

**MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

3535 S. Sherwood Forest Boulevard, Suite 135, Baton Rouge, LA

January 17, 2017

MEMBERS PRESENT DURING ROLL CALL: Ben Babin, David Hoover, Jerry Thibeau, Lionel Bailey, Burrell Carter, James "Jimmy" Little, Willie George Lee, Terry Louque, Anthony "Tony" Rouchon, Larry Thomas, Don Thompson, Kenneth "Wade" Welborn

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

MEMBER ARRIVED AT 6:06 pm: Tamiara Wade

ALSO PRESENT: ARBC Executive Director Dietmar Rietschier, ARBC Executive Secretary Toni Guitrau, ARBC Legal Counsel Larry Bankston

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Babin.
2. Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance
3. Public Comments on Agenda Items: None
4. Minutes
The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thompson, second by Thomas to approve the December 2016 regular meeting minutes as presented.
5. Financial Statement Report:
 - Hoover presented to the Board the December 2016 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Rouchon, second by Lee to approve the December 2016 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements.
6. Report by Executive Director: Wade entered the meeting at 6:06 p.m. during the Executive Director's Report.
 - Thompson suggested that the Board send a message to the Planning and Zoning Commission and Council Members in the Amite River Basin of the parishes to be more vigilant in developing in high risk flood zones. The Board discussed the need for special permitting for development in high risk flood zone areas following the flood event of August 2016. Apparently, FEMA standards are not adequate. The Board unanimously approved a motion made by Thompson, seconded by Bailey to direct Rietschier and Bankston to draft a letter transmitting to all the parishes all the data collected, if not already provided, to advise them that the Amite River Basin Commission is willing to work with them in the development of adequate standards in a uniform manner.
 - Joint Permit Application - Coastal Use Permit, in regard to the weir at the Amite River Diversion Canal structure. The permit would allow the paperwork to start by DNR and the USACE. The application has to be done by an agency in the district where the weir is located to allow Volker Engineering to proceed with the permit. It doesn't obligate the ARBC for any funds. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Carter, second by Bailey to allow Rietschier to sign the Joint Permit Application.
 - Rietschier announced that following adjournment of the meeting, Bob Jacobsen will make a 30 minute presentation about the flooding in the Amite River Basin that he will make to the Baton Rouge Civil Engineering Society on January 19, 2017. Anyone interested in listening is welcome.
 - Discussed the development of an inundation map based on recently acquired high water marks.
 - DOTD Report: Ms. Douglas discussed the status of the utility relocations at U.S. Hwy. 61.
7. ARBC Legal Counsel:
 - Legislative Auditor Performance Report: The report will be released to the public on January 23, 2017. Bankston believes the report will list the two main reasons or causes for the delay in the CRDC Project as being the passage of the legislation that prohibited using expropriation for the acquisition of mitigation, and the issue of funding as it relates to the USACE. Discussed that ARBC and DOTD both agree not to spend any money to have utilities relocated until we know for certain that the USACE is going to have the money for the construction of bridges.
 - The Governor has requested \$142 million to complete this project. The monies received to date are not for this project but instead HUD money and Community Development Block Grants, etc. Resolution 1130 under New Business on the agenda will address requesting Congress for funding.
8. Old Business: None
9. New Business:
 - The Board unanimously approved a motion by Carter, second by Bailey, to approve Resolution 1130 supporting Congressional funding for the Comite River Diversion Canal Project.
 - The Board unanimously approved a motion by Hoover, second by Rouchon to authorize the purchase of Tracts 39, 41, M3-80, M3-115. Tracts 41/M3-80 are 425 acres for \$2,067,000, Tract 115 is 88 acres for \$455,000, Tract 39 is 362 acres for \$1.7 million. Federal funds are needed to go any further.
10. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Rouchon, second by Hoover to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED:

/s/ Ben Babin
Ben Babin, ARBC President
Date: February 21, 2017

/s/ Toni B. Guitrau
Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary