

June 10, 2025

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT DURING ROLL CALL: John Clark, Jack Harris, Lionel Bailey, Clint Cointment, Randy Delatte, Brin Ferlito, Mark Harrell, Roderick Matthews, Ed Parker, Fred Raiford, Rick Webre

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT DURING ROLL CALL: None

ALSO ABSENT: Brian Lezina, CPRA

ALSO PRESENT: Larry Marino, Oats & Marino, Randy Clouatre, Sr., PLD, Ed Knight, LADOTD; Garvin Pittman, The Water Institute of the Gulf, ARBC Executive Director 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 Parker, seconded by Harris to approve May 13, 2025, regular meeting minutes, as presented.
- The Board unanimously approved a motion by Webre, seconded by Bailey to approve May 21, 2025, special meeting minutes, as presented.

5. Financial Statements. There were no public comments.

The Board unanimously approved a motion by Bailey, seconded by Delatte, to approve May 31, 2025, General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements, as presented.

6. Administrative Budget 2024-2025 Amendment #3. There were no public comments. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Bailey, seconded by Delatte to approve the Administrative Budget 2024-2025, Amendment #3, as presented.

7. Report by Executive Director Paul Sawyer. There were no public comments.

- Sawyer stated the Louisiana Legislature sent the governor two bills introduced by Rep. Kathy Edmonston, which the ARBC endorsed. H.B. 165 removes the deadline for the Commission to promulgate rules by January 1, 2026, and H.B. 172 extends the Scenic Rivers Act exemption to Bayou Manchac until 2030. Since the last ARBC meeting, Sawyer has testified three times before the House and Senate Committees for these bills. He expressed thanks to Representative Edmonston, Senator Lambert, Representative Bacala and Representative Wiley for their efforts and help.
- Capital Outlay. Upper Amite Flood Reduction and Restoration Project. As mentioned at the last ARBC meeting on May 13, 2025, ARBC currently has a request for Capital Outlay for \$2 million. At the end of this week, the final status of this request should be known. He wanted to thank Senator Hodges and Senator Foil who have been very attentive and helpful with this request.
- Master Plan. Sawyer stated public meetings to present the Master Plan are scheduled in Livingston, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana and East Ascension Parishes. Dates, time and locations are posted on the ARBC website, Facebook and X pages.
- Sawyer stated he is invited to join ARBC Commissioner Ed Knight, LADOTD, to conduct a site visit to 2 dams just north of Dallas, Texas on June 13, 2025. Sawyer stated in looking at Texas' successes, these sites are helpful in our future endeavors to regarding upper Amite retention.
- On June 20, 2025, there will be a survey/tour of the lower Amite River from the diversion to the mouth of Blind River etc., hosted by a former ARBC commissioner. Members of the commission are invited.
- A meeting with LWI is being coordinated to discuss a list of items with ARBC.

- East Baton Rouge Parish “5 Bayous” Flood Project – USACE Project costing approximately \$255 million. Sawyer provided the board with an update to the 5 separate projects that are in various stages of progress. The 2 bayous in the north are Black Water and Beaver Bayous. Eleven miles of upper Ward Creek and seven miles of upper Bayou Fountain remain to be cleared and snagged. Much of the work has been done on the lower 3 water bodies, Bayou Fountain, Wards Creek, and Jones Creek.
- Comite River Diversion Canal Project. The Corps plans to advertise and execute the last six remaining contracts on the CRDC Project by the end of this calendar year. Most of the excavations are underway. There are 3 main sections of the canal that need to be excavated located around Hwy. 19 and Hwy. 61 between the cities of Baker and Zachary.
- Raiford commended Sawyer for doing an excellent job on getting information out to the public. He stated the public is who ARBC works for and it is important that they are informed.

8. Report by Legal Counsel. There were no public comments. Bankston stated that he and Paul Sawyer have been working on an issue as it relates to the purchase of a piece of property, per Resolution 1189. They have contacted the owners and are gathering information from them. A copy of the proposed purchase agreement has been submitted to the DOA for their review, which is not in its final form. ARBC cannot pay an amount in excess of the appraised value. There are very specific rules of regulations that the DOA requires for the purchase of a piece of property as it relates to CERCLA and other environmental issues. The requirement by the state is that CERCLA has to be warranted in the actual Act of Sale. The language in it includes 120 days, for due diligence theories, or investigations. This may give sufficient time to do the required Phase One environmental. This is a step process for determination of title, and determination of whether or not there are any incumbrances on the property. ARBC has retained groups for the determination as it relates to title, and we also have retained Elos to evaluate the Phase One environmental. Along the way, it may be determined that this piece of property is not adequate for ARBC’s needs, or it has problems with it that can't be overcome. Once the Purchase and Sales agreement and Act of Sale has been approved by the DOA, ARBC will turn it over to the sellers. They have an opportunity to make certain suggestions if they have issues with the terms and conditions we set forth. But the overall aspect is the evaluation, the appraisal, etc., are requirements that cannot be waived.

9. Old Business. There were no public comments.

- Election of Officers: The Nominating Committee recommended the current ARBC officers remain in place for another term with Board members expressing that they have done a wonderful job the past 2 years.
 - Delatte made a motion for John Clark to serve as ARBC President. This was seconded by Raiford. Roll call vote was as follows:
Yeas: John Clark, Jack Harris, Lionel Bailey, Clint Cointment, Randy Delatte, Brin Ferlito, Roderick Matthews, Mark Harrell, Ed Parker, Fred Raiford, Rick Webre
Nays: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None
 - Harrell made a motion for Jack Harris to serve as ARBC Vice President. This was seconded by Raiford. Roll call vote was as follows:
Yeas: John Clark, Jack Harris, Lionel Bailey, Clint Cointment, Randy Delatte, Brin Ferlito, Roderick Matthews, Mark Harrell, Ed Parker, Fred Raiford, Rick Webre
Nays: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None
 - Raiford made a motion for Lionel Bailey to serve as ARBC Financial Chairman. This was seconded by Raiford. Roll call vote was as follows:
Yeas: John Clark, Jack Harris, Lionel Bailey, Clint Cointment, Randy Delatte, Brin Ferlito, Roderick Matthews, Mark Harrell, Ed Parker, Fred Raiford, Rick Webre
Nays: None
Absent: None
Abstain: None
- Raiford made a motion for Toni Guitrau, ARBC Executive Secretary, to serve as ARBC Board Secretary. Note: The Executive Secretary “employee” always serves as Board Secretary. This was seconded by Raiford. Roll call vote was as follows:

Yeas: John Clark, Jack Harris, Lionel Bailey, Clint Cointment, Randy Delatte, Brin Ferlito, Roderick Matthews, Mark Harrell, Ed Parker, Fred Raiford, Rick Webre

Nays: None

Absent: None

Abstain: None

- Resolution 1191. A Resolution authorizing John Clark, President, or Paul Sawyer, Executive Director, to execute a Purchase Agreement pursuant to Resolution 1189. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Harrell, seconded by Parker to approve Resolution 1191, as presented.
- Monthly Report/Presentation by Garvin Pittman, The Water Institute of the Gulf. Region 9 Coordinator Update. Pittman stated they submitted the latest Master Plan invoice to CPRA and minor comments are being addressed by Dewberry. He is preparing for the next invoice to go to CPRA. Sawyer and he have been discussing ways that The Water Institute can assist with things that can be easily implemented from the Master Plan that is within the budget of the contract between ARBC and The Water Institute. There were no Louisiana Watershed Initiative Coordinator meetings since the last ARBC meeting. A reimbursement from OCD for the Regional Capacity Building Grant. Between now and a month they will be preparing the next quarterly report and Request for Payment. Cointment said he believes only one parish received their Cooperative Endeavor Agreement from OCD. The Cooperative Endeavor Agreements are needed to put in line what is needed to do and to progress forward on the projects. They need a straight line of communication on expectations so they can work on things in advance. They need help from the state on getting these CEAs because it is stalling projects. Raiford stated the Manchac Project is a large project and without the needed CEA they can't do anything. The Cooperative Endeavor Agreements are needed to ensure they are complying with all the Rules and Regulations. Sawyer stated that he is trying to coordinate a meeting with LWI and the status of the Cooperative Endeavor Agreements will be top priority.
- CRDC Project: Marino stated that DOTD is continuing to work on the project. Right-of-Way acquisitions are underway as well as discussions with Florida Gas. The main relocation by Hwy. 19 is to be completed within weeks, with gas flowing by July 2025. Brooks Lake is the challenge.

10. New Business. There were no public comments.

- Audit 2024-2025 Engagement Letter(s) – Diez, Dupuy & Ruiz. The Board unanimously approved a motion to approve said Engagement Letter, as presented, by Bailey, seconded by Webre. ARBC has an existing 3-year contract with DD&R to perform its audits.

11. Public Comments and/or ARBC Board Members discussion on General or Non-Agenda Items. There were no comments.

12. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Harrell, seconded by Parker, to adjourn the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

APPROVED:

/s/John Clark/ARBC President

Date: July 8, 2025

/s/ Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary