

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

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

February 24, 2015

MEMBERS PRESENT DURING ROLL CALL: Don Thompson, Ben Babin, John Brass, David Hoover, William “Carey” Jenkins,
Jerry Thibeau, Larry Thomas, Kenneth Wade Welborn

MEMBERS ABSENT: Russell Cornette, Willie George Lee, Terry Louque, Anthony “Tony” Rouchon

NOTE: Vacant Seat (Livingston Parish)

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 Thompson.
2. Public Comments on Agenda Items: Mr. Kim Mayhall spoke on behalf of Crown Minerals in regard to Profit Island (see under Executive Director’s Report).
3. Minutes
 - The Board unanimously approved a motion by Babin, second by Thibeau to approve the January 2015 regular meeting minutes as presented.
4. Financial Statement Report:
 - Babin presented to the Board the January 2015 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thomas, second by Brass to approve the January 2015 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements
5. Report by Executive Director
 - Recognized a member from Senator Cassidy’s office as being present.
 - Mentioned that the acquisition of property is now the responsibility of the LA DOTD and the Floodplain Management Plan is the responsibility of the ARBC along with the acquisition of part of the mitigation property.
 - George Hudson, with GEC, reported to the Board on the status of the study of the Amite River weir.
 - The Board approved a motion by Thomas, second by Babin for GCR to contract to provide additional GIS work related to the Project. There are sufficient funds in the existing contracts to perform most of the necessary services.
 - DOTD – William Delmar, with DOTD, reported on the activities of the CRDC as follows: The Real Estate Section is wrapping up work on the Advanced Acquisition Parcels. They were waiting for mineral opinion on ADV-10. All other work on the Advanced Acquisitions have ceased as the original contract has ended and focus has been turned to acquiring necessary mitigation. In the end, 3-4 owners declined to participate in the early acquisition. Real Estate has almost completed the title research in Mitigation Area Number 3, also known as McHugh Swamp. At the meeting between ARBC, DOTD and USACE, the estimate time to completion was two weeks. The next step will be to review any appraisals and to perform HTRW surveys. The DOTD Utility Relocations Section is working with their contractor in coordinating with the utilities along Hwy. 61. With the current availability of funds, USACE is focusing on US 61, particularly the eastern side of the highway where the highway bypass will be constructed. Utility Relocation is organizing the data into USACE format. Outside of mitigation, USACE informed DOTD that utility relocation is the critical path for the project. The Project Management Team has arranged to have meetings between the partners on every 2nd Monday of the month.
 - Chris Knotts, with DOTD, brought to the Board’s attention an erosion problem in the area immediately north of the Port Hudson Pride Road.
 - Kim Mayhall, attorney for Crown Minerals, spoke on behalf of Crown Minerals in regard to Profit Island concerning his client’s mineral rights. Bankston stated that if Crown Minerals has a proposal to present, he would suggest that it be made to the Board about what is wanted as far as drill sites are concerned, Crown Minerals obligations and what is wanted, as the Board has never been provided with such documents. It is the intention of the Board to proceed with expropriation.
 - Rietschier handed out proposed Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FRMS) which are being discussed at the federal level. This is being proposed to supplant the existing Flood Insurance Program. To further federal action in this direction the President issued Executive Order 13690. The new proposed standards are under review and public comment at this time. Rietschier noted that he had requested Bankston to attend the Levee Board Association Meeting on his behalf because of another meeting commitment he had to attend with the Pontchartrain-Maurepas Surge Consortium.
6. Report by ARBC Legal Counsel

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- Bankston reported he attended the Levee Board Association Meeting. The levee board took action via a resolution to oppose the implementing of Executive Order 13690. This Executive Order would require 2-3 feet above the required elevation rather than 1 foot as is current in Louisiana.
- DOTD Meeting Update: By way of a letter, notified Senator Cassidy and Representative Graves about the request to modify the federal/non-federal funding split from 75/25 to 65/35, the need to amend the PCA to allow work in kind and consideration of eliminating Brooks Lake Closure. This was discussed at the last DOTD meeting.
- A meeting is needed between the following stakeholders: ARBC, PLD, Ascension Parish, Livingston Parish, DNR, and the Corps, to give some direction to George Hudson regarding the Amite River Weir.

7. Old Business: None

8. New Business: None

9. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thomas, second by Hoover to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED:

/s/ Don Thompson

Don Thompson, ARBC President

Date: March 17, 2015

/s/ Toni B. Guitrau

Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary