

MINUTES  
OF THE  
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING  
MARCH 15, 2023  
10:00 AM  
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION  
5941 HWY 1 BYPASS  
NATCHITOCHEs, LOUISIANA

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Red River Waterway Commission was called to order by Assistant Secretary/Treasurer, Michael Simpson, in the Board Room of the Red River Waterway Commission Office located at 5941 Highway 1 By-Pass in Natchitoches, Louisiana.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Roll was called and a quorum was present. Others in attendance were asked to identify themselves and offer any comments they may have regarding the agenda. However, no comments were offered.

**Present:** Commissioner Versa Clark, Commissioner David L. Crutchfield, II, Commissioner Michael P. Deville, Commissioner Jacques Goudeau, Commissioner Charles R. Greer, Commissioner David Jones, Commissioner Ronald Lattier, Commissioner James F. Maxey, Commissioner Michael Simpson.

**Absent:** Chair Designee, Troy Roussell, Commissioner Paul Fleming, and Commissioner Randell Fletcher

**RRWC Staff Members Present:** Mr. Colin Brown - Executive Director, Mr. Marcus Long - Operations & Maintenance Director, Mr. Luke Pearson - Real Estate Manager, Mr. Kyle Smith - Engineering Supervisor, Mr. Dustin Hayes – Marketing Director, Mr. Brian Cespiva – Staff Engineer, Mr. Greg Upton – Legal Counsel.

3. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD PURSUANT TO LRS 42:14**

**Others Present:** Mr. Rich Brontoli and Ms. Emily Mott with the Red River Valley Association, Mr. Robert Vinet with KSA Engineering, and Ms. Katy Breaux with the US Army Corps of Engineers.

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Jones, the revised agenda was unanimously approved. The revised agenda to include item two under Recreation Committee to read as follows: Consideration of Exclusive Use Permit/Ft. Buhlow/National Guard. Comments from the public were called for, however, none were offered.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

By motion of Commissioner Greer, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the minutes of the February 15, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved.

6. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Expenditures, Financial Statements, Investment Reports, & Fund Balance Report for the month of February 2023 were unanimously approved.

7. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) **Contracts**

**Consideration of Approval of Change Order No. 1/RRWC Project No. 21-08/Contract No. RRW-799/Grand Ecure Additional Amenities:** By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the Commission unanimously approved change order number 1 which provides for an increase in contract cost of \$19,320.00 and an additional 14 days to do the work described in the change order – adding an electrical, 3-strand temporary fence 100' off the centerline of the trail in specific areas.

b) **Land Management, Legal Affairs & Affirmative Action**

**Consideration of Proposals for Fence Construction/Mitigation Property:** By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Jones, the Commission unanimously approved the proposal by Synergen Construction, LLC for \$34,371.00 for 4,800 linear feet of 4-strand barbed wire fencing at the Fish Lake Mitigation property.

**Consideration of Request for Dredge Line Right-of-Way/Pool 5/Parts of Tracts 4, 5, 6 and 11:** By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Commission unanimously approved the request from Elm Grove Aggregates, LLC for a 5-year Dredge Line Right-of-Way agreement across Pool 5, Parts of Tracts 4, 5, 6 & 11 for the amount of \$5,600.00.

**Consideration of Approval of Dredge Fill Material Removal Policy and Procedure:** By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Jones, the Commission unanimously approved the policy and procedure as presented.

c) **Recreation**

**Recreation Area Status Report** - Mr. Marcus Long highlighted the prepared report provided in the meeting packet, noting that there had been 90,000 visitors to the District recreation areas during the month of February 2023. Updated maintenance items include, but not limited to:

- Following launches are closed due to high water: North Caddo; Stoner Avenue; Teague Parkway; Bishop Point; Coushatta; Alexandria Levee; Ft. Buhlow and Ben Routh

**Consideration of Exclusive Use Permit/Ft. Buhlow/National Guard:** By motion of Commissioner Greer, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, and one abstention by Commissioner Deville, the Commission approved the Exclusive Use permit of Ft. Buhlow by the National Guard on April 01, 2023.

d) **Ports - None**

e) **Public Awareness & Marketing**

**Marketing Update** - A prepared report was provided in the meeting packet. In addition, Marketing Director, Dustin Hayes discussed:

- RRWC Facebook page actively being used for promoting upcoming events and tournaments
- Bassmaster Classic event March 24- 26, 2023 in Knoxville, TN
- KingKat Tournament April 15, 2023 in Shreveport, LA
- Mr. Crappie Tournament April 28-29, 2023

f) **Personnel – None**

**g) Revenue, Banking & Budget**

**Announcement of Upcoming 2023 Tax Millage Adoption/April 19, 2023:** An announcement was made that the Commission will adopt the 2023 Tax Millage at the April 19, 2023 Commission meeting

**h) Legislative - None**

**8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- National Waterways Conference and congressional visits completed and successful

**9. STATUS OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY/ENGINEERING REPORT - Prepared reports were provided in the meeting packets.**

- Poland Floating Dock project is under construction. Pavilion and comfort station slab work completed and floating dock in manufacturing stage
- Grand Ecore Additional Amenities project – Temporary fencing is all up. Most of the dirt work should be completed by the week's end and move to the stone work portion of the project
- Ft. Buhlow – Survey work has been completed and Notice-to-Proceed for Phase I of design given
- Twelve Mile Bayou - Surveys are being completed this week. These will be used to help determine placement/location of the launch

**10. GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT - None**

**11. CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPORT – Katy Breaux with the Corps of Engineers-Vicksburg updated the Commission on the following:**

- FY22 budget funding for Alexandria Front Dike. Notice-to-Proceed should occur early Fall
- FY23 Workplan Budgets: The area opposite of the Alexandria Front Dike with that project to be under construction contract by end of the fiscal year and the redesign of the lower approach to Lock 2
- FY 23 President's Budget allotted \$5,000,000.00 in dredging funds and \$2,000,000.00 in supplement funding for dredging
- FY 24 President's Budget allotted \$6,000,000.00 in dredging funds

**12. RED RIVER VALLEY ASSOCIATION - Emily Mott of the RRVA updated the Commission as to the high water of the Red River at trigger/action stage and weight restrictions in place. Rich Brontoli reminded the Commission that he will be continuing on his work with the Arkansas Feasibility Study.**

**13. OTHER BUSINESS**

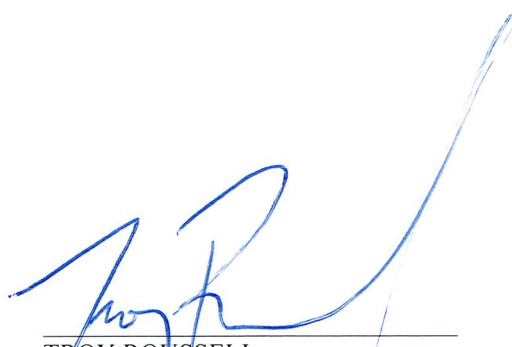
**Consideration of Approval of Resolution of Appreciation/Rich Brontoli:** By motion of Commissioner Greer, seconded by Commissioner Jones, the Commission unanimously approved the Resolution of Appreciation of Mr. Rich Brontoli for his service to the RRVA and the Commission.

**14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - None**

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct at this time, by motion of Commissioner Greer, seconded by Commissioner Deville, and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned.

  
JAMES E. MAXEY  
SECRETARY/TREASURER

  
TROY ROUSSELL  
CHAIR DESIGNEE