

**October 22, 2024**

MEMBERS PRESENT DURING ROLL CALL: John Clark, Lionel Bailey, Jack Harris, Clint Cointment, Cindy O’Neal, Edwin Parker, Rick Webre

MEMBERS ABSENT DURING ROLL CALL: Ryan Byrd, Brin Ferlito, Mark Harrell, Gary O’Neal, Fred Raiford

Governor-Appointed Vacancies - 1

ALSO PRESENT: Randy Clouatre, Sr., PLD, Executive Secretary Toni Guitrau, ARBC

ALSO ABSENT: Ed Knight, LADOTD, Brian Lezina, CPRA, Larry Bankston, ARBC Legal Counsel

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. Public Comments: None

5. Resolution 1182 - The Board unanimously approved a motion by Cointment, seconded by Bailey to adopt said resolution as follows: A resolution requesting consideration for funding to the Louisiana Legislature for Capital Outlay in the 2025 Legislative Session. The *Upper Amite River Flood Risk Reduction and Restoration Project* includes initial “General Funds” for the ARBC to purchase an abandoned sand and gravel mine site located along the unstable reaches of the Upper Amite River to implement pilot projects to demonstrate the best re-use of such a site for flood storage, sediment reduction, restoration, conservation, and public recreational benefits. The additional “Priority 5 Funding Request” will be designated to purchase and/or lease other abandoned sand and gravel mining sites along the unstable reaches of the Upper Amite River to implement on a larger scale what worked at the initial pilot project site. By ultimately stabilizing, repurposing, and restoring a larger scale of these abandoned sand and gravel mining sites located along the Upper Amite River, there will be regional flood risk reduction benefits provided, including helping the other drainage restoration projects located further downstream be more sustainable. WHEREAS, the Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District was established pursuant to La. R.S. 38:3301 and is comprised of that geographical area within the watershed limits of the Amite River and Tributaries Basin; WHEREAS, the management and control of the district shall be vested in a board of commissioners for the Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District. The board shall have the authority to establish adequate drainage, flood control, and water resources development to include but not be limited to construction of reservoirs, diversion canals, gravity and pumped drainage systems, and other flood control works. (La. Stat. Ann. § 38:3302); WHEREAS, the board shall be vested with certain authority over public drainage, flood control and water resources development, reservoirs, and diversion canals in the district and shall have the authority to construct and maintain drainage works of all types either in cooperation with one or more parishes, municipalities, drainage districts, or other special districts within its territorial jurisdiction or upon its own undertaking. (La. Stat. Ann. § 38:3306); WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature provides funding for Projects such as described in this Resolution which will reduce flood risk and benefit ongoing flood reduction projects in the downstream reaches by providing floodwater storage capacity and holding back the excess sediment transported from the upper reaches of the Amite River. The sediment transported downstream significantly impairs flood conveyance and capacity as well as water quality. The ultimate objective is to target the abandoned or inactive sand and gravel mining operations which contribute large quantities of

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING OF THE AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT  
 Location: 3535 S. Sherwood Forest Blvd., Suite 135, Baton Rouge, LA 70826

silt for reclamation and restoration. WHEREAS, the Louisiana Legislature in the 2024 legislative session Capital Outlay HB 2 provided the following funding:

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| Upper Amite River Flood Risk Reduction and Restoration, Planning and Construction. |              |
| Priority 5   | \$65,000,000 |
| Payable from General Funds   | \$2,000,000  |

NOW THEREFORE BE RESOLVED, by the Board of Commissioners of Amite River Basin Drainage and Water Conservation District (the "Governing Authority"), in special session assembled, request that the Upper Amite River Flood Risk Reduction and Restoration Project be included in the 2025 Capital Outlay Program. The requested funding is \$65,000,000 in Priority 5 or such Priority levels as may be deemed appropriate. Further, Board of Commissioners authorize John Clark, President to execute any agreements as be necessary to receive any such funding.

6. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Parker, seconded by Bailey, to add an urgent agenda item "Submit Request to Legislature for ARBC Operating Expenses".
7. Submit Request to Legislature for ARBC Operating Expenses: The Board unanimously approved a motion by Webre, seconded by Bailey to begin the process for said request in the amount of \$5M per year over a 5-year period, total being \$25M.
8. General or Non-Agenda Items(s): There were no public comments. C. O'Neal stated she attended the recent LFMA meeting. She informed the Board that Jefferson Parish received funding to hire a forerunner through a grant to check all of its elevation certificates etc. She suggested this same funding may be something the Board could consider for the whole Amite River Basin and that she could have a proposal prepared before November 1, 2024 deadline if the Board agrees. The Board briefly discussed this matter. Cointment suggested the creation of a calendar of upcoming grants and funding opportunities so there are no deadline issues in the future. He stated the Board may need to task Garvin Pittman to start a database of possible properties for ARBC to acquire per Resolution 1182 so that when the time comes there are property owners to contact. The Board further discussed this matter. Legal advice from Bankston on ARBC expropriation authority will be an item on the November 12, 2024 meeting agenda.
9. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Cointment, seconded by Harris, to adjourn the meeting at 10:46 am.

APPROVED:

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 /s/John Clark/ARBC President  
 Date: November 12, 2024

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 /s/ Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary