

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

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Red River Waterway Commission was called to order by Assistant Secretary/Treasurer, Commissioner 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 James F. Maxey, Commissioner Kenneth Richardson, Commissioner Michael Simpson.

**Absent:** Chair Designee Troy Roussell, Commissioner Paul Fleming and Commissioner Ronald Lattier

**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. Dustin Hayes – Marketing Director, Mr. Brian Cespiva – Staff Engineer, Mr. Greg Upton - Legal Counsel.

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

**Others Present:**

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the agenda was unanimously approved. Comments from the public were called for, however, none were offered.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Goudeau, the minutes of the October 18, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved.

6. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

7. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) **Contracts**

**Consideration of Approval of Change Order No. 5/RRWC Project No. 21-11/Contract No. RRW-806/Poland Floating Dock and Comfort Station:** By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Greer, the Commission unanimously approved change order No. 5 of the Poland Floating Dock and Comfort Station project which reflects an increase in contract cost of \$21,105.00, bringing the construction cost to \$1,463,225.00 and an additional twenty days to do the work – construction of a three tier block wall with French drain, landscaping, and concrete bench and planter.

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

**Consideration of Offer to Sell Land/U.S. Army Corps of Engineers/Fish Lake Mitigation Tract/437.57 Acres:** By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved declaring the 437.57 acre Fish Lake land tract to be surplus property and accepting the offer to sell real property by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the amount of \$2,845,000.00 and authorizing Executive Director to execute said offer agreement.

**Consideration of Approval of Surface Lease/Caddo Levee District/108.80 Acres:** By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission approved the surface lease with the Caddo Levee District for Commission use of 108.80 of Levee District owned land adjoining the Fish Lake Mitigation property. Note: Commissioner Lattier abstained in committee and was not present for the vote in the main meeting.

**Consideration of Request to Advertise for Public Bid Land Lease/Pool 3 Tract 76 and Lock & Dam 3 Phase II Tract 2/59.5 Acres:** By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Commission unanimously approved authorizing staff to advertise pool 3 tract 76 and lock & dam 3, phase II, tract 2, containing 59.5 acres, for public bid lease at the minimum bid of \$15.00 per acre.

c) **Recreation**

**Consideration of Funding Request/Shreveport-Bossier Sports Commission:** By motion of Commissioner Greer, seconded by Commissioner Goudeau, the Commission unanimously approved the \$55,000.00 funding request by the Shreveport-Bossier Sports Commission for 2024 events to be held on Red River. Events include: 2024 F1 Powerboat Championship Series and 2024 Fishers of Men National Tournament Trail Championship.

**Recreation Area Status Report** - Mr. Marcus Long highlighted the prepared report provided in the meeting packet, noting that there had been 120,000 visitors to the District recreation areas during the month of October 2023. Updated maintenance items include, but not limited to:

- North Caddo boat ramp cleanup following a highwater event
- Cleanup of the Grand Ecore Blue Hole area

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:

- Grand Ecore RV Park updated terminal system will be going live in the next couple of weeks
- Colfax updated terminal system transition should be completed in early December
- The last of the Bass stocking is taking place at Bishop Point
- Ports Association of Louisiana meeting took place in Natchitoches on November 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>
- Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana annual meeting will be held in New Orleans December 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>.

f) **Personnel** - None

g) **Revenue, Banking & Budget** – A preliminary review of the 2024 budget was given during the committee meeting. A follow-up meeting was scheduled for November 30, 2023, to begin at 5:30 p.m. at Commission headquarters. No action was taken.

h) **Legislative** - None

8. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Reminder to Commissioners that the annual requirements are due by December 31<sup>st</sup>
- Revenue, Banking & Budget Committee will meet November 30<sup>th</sup> beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Commission Headquarters
- Lock & Dam 1 Update – ongoing gate issues that will keep the river closed an additional 3 – 4 weeks
- Louisiana Legislative Auditor has made changes to the Open Meetings Law in regards to ADA compliance as it relates to meeting participation. The Commission will have to amend policies in order to comply. Suggested policy amendments will be presented at next month's Commission meeting.

9. **STATUS OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY/ENGINEERING REPORT** - Prepared reports were provided in the meeting packets. Additionally, the following information was provided:

- Poland Floating Dock and Comfort Station project – Fire Marshal inspection on November 27<sup>th</sup>. Once receive certification of occupancy, the facility will open to the public
- Grand Ecore Additional Amenities project – The trail is complete with exercise equipment installed and fencing complete. Equipment maintenance building is close to completion. Bollards have been installed. Staff is doing clean-up along the fence line in the Blue Hole area. Swimming pool should begin in the next week and a half
- 12 Mile Bayou Boat Ramp project – Design phase and preliminary layout completed and in permitting phase
- Ft. Buhlow – Playground in design phase. Pan American will provide update to the Commission at the next monthly Commission meeting
- Fish Lake Master Plan – Progressing and on schedule. Update will be provided in January

10. **GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT** - None

11. **CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPORT** – The following information was provided on behalf of the Corps:

- Work continues at Lock & Dam 1
- Dredging at Lock 1
- Bid opening for Alexandria Dike Front

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

13. **OTHER BUSINESS**

a) **Consideration of December 2023 Meeting Date** – In not hearing any objections, the December meeting will remain as scheduled for December 20<sup>th</sup>.

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

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

  
JAMES F. MAXEY  
SECRETARY/TREASURER

  
TROY ROUSSELL  
CHAIR DESIGNEE