

MINUTES
OF THE
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING
JANUARY 15, 2025
10:00 AM
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION
5941 HWY 1 BYPASS
NATCHITOCHES, LOUISIANA

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Red River Waterway Commission was called to order by Chair Designee, Troy Roussell, in the Board Room of the Red River Waterway Commission Office located at 5941 Highway 1 By-Pass in Natchitoches, Louisiana.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Roll was called and a quorum was present. Others in attendance were asked to identify themselves and offer any comments they may have regarding the agenda. However, no comments were offered.

Present: Chair Designee, Troy Roussell, Commissioner Versa Clark, Commissioner Michael P. Deville, Commissioner Paul Fleming, Commissioner Jacques Goudeau, Commissioner Charles R. Greer, Commissioner Ronald Lattier, Commissioner James F. Maxey, Commissioner Kenneth Richardson.

Absent: Commissioner David L. Crutchfield, II, Commissioner David Jones, and Commissioner Michael Simpson.

RRWC Staff Members Present: Mr. Colin Brown - Executive Director, Mr. Marcus Long - Operations & Maintenance Director, Ms. Stephanie Bonnette - Executive Assistant, Mr. Luke Pearson - Real Estate Manager, Mr. Kyle Smith - Engineering Supervisor, Mr. Brian Cespiva – Staff Engineer.

3. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Others Present: Chris Collins with Louisiana DOTD; Tabitha Taylor – Shreveport City Council Member and Emily Mott – Executive Director of the Red River Valley Association.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD PURSUANT TO LRS 42:14**

5. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the agenda was unanimously approved. Comments from the public were called for, however, none were offered.

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Deville, the minutes of the December 18, 2024, meeting were unanimously approved.

7. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Expenditures and Investment Report for the month of December 2024 were unanimously approved.

8. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) **Contracts**

Consideration of Authority to Award Design Contract/1North Adventure Trails/Phase 1E/Site, Paving and Utility Improvements/Project No. 25-03/Contract No. RRW-852: The item was tabled in committee and no further action was taken.

Consideration of Authority to Award Design Contract/Red River National Wildlife Refuge/Lake Caroline Boat Ramp Comfort Station/Project No. 25-01/Contract No. RRW-848: This item was tabled in committee and no further action was taken.

Consideration of Authority to Award Design Contract/John Franks Wildlife Management Area/Equipment Shed and Bunk House Facilities/Project No. 25-02/Contract No. RRW-850: By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Greer, the Commission unanimously approved award of the contract to Civil Design Group, LLC for design and administration of the referenced project and authorized the Executive Director to execute the agreement.

Consideration of Authority to Advertise for Proposals/Maintenance Dredging: By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Richardson, the Commission unanimously approved authorizing staff to advertise a production-based bid package.

b) **Land Management, Legal Affairs & Affirmative Action**

Consideration of Approval of Lease of 56.66 Acres Adjoining 1North Adventure Trails Mitigation Property: The committee directed staff to proceed as follows: suggested security and monitoring of trespassers; request of management of the aforementioned property by current landowner, and lease-term discussions with current landowner.

c) **Recreation**

Consideration of Approval of Cooperative Endeavor Agreement/City of Natchitoches and Natchitoches Convention and Visitors Bureau/2025 KingKat Tournament: By motion of Commissioner Greer, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved the cooperative endeavor agreement in the amount of \$30,000.00 for the July 11-12, 2025 KingKat Tournament to be held in Natchitoches, Louisiana.

Consideration of Approval of Cooperative Endeavor Agreement/Shreveport-Bossier Sports Commission/2025 Events: By motion of Commissioner Greer, seconded by Commissioner, the Commission unanimously approved the cooperative endeavor agreement in the amount of \$59,250.00 for 2025 events on the Red River (Powerboat Championship and National Fishing Tournament).

Recreation Area Status Report – Mr. Marcus Long highlighted the prepared report provided in the meeting packet, noting that there had been 35,000 visitors to the District recreation areas during the month of December 2024. Updated maintenance items include, but not limited to:

- Ongoing routine maintenance at parks
- Repair of water leak at Ft. Buhlow
- Pig trapping ongoing at 1North Adventure Trails

d) **Ports**

Consideration of Approval of Amendment No. 2 to Cooperative Endeavor Agreement/Avoyelles Parish Port/Liquid Fertilizer Storage Tank: By motion of Commissioner Goudeau, seconded by Commissioner Richardson, the Commission unanimously approved the amended cooperative endeavor agreement as presented.

e) **Public Awareness & Marketing**

Consideration of Approval of 2025 Out-of-State Travel: By motion of Commissioner Goudeau, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the Commission unanimously approved the proposed 2025 out-of-state travel calendar.

Marketing Update – Executive Director, Colin Brown, reminded the Commission of the Red River Valley Association Conference at the end of February.

f) **Personnel** - None

g) **Revenue, Banking & Budget** - None

h) **Legislative** - None

9. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- 2025 Commission Meeting schedule provided
- Corps of Engineers: Alexandria Front Dike and the opposite Alexandria Front Dike were completed prior to December 25th; currently evaluating the lower approach to Lock & Dam 2; 12' Channel Study-local DOTD funding assistance and the Corps is currently doing a vertical team study

10. **STATUS OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY/ENGINEERING REPORT** - Prepared reports were provided in the meeting packets.

- Alexandria Levee Front Park – Ongoing construction. Currently more than halfway complete
- 12 Mile Bayou Boat Ramp – Access road is nearly complete. Ramp portion stalled due to high water from recent rains
- Several phases are underway with the 1North Adventure Trails project
- Bishop Point Seawall Rehabilitation project - January 22, 2025 Notice to Proceed
- Ft. Buhlow
- Brouillette Recreation Area and Comfort Station project -

11. **GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT** - None

12. **CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPORT** - None

13. **RED RIVER VALLEY ASSOCIATION** – Executive Director, Emily Mott, provided a re-cap of 2024 events, goals, and accomplishments to the Commission.

14. **OTHER BUSINESS** - None

15. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC** - None

16. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Goudeau and unanimously approved, the Commission entered into Executive Session to discuss the following matters of litigation:

a) **Discuss Privileged Matters Pursuant to Louisiana Code of Evidence Article 506**

Immediately following Executive Session, by motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Maxey and unanimously approved, the Commission entered into Regular Session.

17. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct at this time, by motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Richardson, and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned.


JAMES F. MAXEY
SECRETARY/TREASURER


TROY ROUSSELL
CHAIR DESIGNEE