

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

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

April 17, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT DURING ROLL CALL: Ben Babin, Jerry Thibeau, David Hoover, Lionel Bailey, Burrell Carter, Willie George Lee, James Little, Matt Milazzo, James Little, Don Thompson

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tamiara Wade, Kenneth "Wade" Welborn

Vacancy: East Feliciana Parish

ALSO PRESENT: ARBC Executive Director Dietmar Rietschier, ARBC Executive Secretary Toni Guitrau, ARBC Legal Counsel Jenna Linn-Rice

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:
4. Minutes

The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thompson, second by Thibeau to approve the March 2018 regular meeting minutes as presented.

5. Financial Statement Report:

- Hoover presented to the Board the March 2018 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Lee, second by Milazzo to approve the March 2018 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements.
- Public Hearing – Proposed Administrative Budget of 2018/19. The floor was open to Public Comments. As there were no public comments the floor was closed to public comments. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thibeau, second by Thompson to adopt the Administrative Budget of 2018/19, as presented.

6. Executive Director Report

- Discussed that the Amite River Basin Commission "ARBC" is the agency responsible for Floodplain Management in the entire Amite River Basin, and that ARBC has always held monthly public meetings. Rietschier reminded the Board that local taxes contribute only 10% of the project cost.
- An audience member suggested creating a "responsibility matrix" plan for the ARBC. Jerry Klier stated that this has already been done, and gave a brief background of the history of how the local tax began. Under Governor Edwin Edwards, the original CEA was between the State and the USACE. Governor Foster required that a local contribution be included as part of the financing plan. This requirement resulted in having ARBC pass a local ad valorem tax in portions of East Baton Rouge Parish, Ascension Parish and Livingston Parish. EBR Parish agreed to maintain the Canal after it is built.
- DOTD Susan Douglas: Regarding the CRDC Project, DOTD is currently waiting on right of way information from the Corps before they can move forward with acquiring the construction servitude associated with the Bypass Road tie-ins at US 61 and the permanent servitude needed for the Barnett Road relocation. Utility relocation designs are ongoing at this time. DOTD is working with the utilities and the Corps to identify and assist in any permitting activities necessary for construction to proceed once design is complete.

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7. ARBC Legal Counsel

- The Board agreed that the ARBC attorney should write a letter to DOTD stating that ARBC will comply with its obligation to transfer \$10,000,000 to DOTD in contributed funds in accordance with the “white paper.” Prior to the letter being mailed to DOTD, it will be reviewed and approved at the next regular meeting of the ARBC.
- OPEB Trust Fund: The ARBC received a letter from the Attorney General on March 8, 2018 approving ARBC’s authority to establish the OPEB Trust Fund.
- SB 513 – by Senator White – a Bill to attempt to prohibit establishment of an ARBC OPEB Trust Fund. Attorney Jenna Linn-Rice said there is no legislation currently that prohibits it.
- SB 539 – Senator Lambert – A Bill to attempt to require ARBC to hold quarterly ARBC meetings in alternate parishes of Ascension, EBR, and Livingston. The Board discussed this would put a hardship on ARBC Commissioners coming from far away parishes of St. Helena, East Feliciana parishes etc. Commission members have acknowledged to Senator Lambert that the commission has no problem with holding quarterly public, informational meetings in these three parishes however it would be a burden to hold these as regular scheduled business meetings.

8. Old Business: None

9. New Business:

- Adopt the millage rate(s) for the tax year 2018: Resolution 1137. As there were no public comments, a motion was made by Hoover, second by Thompson to approve Resolution No. 1137, as presented, to adopt the millage rate of 2.410 for the tax year 2018. The roll was called on the adoption thereof, and the resolution was adopted by the following votes:

YEAS: Ben Babin, Jerry Thibeau, David Hoover, Lionel Bailey, Burrell Carter, Willie George Lee, James Little, Matt Milazzo, Larry Thomas, Don Thompson

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Tamiara Wade, Kenneth “Wade” Welborn

Vacancy: East Feliciana Parish

10. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Hoover, second by Thompson to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED:

/s/ Ben Babin, ARBC President

Date: May 15, 2018

/s/ Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary