

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

November 12, 2024

MEMBERS PRESENT DURING ROLL CALL: John Clark, Lionel Bailey, Clint Cointment, Brin Ferlito, Cindy O’Neal, Ed Parker, Fred Raiford, Rick Webre

MEMBERS ABSENT DURING ROLL CALL: Ryan Byrd, Jack Harris, Mark Harrell, Gary O’Neal

Governor-Appointed Vacancies - 1

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

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 Cointment, seconded by Parker to approve the October 8, 2024, regular meeting minutes, as presented.
- The Board unanimously approved a motion by Webre, seconded by Bailey to approve the October 22, 2024, special 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 September 2024 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements, as presented.

6. Report by ARBC President

- Clark updated the Board on the status of Capital Outlay for the Upper Amite River Flood Risk Reduction and Restoration Project. The Board approved Resolution 1182 at its Special Meeting on October 22, 2024. He explained how abandoned Sand & Gravel pits are unstable, their effect on the river and why this project is important. He expressed gratitude for the Letters of Support from Senator Hodges, Senator Kleinpeter, Representative Dickerson, Representative Chenevert, and Representative Ventrella.
- Status – ARBC/PLD – Clark stated that ARBC is still working with PLD. The parishes, EBR, Iberville and Ascension will do part of the project on the Bayou Manchac Watershed Flood Risk Reduction Project. These parishes agreed to enter into an IGA to do Ward Creek Realignment and to dredge the lower Bayou Manchac. An engineering company has been hired to do the H&H study and to submit the full application to the Watershed Initiative for \$30M. In the future, ARBC would like to get with PLD on what they are doing on this largescale project.

7. Report by Legal Counsel

- Explanation of ARBC Expropriation Authority: Bankston stated the ARBC has expropriation authority primarily governed by state statutes, specifically under LRS 38:3306. The authority allows ARBC to acquire property deemed necessary for flood control and drainage improvement projects, particularly those focused on mitigating flood risks within the Amite River Basin. An example of a reason to expropriate is when a property owner(s) can’t be located for various reasons.
- Bankston informed the Board that DEQ, with the help from EBR Parish, has removed the tires that were illegally dumped on property in the McHugh Road area. Wildlife and Fisheries have placed cameras. There is still a question as to whether it was ARBC property or on ROW property.

8. Old Business

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- Upper Comite River Project: Parker asked to remove the agenda item discussion until after a meeting on November 26, 2024, when he may have more information. This item will be on the December 10, 2024 ARBC meeting agenda.
- Report/Presentation by Garvin Pittman, The Louisiana Water Institute. This presentation is available on the ARBC website at www.amitebasin.org. The presentation includes monitoring of the ARBC Master Plan to keep it on schedule. Listed all meetings attended regarding the Master Plan and LWI Region 9. Discussed reimbursements requested. Discussed creating a calendar, spreadsheet and/or an account with la.gov grants etc.
- Monthly Report/Presentation by Seth Bradley with Dewberry – Status of the ARBC Master Plan. This presentation is available on the ARBC website at www.amitebasin.org. Discussed Ordinances and Codes, CRS, Sinuosity, and the Baseline Conditions – Amite Diversion Canal Weir.
- CRDC Project Status. Bankston provided the monthly update. Larry Marino said FERC approved the permit so mobilization for relocation will start. They are waiting on design to decide as to whether the pipeline will need to be moved at Brooks Lake. Monthly updates can be found on the ARBC website at www.amitebasin.org as provided by the USACE.

9. New Business – There were no public comments.

- Resolution 1183 – State Appropriations for ARBC Operating Fund in the amount of \$5M per year over a 5-year period. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Cointment, seconded by Bailey to approve Resolution 1183, as presented.
- Amendment #1, The Water Institute Contract. Amendment #1 - ARBC and Contractor desires to increase the total cost of the contract for Professional Services to not exceed \$250,000. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Bailey, seconded by Webre to approve Amendment #1 – The Water Institute contract with ARBC.
- The Board discussed income received to date and the amount now due to ARBC for Borrow Fill Material. The CEA is dated September 2018 between ARBC and EBR – Borrow and Fill Material. Once City-Parish takes ownership of the property following the completion of the Comite River Diversion Canal, ARBC will no longer have this funding stream.

10. General or Non-Agenda Item(s) Public Comments. No public Comments. Commissioner C. O’Neal asked the Board if ARBC should be tracking Sand & Gravel operations. This was discussed by the Board including that there will be a list in the Master Plan.

11. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Cointment, seconded by Parker, to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED:

/s/John Clark/ARBC President

Date: December 10, 2024

/s/ Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary