

MINUTES
OF THE
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING
MARCH 20, 2024
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 Charles R. Greer, Commissioner David Jones, Commissioner Ronald Lattier, Commissioner Kenneth Richardson, Commissioner Michael Simpson.

Absent: Chair Designee, Troy Roussel, Commissioner Michael P. Deville, Commissioner Paul Fleming, Commissioner Jacques Goudeau, Commissioner James F. Maxey.

RRWC Staff Members Present: Mr. Colin Brown - Executive Director, Mr. Marcus Long - Operations & Maintenance Director, Ms. Stephanie Bonnette - Executive Assistant, Mr. Luke Pearson - Real Estate Manager, Mr. Kyle Smith - Engineering Supervisor, Mr. Brian Cespiva - Staff Engineer, Mr. Greg Upton and Joshua Dara - Legal Counsel.

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

Others Present: Robert Vinet with KSA Engineers, LLC

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the revised agenda was unanimously approved. The revised agenda to include a fourth item under Contracts Committee to read as follows: Consideration of Approval of 12' Channel Feasibility Study Agreements. Comments from the public were called for, however, none were offered.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Richardson, the minutes of the February 21, 2024 meeting were unanimously approved.

6. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the Expenditures, Financial Statements, Investment Reports, & Fund Balance Report for the month of February 2024 were unanimously approved.

7. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) **Contracts**

Consideration of Authority to Increase Available Funds for Construction and Budget/Fort Buhlow Recreation Area Additional Amenities-2023/Project No. 23-01/Contract No. RRW-818: This item was tabled in committee and no further action was taken.

Consideration of Approval of Mowing Contract/Contract No. RRW-795/Parks Mowing Service/Grand Ecure RV Park: By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the Commission unanimously approved the change in contract to include the additional mowing of the Blue Hole and walking trail areas at Grand Ecure at an additional cost of \$1,100.00 for the approximate 26-acres. All rates for other areas remain the same.

Consideration of Approval of General Services and Maintenance Contract/Synergen Construction, LLC: By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the Commission unanimously approved a 3-year Red River Waterway Commission standard General Services & Maintenance Contract with Synergen Construction, LLC for future needs in general services and maintenance.

Consideration of Approval of 12' Channel Feasibility Study Agreements: By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Commission unanimously approved the documents and authorized the Executive Director, Legal Counsel, and Secretary-Treasurer or Assistant Secretary-Treasurer to execute the documents.

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

Consideration of Award of Leaseback Renewal/Hadden Ft. DeRussy/Tract E/5.4 Acres: By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Greer, the Commission unanimously approved the 5-year leaseback renewal agreement with Doyle Lofton for \$486.00 for the 5-year term.

Consideration of Award of Public Bid Land Lease/Wilson Point Realignment/Parts of Tracts 3, 4 & 5/117 Acres: By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Richardson, the Commission unanimously approved awarding the 5-year land lease to John Todd Lowry for \$7,020.00 for the 5-year lease term.

Consideration of Proposal for Drainage Ditch Crossing/Fish Lake Mitigation Property: By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved the proposal from Synergen Construction, LLC in the amount of \$42,152.79 to place/construct a 20'x31' railcar bridge and a corresponding budget amendment of \$50,000.00 to the Land Management budget.

c) **Recreation**

Recreation Area Status Report - Mr. Marcus Long highlighted the prepared report provided in the meeting packet, noting that there had been 66,000 visitors to the District recreation areas during the month of February 2024. Updated maintenance items include, but not limited to:

- Boat ramp cleanup at Teague Parkway and Stoner Avenue launches
- Mowing of all recreation parks has begun

d) **Ports** - None

e) **Public Awareness & Marketing** - None

f) **Personnel** - None

g) **Revenue, Banking & Budget**

Announcement of Upcoming 2024 Tax Millage Adoption/April 17, 2024: An announcement was made that the Commission will adopt the 2024 Tax Millage at the April 17, 2024 Commission meeting.

h) **Legislative - None**

8. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Congressional visits in Washington, D.C. and National Waterways Conference took place March 10-14
- MLF Redcrest Championship in Birmingham, AL took place March 15-17
- 2024 Bassmaster Classic: March 22-24 in Grand Lake, OK
- 2024 KingKat Signature Series Event: April 12-13 in Natchitoches
- F1 Powerboat Championship Series Event: May 24-26 in Bossier City
- Reminder to Commissioners of the annual Tier 2.1 Financial Disclosure requirement due May 15th

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

- Grand Ecore RV Park Additional Amenities Project:
 - Fire pit area - plumbing completed, propane tank installed, approximately two weeks to completion
 - Pool construction – splash pad completed, pool plastering and plumbing, and fencing installation. Anticipated May 1st opening date
 - Walking Trail – completed. Clean up work being down at overlook areas and entrance at parking lot. Cable fencing along roadway completed

10. **GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT** - None

11. **CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPORT**

- Alexandria Riverfront Dike project awarded to Testament Construction
- Completing design process for bank area opposite of the Riverfront Dike

12. **RED RIVER VALLEY ASSOCIATION** - None

13. **OTHER BUSINESS** - None

14. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

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



JAMES P. MAXEY
SECRETARY/TREASURER



TROY ROUSSELL
CHAIR DESIGNEE