

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
Location: **Livingston Parish Council Chambers, 20355 Government Blvd., Livingston, La, 70754**

**July 8, 2025**

VOTING MEMBERS PRESENT DURING ROLL CALL: John Clark, Jack Harris, Lionel Bailey, Ryan Byrd, Randy Delatte, Brin Ferlito, Ed Parker, Fred Raiford, Ron Savoy

VOTING MEMBERS ABSENT DURING ROLL CALL: Mark Harrell, Rick Webre  
ARBC Commissioner Rick Webre entered the meeting at 10:09 a.m. during the Executive Director's Report.

ALSO ABSENT: Brian Lezina, CPRA

ALSO PRESENT: Larry Marino, Oats & Marino, Randy Clouatre, Sr., PLD, Ed Knight, LADOTD; 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 Bailey to approve June 10, 2025, regular meeting minutes, as presented.

**5. Financial Statements.** There were no public comments.

The Board unanimously approved a motion by Delatte, seconded by Parker, to approve June 30, 2025, General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements, as presented.

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

- Sawyer stated the governor signed two bills that were 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. Clark reiterated that this allows local governments to do housekeeping on the channel. It will not comprise its integrity or scenic beauty. It is to remove fallen trees and debris that is preventing the channel from being scenic and functional.
- Capital Outlay. Upper Amite Flood Reduction and Restoration Project. This project is to identify abandoned or degraded sand and gravel pits. These efforts would restore these isolated areas back to their natural condition. Capital Outlay has \$2 million in Priority 2, which may be converted to cash in the October time frame.
- 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.
- They have concluded the Public Meetings in respect to the Master Plan. The meetings were held in Gonzales on June 16<sup>th</sup>, East Baton Rouge on June 17<sup>th</sup>, June 18<sup>th</sup> in Livingston Parish and June 30<sup>th</sup> in East Feliciana Parish. These were mandated public meetings although ARBC is continuing to discuss the Master Plan with the public.
- The lower Amite River trip that was planned for June 20<sup>th</sup> was cancelled due to bad weather. This may be rescheduled for a later date.
- 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.
- Comite River Diversion Canal Project. The LADOTD continues to identify properties in the Brooks Lake area closer to the Mississippi River to provide for the outfall of the Comite River Diversion Canal. There are currently additional parcels required for C&S three bayous. Forty-eight of sixty-two relocations are complete. The remaining utilities are under various stages of relocation. USACE is currently analyzing whether additional relocations are needed for C&S three bayous. LA 964- 99.4% complete. All original contract items and punch

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list are complete. They are finishing up final change orders and north side slope failure repair. LA 67 – 99.6% complete. All original contract items are complete. They are finishing final change orders. LA 19 – 4% complete. Contractor completed clearing and grubbing and shifted all traffic to southbound LA 19. They are working on retaining walls in the median of LA 19 and preparing to drive test piles at the end of June for a northbound vehicular bridge. Most of the excavations are underway. Larry Marino stated that Florida Gas Pipeline had a problem pulling the pipe during pullback and it is stuck. It may take up to 2 months to resolve this problem.

- Public Outreach: ARBC is actively engaged in reaching out to the public through Facebook, the ARBC website, X and other social media platforms. Sawyer will also be emailing out ARBC Newsletters. The public can request to be added to a Newsletter list that will periodically receive it.

7. **Report by Legal Counsel.** There were no public comments. Bankston provided an update on the status of the purchase of a piece of property by ARBC, per Resolution 1189. They have submitted a proposed sales agreement as well as an Act of Sale. They are in discussion with legal counsel and are waiting for confirmation from DOA on which language is acceptable. Until this is resolved no agreement can be reached on this property.

8. **Old Business.** There were no public comments.

9. **New Business.** There were no public comments.

- Presentation “How Do Rivers Work” by Chuck Berger, Senior Engineer, LDEQ. Basic principles of Fluvial Geomorphology, Stream Classification and Natural Channel Design (NCD).
- Bankston read an East Feliciana Police Jury resolution opposing upper Amite retention and detention projects. This matter will be placed on the August 12, 2025, ARBC Regular Meeting agenda for discussion.

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

- Public Comments from audience members opposing upper Amite retention and detention projects were as follows: Billy Andrews, Jeff Devall, Jason Doughty, Chrissie O’Quin, Carmen Overton.

11. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Harris, seconded by Byrd, to adjourn the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

APPROVED:

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/s/John Clark/ARBC President

Date: August 12, 2025

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/s/ Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary