

# WASHINGTON PARISH RESERVOIR COMMISSION

## MEETING MINUTES

March 2, 2017

1. **Call to Order.** The commission met in the WEDF Headquarters, Bogalusa. LA.

2. **Roll Call.** A quorum present consisting of all 11 commissioners:

[✓] Bob Bateman	[✓] Mike Garic	[✓] Charles Mizell	[✓] Beryl Schilling
[✓] Jim Beatty	[✓] Bill Jenkins	[✓] John Nichols	[✓] Dr. Jerry Thomas
[✓] Jason Creel	[✓] Mike Melancon	[✓] Cliff Roberts	

3. **Invocation**

4. **The Pledge of Allegiance**

5. **Approve Minutes.** Motion was made and seconded to approve Minutes of the last meeting which was held on June 22, 2016. The motion passed unanimously.

6. **Election of Officers.** Bill Jenkins was nominated as the Commission Chairman, Dr. Jerry Thomas was nominated as Vice Chairman, Bob Bateman was nominated as Treasurer, John Nichols was nominated as Secretary. All four officers were elected unanimously in separate votes.

7. **History.** There was a brief discussion of the history of the project. Dr Jerry Thomas stressed the importance of coming up with a plan that we could go to the people with that they will support as well as our parish officials and legislative delegation.

8. **Discussion of Current Status.** Randy Denmon of Denmon Engineering, also presented history and status. Attorney Keith Turner of Watkins and Eager, presented update of negotiations with the COE Vicksburg. Some discussion ensued concerning the options for down sizing if the permit was approved as submitted. Turner assured that the submitted data and subsequent permit would allow for a smaller lake at the current site.

Concern was expressed by Commission members, what if the permit is approved and some part of the property cannot be purchased at the current site. Randy Denmon agreed to provide drawings of alternative footprints to the Commission help assess the likelihood of that happening.

Bob Bateman proposed a motion to allow Denman Engineering and their attorneys to proceed with permit negotiations with the COE but under the new law not allowing appropriation of property under eminent domain. The proposal passed unanimously.

9. **Old Business.** There was no old business other than the approval of minutes.

10. **New Business.** A resolution was presented to authorize William A Jenkins, Chairman, to sign and execute all contracts, cooperative endeavor agreements, documents, permits and checking accounts necessary to carry out the duties and responsibilities of the Commission. Motion to

approve resolution by Bob Bateman and seconded by Charles Mizell. The motion passed unanimously.

**11. Public Participation.** Phillip Bedwell the only member of the public to speak. He expressed concern that erroneous data was being used to calculate the flow of Bogalusa Creek after the reservoir is built and the flow will be much lower than proposed.

**12. Staff Reports.** None.

**13. Commissioner's Comments.** A positive outlook was expressed.

**14. Adjourned Approximately 7 p.m.**

**John Nichols**

**WPRC Secretary**