

January 13, 2026

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT DURING ROLL CALL: John Clark, Jack Harris, Lionel Bailey, Ryan Byrd, Peter Dufresne, Brin Ferlito, Fred Raiford, Ron Savoy, Roy Schmidt, III

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT: Randy Delatte

VACANCIES: 3

ALSO PRESENT: Larry Marino, Oats & Marino; Brian Lezina, CPRA, Edward Knight, LA DOTD, Randy Clouatre, Sr., PLD; ARBC Chief Advisor Paul Sawyer; ARBC Executive Secretary Toni Guitrau; ARBC Legal Counsel Larry Bankston, Bankston & Associates

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by ARBC President Clark.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

3. Roll Call: See above.

4. Minutes. There were no public comments.

The Board unanimously approved a motion by Bailey, seconded by Raiford to approve November 17, 2025, regular meeting minutes, as presented.

5. Financial Statements. There were no public comments.

The Board unanimously approved a motion by Bailey, seconded by Dufresne, to approve the November and December 2025 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements, as presented.

6. Report by Chief Advisor. There were no public comments.

- Upper Amite Restoration Project. The Environmental Phase 1 and the appraisal are completed. They are closing on remaining title and survey work. Since the ARBC meeting in November, Congress reconvened and passed a number of budget measures of which \$2 million was included for the Upper Amite River Basin activity. Congresswoman Julia Letlow was a partner in the effort to secure this \$2 million for the Upper Amite River restoration, which will reduce flood risk in the Amite River Basin. Sawyer stated this will bring the federal agency's brand recognition, The National Resource Conservation Service, which is a part of the US Department of Agriculture, to the table. This will show the importance of the work and may attract further funding opportunities. Sawyer recognized Ms. Terri White, a staff member for Congresswoman Julia Letlow, as being in attendance.
- Comite River Diversion Canal Project. Monthly Report: 85 out of original 89 required parcels acquired with 4 additional parcels required for Brooks Lake under appraisals. There are currently additional parcels required for clearing and snagging three bayous. 51 of 63 relocations are complete. The remaining utilities are under various stages of relocation. Bridge Status. LA 964- 99.4% complete. LA 67 is 99.9% complete, LA 19 is 15.4% complete. Current and upcoming work: embankment, northbound permanent bridge piles being installed. Sawyer stated there are three bayous that flow into the canal that are the primary sources of flooding for the Cities of Zachary and Baker. They are Baton Rouge Bayou, White Bayou, and Cypress Bayou. When these bayous are able to drain into the canal, it will virtually eliminate most of the flood risk in Zachary and Baker. The Cities of Zachary, Baker, Central and the entire Amite River Basin will benefit upon completion.
- Sawyer stated the ARBC would like to meet with the USACE on a regular basis to discuss working through permitting and design issues etc. of projects in the Amite River Basin and for specific parishes.
- Sawyer recently spoke in regard to the Upper Amite River Basin Projects and the ARBC Master Plan at the meetings of the E. Feliciana Parish Police Jury and to St. Helene Parish Police Jury. The ARBC Master Plan will be presented at Senator Hodges', January 14, 2026, CRDC/Amite River Basin Task Force Meeting. Next week, Sawyer will speak at the Louisiana Engineering Society. Later this month, he will be in Washington connecting with the congressional delegation.

- Sawyer stated this year is the 2016 Great Flood 10th Anniversary. Policy makers and leaders recognize that efforts need to be ramped up to protect people, and resources have to match the tasks.

7. Report by Legal Counsel. There were no public comments.

- Upper Amite Flood Reduction and Restoration Project-Property Acquisition. Bankston stated he is preparing information that is required by the Capital Outlay Division of Administration for their approval in order for ARBC to receive funding to move forward.

8. Old Business. There were no public comments.

- Louisiana Watershed Initiative Region 9. Report by Garvin Pittman. A summary report of projects that are taking place inside Region 9 was provided to board members. Pittman stated there are 29 total projects with 6 under construction, 18 are in design, and 5 are in the application phase. After much discussion, Mr. Savoy, representing Ascension Parish, stated that Phase 1 deliverables have been submitted over a year ago on the Conway Bayou Project. They are waiting for Phase 2 approval from FEMA for construction funds, and they are ready to bid that project. Pittman stated the project status form is provided by OCD, so they may want to contact OCD with the current status on the Conway Bayou Project.

9. New Business. There were no public comments.

- Ratify Contractual Agreements with James Lieux, Jr. and environmental consultant Halff. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Harris, seconded by Bailey to ratify the Contractual Agreements with James Lieux, Jr. and environmental consultant Halff, as presented.
- Resolution 1197. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Bailey, seconded by Raiford to adopt Resolution 1197, as presented. A resolution commending Congresswoman Julia Letlow for working in partnership with the Amite River Basin Commission to secure \$2 million in federal funding for the Upper Amite River Flood Risk Reduction and Restoration Project through the Natural Resources Conservation Service “NRCS”. These federal funds will support restoration of natural river channel and floodplain functions within an unstable reach of the Upper Amite River, particularly in areas impacted by historic industrial operations along the river; and the project will reduce flood risk by increasing flood storage capacity, reducing debris, slowing water velocity, stabilizing riverbanks, and reconnecting the river to its historic floodplain during high-flow events; and predictive modeling demonstrates that restoration efforts could reduce downstream sediment loads by approximately 10,200 tons per year, totaling an estimated 252,000 tons from 2025 to 2050, thereby improving channel stability and reducing flood-related impacts throughout the basin; and restoration strategies include improving channel sinuosity, slope, and width-to-depth ratios; revegetation with native species; stabilization of eroding banks; and the strategic use of abandoned gravel pits as off-line floodwater storage areas within the historic floodplain; and these restoration actions will not only reduce flood risk, but also enhance environmental quality, improve habitat and biodiversity, increase surface water-groundwater interaction, and create opportunities for future recreational use.

10. Public Comments and/or ARBC Board Members discussion on General or Non-Agenda Items.

- Mr. Kelly Hagggar: Mr. Hagggar commented on the effects of Waters of the United States’ new USACE rule.
- The next monthly ARBC meeting will be on February 10, 2026 at 10 am, at the Livingston Parish Council Chambers.

11. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Harris, seconded by Ferlito to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

APPROVED:

/s/John Clark/ARBC President
Date: February 10, 2026

/s/ Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary