

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

Location: 3535 S. Sherwood Forest Blvd., Suite 135, Baton Rouge, LA 70816

November 16, 2021

MEMBERS PRESENT DURING ROLL CALL: Edwin Parker, David Hoover, Lionel Bailey, Ben Babin, Jack Harris, James Little, Angela Machin, Richard St. Pierre, Don Thompson, Kenneth Welborn

MEMBERS ABSENT: Felicia Lee, Larry Thomas

VACANT SEAT: St. Helena 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 5:00 p.m. by Parker.
2. Roll Call (see above).
3. Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance.
4. Public Comments on Agenda Items: Attorney Lawrence Marino introduced himself as outside counsel with CPRA. He informed the Board that CPRA has been tasked, per HCR 46, with submitting a report of its study and recommendations for any statutory, rule, regulation, or policy changes relative to management of the Amite River Basin to the governor and the Legislature of Louisiana within 60 days prior to the 2022 legislative session.
5. Minutes
The Board unanimously approved a motion by Babin, second by Hoover to approve the October 2021 regular meeting minutes.
6. Bailey presented to the Board the October 2021 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Hoover, second by Thompson to approve the October 2021 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements.
7. Executive Director Report
 - Comite River Diversion Canal Project Report as follows:
 - a. Comite River Diversion Canal. DOTD Report: Real Estate: 83 parcels acquired and 1 in closing status. Utility Relocations are ongoing. LA 964 is 100% designed. Waiting on finalizing FGT negotiations before advertising.
 - b. Regional Inundation Map: Bob Jacobsen will deliver completed data files to web enabler by January 2022.
 - c. Amite/Comite Maintenance/Surveillance Plan (tree removal; clearing; snagging). The RFQ public notice was in the Advocate on October 19, 2021. There will be a RFQ Q/A meeting on Monday, November 23, 2021 at 10 am at the ARBC office. Rietschier said ARBC needs to prepare a maintenance/surveillance plan/program for the Amite and Comite Rivers to identify areas needing remediation, such as bank stabilization, clearing, snagging etc. Parker said the whole purpose of the RFQ is to hire a professional to help prepare an application for tree removal, clearing and snagging of selected reaches of the Comite and Amite Rivers. Harris stressed it is important to determine what is needed, the funding source, and minimum technical information to include in the application.
 - d. East Irene Road, Zachary - natural-gas conversion to propane or electric: Rietschier has been working daily on this project and said it is near completion. Rietschier said there is still a possibility that ARBC may get refunded for the costs.
8. ARBC Legal Counsel: None
9. Old Business: The Board agreed that there will be no ARBC regular meeting in the month of December.

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10. New Business - None

11. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Bailey second by Thompson to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED:

/s/ Edwin Parker, ARBC President

Date: 1/18/22

/s/ Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary