

MINUTES
OF THE
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING
APRIL 17, 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 Chair Designee, Troy Roussell, 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: Chair Designee, Troy Roussell, 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: Commissioner Paul Fleming and Commissioner Kenneth Richardson.

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 - Legal Counsel.

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

Others Present: Sara Harville.

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Deville, the revised agenda was unanimously approved. The revised agenda to include a fifth item under the Contracts Committee and to read as follows: Consideration of Approval of 12' Channel Cost Share Agreement. Comments from the public were called for, however, none were offered.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

By motion of Commissioner Goudeau, seconded by Commissioner Greer, the minutes of the March 20, 2024 meeting were unanimously approved.

6. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

7. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) **Contracts**

Consideration of Approval of Addendum No. 1/Grand Ecore RV Park Operator Agreement: This item was tabled in committee and no further action was taken.

Consideration of Approval of Grand Ecore RV Park Pool Maintenance Contract/Clearwater Pools: By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Greer, and with one abstention by Commissioner Goudeau the Commission approved a pool maintenance contract with Clearwater Pools at an estimated annual cost of \$22,160.00.

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: By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the Commission unanimously approved the request to increase the Available Funds for Construction to \$4,500,000.00 and the overall project budget to \$5,000,000.00.

Consideration of Authority to Increase Available Funds for Construction and Budget/Twelve Mile Bayou Boat Ramp/Project No. 23-02/Contract No. RRW-820: By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, and with one dissenting vote by Commissioner Goudeau, the Commission approved the request to increase the Available Funds for Construction to \$3,400,000.00 and the overall project budget to \$3,800,000.00.

Consideration of Approval of 12' Channel Cost Share Agreement: By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the Commission unanimously approved the feasibility cost share agreement and authorized the executive director to execute documents.

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

Consideration of Award of Public Bid Land Lease/Hadden Ft. DeRussy/Tracts A, B, C & D/77.8 Acres: By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved awarding the 5-year lease to Joe Smetak, Jr. for \$4,862.50 for the 5-year lease term.

Consideration of Renewal of Special Use Permit to Hunt Feral Hogs/Lock & Dam 5/Portions of Tracts 2, 3 and 6: By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Commission unanimously approved renewal of the 3-year special use permit to Clark Chandler and Joseph Teal Carpenter to hunt feral hogs on 300 acres of Commission owned land at Lock & Dam 5.

c) **Recreation**

Recreation Area Status Report - Mr. Marcus Long highlighted the prepared report provided in the meeting packet, noting that there had been 100,000 visitors to the District recreation areas during the month of March 2024. Updated maintenance items include, but not limited to:

- Ongoing cleanup of boat ramps
- Herbicide spraying and regular mowing

d) **Ports**

Consideration of Approval of Funding Request/Natchitoches Parish Port/Dock: By motion of Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the Commission unanimously approved the funding request up to \$1,845,279.00 and granting authority to staff to prepare a cooperative endeavor agreement with the Natchitoches Parish Port per the funding request and to also include verbiage of monetary reimbursement to the Commission should the Port receive any monies from the outcome of litigation.

- e) **Public Awareness & Marketing** - None
- f) **Personnel** - None
- g) **Revenue, Banking & Budget**

Adoption of 2024 Tax Millage by Resolution: By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Greer, and reflecting a complete vote count, the Commission adopted its 2024 Tax Millage Rates of 1.52 mills for capital outlay and 0.82 mills for operations and maintenance for a total of 2.34 mills. Following is the 2024 Tax Millage Resolution read aloud by Commissioner Crutchfield:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper administrative officials of the Parishes of Avoyelles, Bossier, Caddo, Grant, Natchitoches, Rapides, and Red River, State of Louisiana, be and they are hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to spread said taxes, as hereinabove set forth, upon the assessment roll of said Parish for the year 2024, and to make the collection of the taxes imposed for and on behalf of the taxing authority, according to law, and that the taxes herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject to taxation as herein set forth, and collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law.

The foregoing resolution was read in full, the roll was called on the adoption thereof, and the resolution was adopted by the following votes:

	<u>Yeas</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>Abstained</u>	<u>Absent</u>
	-9-	-0-	-0-	-2-
Commissioner Clark				
Commissioner Crutchfield				
Commissioner Deville				
Commissioner Fleming				
Commissioner Goudeau				
Commissioner Greer				
Commissioner Jones				
Commissioner Lattier				
Commissioner Maxey				
Commissioner Richardson				
Commissioner Simpson				

h) **Legislative** – Legislature is currently in regular session.

8. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Benteler Steel – Looking at doing a \$23,000,000.00 add-on to their facility
- Central Louisiana Regional Port and Natchitoches Port actively involved in economic develop with their respective facilities
- May 24-26, 2024, F1 Powerboat Nationals
- River has crested or in a slow fall
- Corps of Engineers – working on dredge contract and have as awardable bid at this time
- Reminder to Commissioners of the annual Tier 2.1 Financial Disclosure due May 15th

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

10. **GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT** - None

11. **CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPORT** - None

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

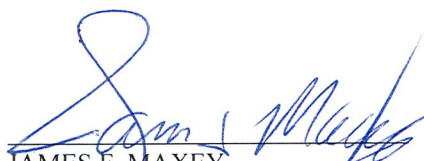
13. **OTHER BUSINESS**

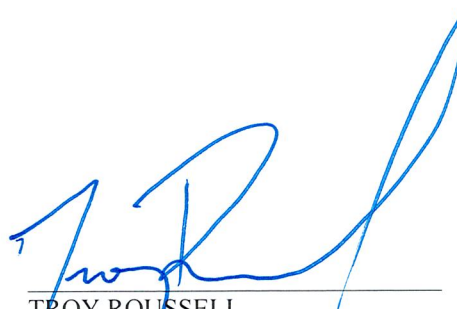
Consideration of Approval of Public Comment Regulations: By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Jones, the Commission unanimously approved the Public Comment regulations as they were presented. Public comment may occur in regards to agenda items only with a maximum three minute comment period.

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

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

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


JAMES F. MAXEY
SECRETARY/TREASURER


TROY ROUSSELL
CHAIR DESIGNEE