

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

Location: 3535 S. Sherwood Forest Blvd., Suite 135, Baton Rouge, LA 70816

September 21, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT DURING ROLL CALL: Edwin Parker, David Hoover, Lionel Bailey, Ben Babin, Jack Harris, James Little, Angela Machen, Richard St. Pierre, Larry Thomas, Don Thompson, Kenneth Welborn

MEMBERS ABSENT: Felicia Lee

Vacant: St. Helena 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 5:00 p.m. by Parker.
2. Roll Call (see above).
3. Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Public Comments on Agenda Items: None
5. 2020-2021 Audit Report: John McKowen, CPA: The audit reflected no violations of state rules or deficiencies in the financial statements. In the opinion of the auditor the ARBC is in compliance with all applicable state and federal laws and the Legislative Auditors Office, as well as internal controls of financial matters within the district. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Hoover, second by Bailey to accept the audit report as presented.
6. Minutes
 - The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thompson, second by Hoover to approve the July 20, 2021 regular meeting minutes.
 - The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thompson second by Bailey to approve the August 3, 2021 special meeting minutes.
7. Financial Statement Report

Bailey presented to the Board the June, July and August 2021 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Hoover, second by Babin to approve the June, July and August 2021 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements.
8. Executive Director Report
 - Comite River Diversion Canal Project Report as follows:
 - a. Comite River Diversion Canal. DOTD Report: Real Estate: 83 parcels acquired and 1 property is in closing. Utility Relocations: Utility relocations are being done in anticipation of the 4 bridges, 3 drop structures, and 2 sections of channels construction. Design has been completed for LA 964, LA 19 and LA 67 bridges.
 - b. E. Irene Rd., Zachary: Progress is being made on converting E. Irene Rd. homes from natural gas to either propane or electricity. This being done as soon as possible is important because of the natural gas line that is soon to be disconnected due to the CRDC project utility relocations.
9. ARBC Legal Counsel
 - Bankston stated for ARBC new commissioners to refer to the Audit report, Management Discussion and Analysis "MD&A", as it provides an overview of what has transpired over the history of the ARBC. The MD&A is updated annually.
 - Bankston said the USACE anticipates completion of the CRDC Project by December of 2022. At that time, the canal right-of way properties that were taken in the name of the ARBC will be transferred to EBR City-Parish for continued ownership and maintenance. ARBC has acquired property in excess of the right-of-way on both sides of the canal particularly in the McHugh Swamp area. EBR City-Parish has expressed their intention in not wanting to take more than the canal right-of-way. Bankston does not know what position on this excess property the USACE

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

Location: 3535 S. Sherwood Forest Blvd., Suite 135, Baton Rouge, LA 70816

and DOTD plan to take in the future. Some of these properties were purchased 50/50 by ARBC and DOTD. He assured the Board this is nothing to be concerned about until it is determined as to whether or not that property has to be surveyed and transferred over the EBR City-Parish. Also, even though the CRDC Project is now supposed to be a fully federal funded project, it may be that at the end of the project, the USACE and DOTD may experience a shortfall in funds and they may request ARBC for funding. These are tax funds for the local contribution/match for the CRDC Project.

- Florida Gas is still an issue for the CRDC Project as the pipeline must cross the canal twice. As of now, this has not been resolved. To tap and move the pipelines will be a considerable expense. Harris asked Bankston if the tax funds can be used for snagging the Comite itself if it is a benefit to the Comite River Diversion Canal. Bankston said that probably above the weir would be beneficial but not much below the weir. Rietschier said that part of the design at that area, the diversion structure, must be armored because of hydrology and changing the direction of the flow.

10. Old Business: See b. under Executive Director's Report above.

11. New Business

- The Board unanimously approved a motion by St. Pierre, second by Hoover to adopt the ARBC Cybersecurity Plan and Financial Security Procedures as per Act 66 of 2021.
- Amite and Comite River Snagging: Rietschier prepared an initial application for funding. The Board discussed the need to hire an engineer to finalize the paperwork. This will be a contract for Professional Services. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Babin, second by Machin to hire an engineering firm to help with the additional paperwork needed to finalize the application. Parker appointed Don Thompson, Larry Thomas, Wade Welborn as a 3-person committee to review RFQs. Rietschier will oversee it. Bankston will provide legal review. Bailey said that everything will be shared with the Board.
- Parker stressed the need for all commissioners to communicate with the entire Board on anything they may do outside of ARBC meetings that regards commission business.

12. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Babin second by Bailey to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED:

/s/ Edwin Parker, ARBC President

Date: 10/26/21

/s/ Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary