SRA can no longer reserve or sell
23 additional water from that Station. He stated that the Axiall meeting went well and staff
24 is waiting on the scope of work for that project to approve. He continued that he would
25 expect Axiall to have the capability of receiving the additional 8,000 GPM by early 2017.

26 **Toledo Bend Project Operations:** He stated that the staff prepared report was included
27 in the packet. He stated that Warren, Bart, Carl and I met with Texas SRA yesterday to
28 discuss several issues. He stated that SRA will be releasing water for downstream
29 continuous flow through Gate #6 beginning on Monday, October 31st. He stated that the
30 Gates used for continuous flow will be adjusted if needed every Monday. He stated that
31 a plan is in place for upstream passage of eels and will be implemented by April 6th 2017.

1 He stated that final inspection was done on Gates #4 and #11 and both passed. He stated
2 that the crew will be pulling the stop logs as soon as a crank is scheduled. He stated that
3 plans are to install the bulkhead in the sluice way while the crane is on location.

4 **Item #4-Financial Report:** Mrs. Ferguson stated that the financials were
5 included in the meeting packet. She stated that for the **Toledo Bend Division** for the
6 month of September revenues were \$735,437.50; expenses were \$526,546.92 leaving a
7 profit of \$208,890.58. She stated that for the **Diversion Canal Division** for the month of
8 September revenues were \$410,587.01; expenses were \$215,900.32 leaving a profit of
9 \$194,686.69. **Mr. Goodeaux moved, seconded by Mr. Davis to approve the Staff**
10 **Reports as circulated and presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

11 **SPECIAL REPORTS:** Mr. Mifflin addressed the Board concerning the
12 Drought Contingency Plan. He stated that the group had composed a letter addressed to
13 the FERC concerning lake level issues discussed within the Plan which will be mailed by
14 November 5th 2016. He stated that the group felt that the 156.0' msl was too low that it
15 should be 160.0' msl. (See attached.)

16 **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Judge Corday from the Town of Logansport addressed
17 the Board concerning the placement of the splash pad at Oak Ridge Park. He stated that
18 the Logansport Town Council was in agreement as well as the DeSoto Police Jury in
19 building the splash pad at the Riverfront Park in Logansport and the town would be
20 responsible for overseeing the project and maintenance of the splash pad for the children
21 to use during the Spring/Summer months. He stated that all parties were very
22 appreciative for the suggestion from SRA to ask the Police Jury for permission to move
23 the location of this project to Logansport and it would definitely be a welcomed activity
24 for the townspeople as well as any visitors to the area. He expressed the pride that
25 Logansport had taken with building up the Riverfront Park and holds many annual
26 festivals and other activities there.

27 **OLD BUSINESS: ITEM #1: Recommendations for Fish Caught at**
28 **Tournaments:** Mr. Goodeaux stated that he had presented each member present with a
29 copy of the recommendations for minimizing stress in bass at tournament weigh-ins. (See
30 attachment.) He stated that all items addressed by the list of recommendations were
31 compiled by the members of the committee especially the biologists from LA Department

1 of Wildlife & Fisheries and Texas Parks & Wildlife. He thanked all members who had
2 attended the meetings for their time efforts on the project. **Mr. Goodeaux moved,**
3 **seconded by Mr. Cupit to approve the recommendations for minimizing stress in**
4 **bass at tournament weigh-ins as provided by the committee and to make them a**
5 **part of the fishing tournament contracts. Motion carried unanimously.**

6 **ITEM #2: Splash Pad Update:** Mr. Pratt stated that he along with Mr. Arbuckle
7 and Mr. Carr had visited with the DeSoto Parish Police Jury and the Town Council of
8 Logansport to discuss re-locating the entire project that was to be built at Oak Ridge
9 Park, to the Riverfront Park where a site has already been selected within the Town of
10 Logansport. He stated that the approximate cost of the splash pad that staff had reviewed
11 was \$50,000. He stated that SRA would transfer any funds that had been allocated for
12 this project to the Town of Logansport. He stated that all parties were in agreement and
13 the SRA staff would like to recommend to the Board to approve re-locating this project to
14 the Town of Logansport. **Mr. McCormic moved, seconded by Mr. Arbuckle to**
15 **approve re-locating the “Splash Pad Project” from Oak Ridge Park to the**
16 **Riverfront Park in the Town of Logansport and the allocated funds will be**
17 **transferred to the Town of Logansport for the project. Motion carried**
18 **unanimously.**

19 **NEW BUSINESS: ITEM #1. Hodges Gardens State Park-:** Mr. Pratt stated
20 that SRA had been approached by the Department of State Parks to take over the
21 operation of Hodges Gardens State Park. He stated that the consensus is that SRA could
22 more successfully manage the park due to the State Budget cuts. Mr. Pratt stated that
23 several discussions had been held with Mr. Robert Braham and Mr. Brandon Burris
24 representing State Parks and the proposal that was reached providing legislation is passed
25 that SRA would receive \$500,000 along with responsibility of operating Hodges Gardens
26 State Park which includes 948 acres. He stated that Mrs. Ferguson met with the “Friends
27 of Hodges Gardens” who have raised funds to refurbish various areas of the gardens to
28 help increase the visitation and the group is very much in favor of the transfer to SRA
29 and are willing to continue their services within the park. Mrs. Chris Nolan, President of
30 “Friends for Hodges Gardens” spoke to the Board saying that the group would be glad to
31 enter into an agreement with SRA in order to keep the park open. Mrs. Ferguson gave a

1 presentation concerning ideas that had been discussed as far as adding 20-25 RV pads, an
2 additional 2 cabins to the existing 13, a wedding venue and other items. She stated that
3 no meeting had been held with the Hodges Foundation in lieu of waiting a response from
4 the Board of Commissioners whether to process with the discussion of SRA taking over
5 the park. A lengthy discussion as to whether the park could “cash flow” under the
6 direction of SRA at which time Mrs. Ferguson referred to her presentation that projected
7 how the \$500,000 could be used for upgrades within the park to increase visitation
8 therefore increasing the revenue. **Mr. Foret moved, seconded by Mr. McCormic to**
9 **approve moving forward with the transfer of Hodges Garden from Office of State**
10 **Parks to SRA; authorize the Executive Director and/or Deputy Director to work**
11 **with Senators Long, Johns and Smith, Representative Armes, and Howard and the**
12 **Office of State Parks to draft a bill to be introduced to the Legislature in the Spring;**
13 **authorize the Executive Director and/or Deputy Director to sign any related**
14 **documents with Hodges Foundation; authorize the Executive Director and/or**
15 **Deputy Director to sign any related documents with the Friends of Hodges Gardens;**
16 **authorize the Executive Director and/or Deputy Director to sign cooperative**
17 **endeavor with the Office of State Parks as it relates to the transfer, operation, etc. of**
18 **Hodges Gardens; and any above agreements will be forwarded to each Board**
19 **Member as they are produced and executed with all items contingent upon the**
20 **Legislative approval and the transfer of \$500,000 in funding to be used for upgrades**
21 **within the Hodges Gardens Park. Motion carried. (Yeas-11, Nays- 1). (See**
22 **attached presentation.)**

23 **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- 24 **1) Diversion Canal:** No meeting.
25 **2) Parks:** No meeting.
26 **3) Leaseback:** No meeting.
27 **4) Finance:** No meeting.
28 **5) Water Sales:** No meeting.
29 **6) Fishery & Lake Management:** No meeting.

