

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

3535 S. Sherwood Forest Boulevard, Suite 135, Baton Rouge, LA

**August 19, 2014**

MEMBERS PRESENT DURING ROLL CALL: Don Thompson, Ben Babin, John Brass, Russell Cornette, David Hoover, William “Carey” Jenkins, Willie George Lee, Terry Louque, Jerry Thibeau, Larry Thomas, Kenneth Wade Welborn

MEMBERS ABSENT: Anthony “Tony” Rouchon

NOTE: Vacant Seat (Livingston Parish)

ALSO PRESENT: ARBC Executive Director Dietmar Rietschier, ARBC Executive Secretary Toni Guitrau, ARBC Legal Counsel: Larry Bankston

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Thompson.
2. Public Comments on Agenda Items: None.
3. Minutes
  - The Board unanimously approved a motion by Babin, second by Thibeau to approve the July 15, 2014 regular meeting minutes as presented.
4. Financial Statement Report:
  - Babin presented to the Board the July 2014 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Brass, second by Hoover to approve the July 2014 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements.
  - On recommendation by the ARBC Finance Committee, Babin presented Amendment #1 of the 2014-15 Administrative Budget to reflect a raise for employees, and to cut other expense line items without effecting bottom line expenses. He noted that ARBC employees have not had a raise or cost of living increase since 2008. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thomas second by Lee to approve Amendment #1 - Administrative 2014-15 Budget, as presented.
5. Report by Executive Director
  - Rietschier is reviewing the invoice from DOTD before submitting payment of ½ of the acquisition cost.
  - Rietschier updated the Board in regard to the status of property acquisitions along the Comite River Diversion Canal right-of-way and land acquisitions for mitigation.
  - RFQ Status – Rietschier presented to the Board, a Master List of Approved Consultants. All 17 of the RFQ applicants are included on the Master List of Consultants to be considered for future tasks (task orders) with ARBC.
6. Report by ARBC Legal Counsel
  - The Board did not enter into Executive Session.
7. Old Business:
  - Borrow and Fill Material: The Board unanimously agreed on motion by Thibeau second by Brass to advertise/public notice a Bid Package for the sale of Borrow and Fill Material with the understanding that a longer term to remove the material over time would be granted.
  - Profit Island: Bankston informed the Board that the owners of Profit Island, through their attorney, approved of proceeding with expropriation. The Board unanimously agreed on motion by Hoover, second by Brass for Bankston to proceed with said petition for the potential amicable expropriation of Profit Island. This matter will be further discussed at the Board meeting on September 16, 2014. Hopefully, a final draft of the expropriation suit will be available for review and approval.
8. New Business
  - Discussion – ARBC & DOTD Cooperative Endeavor Agreement “CEA”

A recent conference call (meeting) in regard to the CRDC Project was for the purpose of presenting to ARBC a proposed amendment of the CEA between ARBC and DOTD. The conference call attendees were as follows: Senator Vitter, Senator White, Secretary LeBas, Knotts, Rietschier, Ben Babin and Bankston. At the meeting, the DOTD presented a draft amendment to the CEA. Basically, the amendments would put the DOTD in charge of the CRDC Project, including acquisition of properties, except for expropriation. Bankston provided a ‘summary comparison’ of significant changes between the original and the proposed CEA. The Board discussed the DOTD DRAFT proposed amendment to the CEA. Bankston believes there is room for improvement with the CEA but Board members of the ARBC are obligated under the ballot proposition to see that the funds are spent for the local share of the CRDC Project. Therefore, the Board should be involved and offer input in regard to how money is being spent for this project. Bankston suggested the Board review the comparison and changes as presented. Thompson said for commissioners to call Rietschier with comments in regard to the amendment then a meeting will be held to discuss it further. This matter will be addressed at the next meeting of the Board on September 16, 2014.

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- Resolution 1113 – The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thomas second by Cornette to approve Resolution 1113, authorizing Dietmar Rietschier, as Executive Director of ARBC, to enter into limited task order agreements, not to exceed ten thousand dollars (\$10,000.00), with approved Consultants in connection with the CRDC Project.
- Resolution 1114 – The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thomas second by Thibeaup to approve the Purchase of ADV-10, a resolution authorizing Don Thompson, President, or Dietmar Rietschier, Executive Director, to execute the Act of Sale for the purchase of the land designated by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development as Advance Acquisition Parcel No. ADV-10, for the sum of TWO HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS AND 00/100 (\$225,000.00) DOLLARS, from Larry McCaleb and Lydia McCaleb, and to sign any and all documents agreement, permits, rights-of entry and any other instruments on behalf of the Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District in furtherance of the purchase of Parcel No. ADV-10, as more fully described in the Act of Sale in connection with the Comite River Diversion Project, East Baton Rouge Parish.
- Mount Pleasant and Hickory Landing Hunting Lease Agreement: The Board unanimously approved a motion by Babin second by Lee to extend the hunting lease agreements with Mount Pleasant and Hickory Landing for an additional 2 years as described in the original lease agreement. Both hunting clubs exercised its two year option concerning the hunting leases.
- Capital One-Bank Signature Card Agreement – The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thibeaup second by Harris to approve the Capital One Bank Signature Card Agreement(s), as presented.

9. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Cornette, second by Thibeaup to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED:

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/s/ Don Thompson  
Don Thompson, ARBC President  
Date: September 16, 2014

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/s/ Toni B. Guitrau  
Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary