

**July 9, 2024**

MEMBERS PRESENT DURING ROLL CALL: John Clark, Jack Harris, Clint Cointment, Peter Dufresne, Brin Ferlito, Mark Harrell, Cindy O’Neal, Edwin Parker

MEMBERS ABSENT DURING ROLL CALL: Lionel Bailey, Ryan Byrd, Gary O’Neal, Fred Raiford

Governor-Appointed Vacancies - 1

ALSO PRESENT: Brian Lezina, CPRA; Ed Knight, LADOTD; Monica Gorman, PLD; ARBC, Executive Secretary Toni Guitrau, ARBC; Legal Counsel Larry Bankston, Bankston & Associates/ARBC; Lawrence E. Marino, Oats & Marino; Rick Webre, St. James Parish

**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 the June 11, 2024, regular meeting minutes, as presented.

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

The Board unanimously approved a motion by Cointment, seconded by Parker to approve the June 2024 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements, as presented.

**6. Report by ARBC President**

Clark reminded everyone how unique and beneficial it is to the citizens to have the makeup of the Board being 7 parish presidents and professionals.

**7. Report by Legal Counsel**

- Bankston stated that yesterday they received word that ARBC’s contract with The Louisiana Water Institute is acceptable to OCD. The initial contract has a limitation of \$100M. This can be increased to a maximum of \$250,000 which will allow the Board to add to the contract if needed without having to go back for additional approval.
- The RFP for a permanent outside engineering contractor or for a contracted Executive Director is up to the Board to consider.
- CRDC Report as provided by LADOTD: a. Real Estate Status: 85 out of required 89 parcels acquired: 4 additional parcels requested for Brooks Lake under appraisals. Utility Relocations Status: USACE sent new HDD guidelines to DOTD on July 27, 2022, that was immediately passed to utilities. Utilities are trying to incorporate into designs now causing some redesigns and in return delays. 45 out of the 60 relocations complete. The other 15 are under various stages of relocation. Bridge Status: LA 964: Started construction on 9/1/22. 77% complete. Bridge deck is complete, finishing up approach slabs. Barrier wall installations complete. LA 964 asphalt paving is complete. Finishing up geotextile fabric/bedding/riprap on canal. Final traffic shift onto LA 964 mid 3Q24. LA 67: Started construction on 11/17/22. 70% complete. Bridge deck and approach slabs are complete. Bridge barrier walls and Roadway base complete. Working on asphalt paving and canal excavation. Final traffic shift onto LA 67 late 3Q24. LA 19: Construction contract signed on 12-9-22. Under assembly period. Redesign to avoid FGT under review. Larry Marino, CPRA and DOTD attorney, stated that the Florida Gas Pipeline did get the cost estimate of \$25M in and it was approved by the USACE. The next step is for Florida Gas to reapply to FERC for their approval. Bankston stated once the CRDC Canal is functional it will be turned over to EBR Parish for O&M. Bankston stated that discussions with recently hired consultants for the Master Plan as to whether ARBC owned property in access to the right of way may be used for mitigation bank purposes or other uses. EBR Parish has indicated they only want to acquire the

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
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property within the right of way. ARBC President Clark stated he appointed ARBC Commissioner Mark Harrell as a member of the CRDC/Amite River Basin Task Force.

### 8. Old Business

- Resolution 1180: The Board unanimously approved a motion by Harris, seconded by Harrell to approve Resolution 1180 on behalf of Region 9, to submit the following list to the Louisiana Watershed Initiative for funding:

<b>Parish</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Total Project Budget</b>	<b>LWI Budget Request</b>	<b>Subrecipient</b>
Ascension	<b>New River Stormwater Management Pump Station Project</b>	\$57,000,000.00	\$40,000,000	Ascension Parish
Livingston	<b>Amite River Sediment Removal</b>	\$25,000,000	\$20,000,000	Livingston Parish
St. James	<b>Westshore Interconnect Levee - Phase 2</b>	\$54,000,000	\$10,000,000	St. James Parish
EBR, Iberville, Ascension	<b>Bayou Manchac Restoration and Ward Creek Realignment</b>	\$30,000,000	\$30,000,000	East Baton Rouge Parish

Monica Gorman, PLD Executive Director and ARBC Non-voting Board Member: Gorman stated in reference to Resolution 1180, Chairman Clark, Mr. Harris and Mr. Cointment presented to the PLD Board of Commissioners in both agencies sharing Bayou Manchac Restoration Project on May 16, 2024. Gorman stated the number 1 goal is to keep the project moving forward without delay. PLD has been in discussions with ARBC legal counsel concerning an MOU as offered and requested. When this was presented to PLD by said ARBC board members the PLD minutes reflect that was the ARBC desire to utilize \$100 Million dollars that they have from LWI to include the Bayou Manchac Regional project, specifically \$40 million dollars of said funds for their proposed downstream scope-Wards Creek Realignment and Bayou Manchac Channelization from Perkins Road to the Amite River. (Of the \$100 million dollars ARBC has from LWI it is broken down as follows: \$40 million to the Bayou Manchac Regional project, \$30 million to the lower Amite River dredging project, \$10 million to St. James Parish for one of their projects and the remaining funds dedicated to the Ascension Parish New River Pump Station. Details as to what has been submitted to LWI, the engineering efforts and/or any other details of these proposed ARBC projects were not provided and/or referenced or detailed with specific information). Parish President Cointment concluded to remind the Pontchartrain Levee District board that if they were not willing to 'share this project' that the ARBC would take the \$40 million and apply it somewhere else in their jurisdiction. After much discussion it was determined that Pontchartrain Levee District would take this request under advisement, review same with our consultant, coordinate more dialogue between the ARBC and PLD within next 90 days with a reasonable path forward in the best interest of PLD taxpayers and time. No motions were made and members of ARBC left the committee meeting. It is important to maintain what is the best interest of the PLD taxpayers. Gorman stated it is important to remember they are working together. She noted the numbers on the resolution had changed so she will inform her Board as 3 of the 4 projects on the Resolution are within PLD jurisdiction and as per the statute, none of these have been requested for approval by the PLD Board of Commissioners. She recommended setting up another meeting between PLD and ARBC. She requested that CPRA and DOTD be a part of said meeting and that other Board members be aware of the entirety of the discussion. She suggested that they continue to allow the lawyers to get something on paper for both Boards to consider at their August meetings. Harris said they are on the same page in moving forward with the

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project. It was noted that ARBC is the Steering Committee for Region 9 and \$100M was awarded to Region 9. Harris stated that OCD said that applications can be submitted without a pre-application to get these projects listed on Resolution 1180 moving. Gorman stated she was only stating the facts as not referenced and was not speaking against Resolution 1180. Cointment stated the concern is deadlines. He looks forward to the suggested meeting with PLD. Rick Webre, St. James Parish, presented and requested that ARBC enter into the minutes/records and attach to ARBC Resolution 1180 St. James Parish Resolution 24-197, a resolution authorizing the parish president to apply for and execute all necessary documentation for funding from the Louisiana OCD, the ARBC, and LWI Region 9 for the St. James Parish East Bank Interconnect Levee. The Board unanimously approved said request on motion by Cointment, seconded by Harris.

- **Report by the Louisiana Water Institute, Garvin Pittman.**

- ARBC/The Louisiana Water Institute - Fully Executed Professional Services contract effective June 11, 2024.
- Reviewed Act 490, OCD CDBG-MIT CEA 2000811306 \$100,000, OCD CDBG-RCBG CEA 2000811358 \$800,000, CPRA IGA 2000758493, HB 2 of the 2024 Legislature. C O'Neal asked if part of the \$800,000 included training for parishes. Eligibility requirements were discussed briefly.
- Pittman stated he has reviewed minutes of recent ARBC meetings, ARBC resolutions, ARBC Annual Plan, Priority Project Descriptions, LWI Action Plan, and other information. He made contact with LWI OCD Genea Lathers, Micaela Coner and Bonnie Donaldson.
- Pittman set up meeting between OCD Project Committee Representatives, attended LWI monthly Watershed call, met watershed coordinators from other regions, registered ARBC in OCD's IGX System, met with ARBC Project Committee to determine projects and communicated this information.
- Pittman updated the Board on his work with the ARBC Master Plan and Dewberry.
- ARBC President Clark appointed members as the Master Plan Committee as follows: John Clark, Ryan Byrd, Brin Ferlito, Ed Knight, Brian Lezina, and Garvin Pittman.
- Pittman will work with OCD, Parishes and Project Committee to submit Project Applications. He will set up regular meeting between Dewberry and the ARBC Master Plan Committee.

- Report by Dewberry – ARBC Master Plan

Notice to proceed received May 15, 2024. Subcontracts issued and subcontractors underway. Numerous internal sub task kick-off meetings have occurred. A Draft Engagement Plan was submitted June 10, 2024 for review and comment/collaboration with team. Engagement and Outreach Plan: discussed meetings and other communication methods. Next steps are for ARBC to review, comment and approve Engagement and Outreach Plan Draft, work with ARBC to define approval process and outreach POC, define stakeholder lists, plan for first three public engagement meetings. Reviewed with the Board the Masterplan Style Set/Branding, Style Sets, Data Collection, Survey Collection, LWI Model Considerations, Mitigation Banking, Schedule Update.

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

- The Board unanimously approved a motion by Harrell, seconded by Harris to approve the Annual Engagement Letter with auditor Diez, Dupuy, Ruiz, LLC, as presented.
- The Board unanimously approved a motion by Cointment, seconded by Harrell to approve the Annual AUP Engagement Letter with auditor Diez, Dupuy, Ruiz, LLC, as presented.
- The Board unanimously approved a motion by Cointment, seconded by Harrell to approve the Annual Louisiana Audit Compliance Questionnaire, as presented.

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

**11.** The Board unanimously approved a motion by Harrell, seconded by Cointment, to adjourn the meeting at 11:15 pm.

APPROVED:

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/s/John Clark/ARBC President

Date: August 13, 2024

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/s/ Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary