

June 11, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT DURING ROLL CALL: John Clark, Jack Harris, Lionel Bailey, Ryan Byrd, Clint Cointment, Randy Delatte, Brin Ferlito, Gary O’Neal

MEMBERS ABSENT DURING ROLL CALL: Edwin Parker, Fred Raiford, Rick Webre

Governor-Appointed Vacancies - 2

ALSO PRESENT: Brian Lezina, CPRA; Ed Knight, LADOTD; ARBC, Executive Secretary Toni Guitrau, ARBC; Legal Counsel Larry Bankston, Bankston & Associates/ARBC; Lawrence E. Marino, Oats & Marino

ALSO ABSENT: Monica S. Gorman and Blaine Sheets, PLD

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 Delatte, seconded by Bailey to approve the May 14, 2024, regular meeting minutes, as presented.

5. Financial Statements – There were no public comments.

The Board unanimously approved a motion by Bailey, seconded by Harris to approve the May 2024 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements, as presented.

6. Amendment #2, Administrative Budget 2023-2024. There were no public comments. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Bailey, seconded by G. O’Neal to approve Amendment #2, Administrative Budget of 2023-2024, as presented.

7. Report by ARBC President

- Table-top Streamulator Model (Walnut Bayou) was presented by DEQ, John Gros and Amanda Marshall. This model is available to view at www.amitebasin.org under Previous Meetings/Video, June 11, 2024 Meeting.

8. Report by Legal Counsel

- SB 395 by Senator Foil provides for the ARBC boundaries revision as a result of Act 490 of 2022. Bankston stated the Bill passed.
- HB 2. Capital Outlay: All items in the bill that are of interest to ARBC remained in the bill.
- HB 1. The Board discussed the non-recurring \$2.1M cash from the surplus money from previous years. This money is to be used for the Upper Amite Flood Risk Reduction and Restoration Planning and Construction. The Board discussed whether the \$2.1M could be used to purchase the property for the Sand and Gravel Project that ARBC previously agreed to pursue. Bankston stated that selection of a site would have to be engineered so it could be used for the initial engineering and design aspects. Representative Bacala explained more regarding this matter and stated that the State Treasury can also provide information. He reminded the Board that if it is not spent or if there isn’t a contract in place by June 30, 2025, it reverts to surplus, and it is subject to State Treasury approval. The Board thanked Representative Bacala for his help. Several bills not applicable to ARBC were discussed.

9. Old Business

- Monthly Report/Presentation by Dewberry – Status of the Master Plan. This presentation is available on the ARBC website at www.amitebasin.org. Public Comment by Cindy O’Neal. Ms. O’Neal suggested public outreach meetings could be held separately from regular town/council meetings. Commissioner Delatte

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requested that Dewberry contact Livingston Parish to set up a public outreach meeting as suggested by Cindy O'Neal.

- Professional Services Contract/Engineering Coordinator. There were no public comments. Quotes were received from CSRS, Halff, and The Water Institute. The Board discussed the short-term need for a company as a watershed coordinator to assist with internal duties that normally would be performed by an Executive Director. Cointment stated that after reviewing the 3 applicants, he recommends the Louisiana Water Institute, with Garvin Pittman, who was previously a finalist for the Executive Director position. ARBC will establish an RFQ or RFP for another long-term company to come in and perform other tasks that are needed, even if ARBC hires an Executive Director in the future. G. O'Neal stated that the Board followed the law by obtaining the 3 quotes for services. The firm chosen will not be precluded from pursuing the long-term position. A motion was made by Cointment, seconded by Bailey to hire the Louisiana Water Institute. A roll call vote was taken and was as follows: YEAS: John Clark, Jack Harris, Lionel Bailey, Ryan Byrd, Clint Cointment, Gary O'Neal, NAYS: Randy Delatte, ABSTAIN: Brin Ferlito, ABSENT: Edwin Parker, Fred Raiford, Rick Webre
- The Board unanimously approved a motion by G. O'Neal, seconded by Cointment to approve the Professional Services Contract, as presented, with the name and amounts entered by the successful bidder, The Water Institute.
- Amendment #1, IGA with CPRA: The Board unanimously approved a motion by G. O'Neal, seconded by Cointment to approve Amendment #1, IGA with CPRA. This is to acknowledge expended funds during the Fiscal Year.
- LWI Region 9 Coordinator Update/Discussion: Clark stated that as of now ARBC Counsel Larry Bankston and Executive Secretary Toni Guitrau are carrying the load of the LWI work. Clark stated that as he understands it, his time can't be quantified for reimbursement. The Project Committee for Region 9 is looking at the \$100M for large transformative projects including the Bayou Manchac Project. Cointment stated that Ascension Parish Round 2 projects are moving along. G. O'Neal stated the City of Walker is meeting to award Professional Services for administration grant and for design on Taylor Bayou. Clark reminded Region 9 applicants to obligate the funds by August. Public Comment by Cindy O'Neal. Ms. O'Neal asked if ARBC has reached out to other LWI regions to see if they have innovating ideas that Region 9 may want to consider including how they are using their Capacity Building Grant money. Cointment stated that regions meeting with each other would be beneficial.
- Bayou Manchac Project Update: Clark reminded the Board that ARBC needs permission from PLD before ARBC can join in the project scope. Within the areas of the district that are concurrent with the limits of the PLD as set forth in R.S. 38:291(L), the PLD shall have primary jurisdiction. ARBC shall not initiate any project or program within the limits of the PLD without consulting with and receiving approval from the board of commissioners of PLD. Clark stated the ARBC Project Committee made up of the Parish Presidents within the PLD jurisdiction attended the May 16th PLD finance meeting. At that time, they proposed working together with PLD cooperatively to tackle the project by allowing ARBC to take on some of the phases of the project. At the meeting, ARBC was told that PLD is working on getting the money for the project from various state and federal sources. Also, ARBC Commissioner Rick Webre of St. James Parish attended the PLD's regular board meeting. The subject was on the agenda but there were no details or discussion of a plan of action. Clark stated that recently ARBC received 4 reports of the Amite River and Tributaries and Bayou Manchac Project that date back 30 years. He noted that PLD has been involved with the studies since 2001. He stated the Bayou Manchac Project is one of the large transformative projects ARBC listed for Region 9 under the \$100M. Bankston reached out for a formal proposal from PLD's counsel such as a MOU of responsibilities and roles of PLD and ARBC.
- CRDC Project Status. Larry Marino stated for the 1.5 miles of relocation for Florida Gas Pipeline, Florida Gas is in the process of getting new bids so a cost estimate can be turned in. They are expecting a cost estimate on White's Bayou. Real Estate Status: 85 out of the required 89 parcels acquired. Utility Relocations Status: USACE sent new HDD guidelines to DOTD on July 27, 2022, that was immediately passed to utilities. Utilities are trying to be incorporated into designs now causing some redesigns and in return delays. 45 out of 60 relocations were completed. The other 15 are under various stages LA 964 Bridge is 71% complete. LA 67 Bridge 2620% complete. LA 19 Bridge under assembly period, redesign to avoid FGT. Monthly updates can be found on the ARBC website at www.amitebasin.org as provided by the USACE. Regarding flood insurance premiums, G. O'Neal requested updates on the percentage of completion. Bankston said 50% of all elements

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must be reached to reduce flood insurance premiums. Bankston will reach out to DOTD and the Corps to put this on their agendas for a percentage to be provided each month.

10. New Business – There were no public comments.

- Presentation by Intracoastal Consultants on the St. James Westshore Interconnector Levee Project. Delatte asked questions regarding this flood project and his concerns of possible negative impacts the project may have on Livingston Parish.

11. General or Non-Agena Item(s) Public Comments: None

12. The Board unanimously approved a motion by O’Neal, seconded by Bailey, to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 pm.

APPROVED:

/s/John Clark/ARBC President
Date: July 9, 2024

/s/ Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary