

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

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

April 19, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT DURING ROLL CALL: Don Thompson, Ben Babin, Anthony “Tony” Rouchon, Jerry Thibeu, John Brass, David Hoover, Willie George Lee, Terry Louque, Larry Thomas, Kenneth Wade Welborn

MEMBERS ABSENT: William “Carey” Jenkins

NOTE: Vacant Seat(s) Livingston Parish, St. Helena Parish

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Thompson.
2. Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance
3. Public Comments on Agenda Items: None
4. Minutes
The Board unanimously approved a motion by Rouchon, second by Hoover to approve the March 2016 regular meeting minutes as presented.
5. Financial Statement Report
Rouchon presented to the Board the March 2016 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Babin, second by Thibeu to approve the March 2016 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements.
6. Report by Executive Director - Discussed the following items:
 - The Comite River Diversion Canal Project is not yet in Capital Outlay HB 2. Discussed the need for HB 2 to be amended to include the project. Rietschier has approached the delegation to place it back in HB 2.
 - Resolution 1125: A new rule with the Federal Register in December 2015 potentially opened the door to use non-federal funds to do construction. Discussed estimated cost shares of the federal and non-federal partners, bridges that need to be built to move the project forward, in-kind service possibilities that could expedite the construction of bridges. The new rule would allow ARBC if needed, to contribute toward construction of the highway and railroad bridge at US Hwy. 61. Rietschier requested Board approval to allow ARBC to contribute toward said construction by way of approving Resolution 1125, as presented. A motion was made by Louque, second by Babin for ARBC to contribute toward construction, per Resolution 1125. A yea and nay vote was called for and was as follows:
Yeas: Don Thompson, Ben Babin, Jerry Thibeu, John Brass, David Hoover, Willie George Lee, Terry Louque, Larry Thomas, Kenneth Wade Welborn
Nays: Anthony “Tony” Rouchon
Absent: William “Carey” Jenkins
Vacant Seat(s) Livingston Parish, St. Helena Parish
 - Discussed maintenance of or demolition of the house(s) that were recently purchased. Thompson requested that Bankston give a legal determination of the options of temporarily leasing or demolishing them.
 - Amite River Weir Update: Jessica Miles, with Volkert, updated the Board on the status of the study performed by Stantec. According to the study the weir will sink 1.5 to 2 feet every 10-15 years. The Geo-tech Report did not help reduce the cost of the project. The estimated cost is \$8 million and this includes repairs to the scour hole on the canal side. They are ready to submit the work permits. The plan has been written and the technical specifications are in good shape. Ascension is willing to pay a portion. She mentioned that PLD wants a meeting with ARBC, Ascension and Livingston Parishes to decide whether to finish the design, as the estimated cost is an issue.
 - DOTD Report: DOTD is wrapping up activities along McHugh Swamp. Once completed, the focus will be turned to land acquisition along Functional Element 1. As a reminder to the Board, there are multiple things that must be included in the US Highway 61 & KCS Railroad Bridge construction. These items include the completion of the Hwy. 61 plans and the relocation of the utilities on both sides of the highway. The cost of these activities must be included in the cost to build both the highway and railroad bridges. The compensable utility companies are waiting for a Utility Relocation Agreement to ensure that they will be reimbursed for their engineering costs. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Hoover, second by Brass to draft a letter to the Secretary of the DOTD asking for a decision regarding this matter.
7. Report by ARBC Legal Counsel: Waiting on DOTD regarding permitting rules for utility relocations. ARBC is meeting its obligations and are waiting on the USACE and DOTD.
8. Old Business:
 - ALBL 2016 Membership Dues Increase: Rietschier spoke to the ALBL and the \$500 ARBC already paid does cover cost of membership.
 - Act of Sale: Tract No. 41 & M3-80- Resolution 1123 – The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thibeu, second by Hoover to defer said discussion/action until the survey is obtained.
9. New Business
 - Tractor Services Contract: Bankston said the Board may extend the contract for up to 1 year. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Rouchon, second by Lee to extend the contract for an additional 2 months.

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- A Public Hearing will be held on May 17, 2016 at 6 p.m. during the Regular Meeting of the ARBC to consider the Proposed Budget of 2016-2017.
 - Act of Sale – Tract 46 – Troyland – Resolution 1124: The Board unanimously approved a motion by Rouchon, second by Babin to approve Resolution 1124, Act of Sale on Tract 46, \$1,513,184.
10. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Lee, second by Hoover to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED:

/s/ Don Thompson
Don Thompson, ARBC President
Date: May 17, 2016

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