

MINUTES
OF THE
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING
MARCH 17, 2021
10:00 AM
GRAND ECORE RV PARK ACTIVITY CENTER
1071 TAUZIN ISLAND ROAD
NATCHITOCHE, LOUISIANA 71457

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Red River Waterway Commission was called to order by Chair Designee, Troy Roussell, in the Activity Center of the Red River Waterway Commission Grand Ecore RV Park located at 1071 Tauzin Island Road 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 David Crutchfield, II, Commissioner Michael Deville, Commissioner Paul Fleming, Commissioner Randell Fletcher, Commissioner David Jones, Commissioner James Maxey, Commissioner Michael Simpson. In accordance with Louisiana R.S.42.17.1 (Act 302) Commissioner Jacques Goudeau and Commissioner Ronald Lattier participated virtually.

Absent: Commissioner Charles Greer

RRWC Staff Members Present: Mr. Colin Brown - Executive Director, Stephanie Bonnette - Executive Assistant, Mr. Ryan Ingles - Engineering Supervisor, Mr. Eric Gilmore - Marketing Director, Mr. Brian Cespiva - Staff Engineer, Mr. Greg Upton - Legal Counsel.

3. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS & PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD PURSUANT TO LRS 42:14

Others Present: Mr. Joey Gauthreaux and Mr. Cody Morgan with U.S. Lawns; Mr. Ben Russo, Executive Director of the Central Louisiana Regional Port; Mr. Brad Fontenot with Avant Organics; and Ms. Juanice Gray, editor for the Natchitoches Times, participating virtually.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Fleming, the agenda was unanimously approved by roll call vote. Comments from the public were called for, however, none were offered.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

By motion of Commissioner Fletcher, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the minutes of the January 20, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved by roll call vote. Note: No meeting was held in February due to inclement weather.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, the Financials and Fund Balance Reports for December 2020 and Expenditures, Financials, Fund Balance Report & Investment Reports for January 2021 and February 2021 were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) **Contracts**

1. **Consideration of Approval of Mowing Proposals:** By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, award of contract to Parks Mowing Service in the amount of \$3,270.00 per mowing cycle.
2. **Consideration of Approval of Contract No. RRW-458/National Safety Council/Name Change:** By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, approval of contract number RRW-458 for name change of the organization from National Safety Council Arklatex Chapter to ArklaTex Safety Council, Inc.
3. **Consideration of Approval of Street Lighting Proposals for Colfax and Montgomery Recreation Areas:** By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, award of contract to East Gate Electrical in the amount of \$5,760.00 for lighting and lighting fixture upgrades to the Colfax and Montgomery recreation areas.

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

1. **Consideration of Request for Land Lease Extension/Powhatan Realignment/Tract 2/281 Acres:** By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Maxey, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, the request for a 5-year lease extension to Mr. Scottie Johnson with a ten percent (10%) increase in the lease premium, for a total lease amount of \$24,728.00 for the new 5-year lease term.
2. **Consideration of Request for Land Lease Extension/St. Maurice Realignment/Tract 4/151.5 Acres:** By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, the request for a 5-year lease extension to Mr. Royce McManus with a ten percent (10%) increase in the lease premium, for a total lease amount of \$13,332.00 for the new 5-year lease term.
3. **Consideration of Request for Renewal of Lease Agreement and Cooperative Endeavor Agreement/Red River Parish Sheriff/Lock & Dam 4/Part of Tract 1:** By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, the 4-year lease agreement and cooperative endeavor agreement with the Red River Parish Sheriff's Department of \$1,200.00 per year with the Sheriff's Department continuing to provide patrols of the Red River Waterway Commission recreation areas in Red River Parish.
4. **Consideration of Request by LDWF for Replacement of Mitigation Property Maintenance Equipment:** By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, the funding request from the Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries for up to \$22,000.00 for replacement of the utility task vehicle (UTV) for the Loggy Baou Wildlife Management Area Mitigation property.

c) **Recreation**

1. **Recreation Area Status Report** – A report was provided in the meeting packet. There were 56,849 visitors to the District recreation areas in January 2021 and 54,202 visitors to the recreation areas in February 2021.

d) **Ports**

1. **Consideration of Funding Request/Central Louisiana Regional Port:** By motion of Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, the request to match funds up to \$387,903.00 in accordance with the local match requirements for the Port Priority Program. The cooperative endeavor agreement will be presented to the Commission at the April 2021 meeting.

e) **Public Awareness & Marketing**

1. **Consideration of Approval of Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Shreveport-Bossier Sports Commission:** By motion of Commissioner Fletcher, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, approval of the cooperative endeavor agreement of \$88,000.00 for Shreveport-Bossier Sports Commission's funding request of 2021 events on the Red River.

2. **Marketing Update**

A prepared report was provided in the meeting packet. In addition, Marketing Director, Mr. Eric Gilmore discussed:

- Commendation of Executive Director, Ben Russo, of the Central Louisiana Regional Port
- Inbound barging of steel coil shipments and outbound barging of steel scrap shipments
- Downturn in volume usage/need of frac sand
- Bass Federation National Championship was March 13th and 14th - Shreveport-Bossier Sports Commission
- October 2021 Mr. Crappie Tournament
- November 2021 King Kat Tournament in Natchitoches
- Inland Rivers & Ports conference scheduled for October 2021 in Biloxi

f) **Personnel - None**

g) **Revenue, Banking & Budget**

1. **Announcement of Upcoming 2021 Tax Millage Adoption/April 21, 2021:** An announcement was made that the Commission will adopt the 2021 Tax Millage at the April 21, 2021 meeting

h) **Legislative -None**

8. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Annual Tier 2.1 Financial requirement of Commissioners is due by May 15, 2021
- 2021 Legislative Session begins April 12, 2021. Confirmation of applicable Commissioners will occur at the end of the session

9. **STATUS OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY/ENGINEERING REPORT**

Prepared reports were provided in the meeting packet. In addition, Engineering Supervisor, Mr. Ryan Ingles discussed the following:

- Teague Trails Extension project – Design and survey are underway. Awaiting all permit approvals. Tentative start date of Summer 2021
- Update from the Alexandria River Front project consultant – Final specs and plans to be completed April 09, 2021 and bid opening date of June 01, 2021
- Colfax porch project completed and final change order will be presented to the Commission at the April 2021 meeting

10. **GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT - None**

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

12. **RED RIVER VALLEY ASSOCIATION**

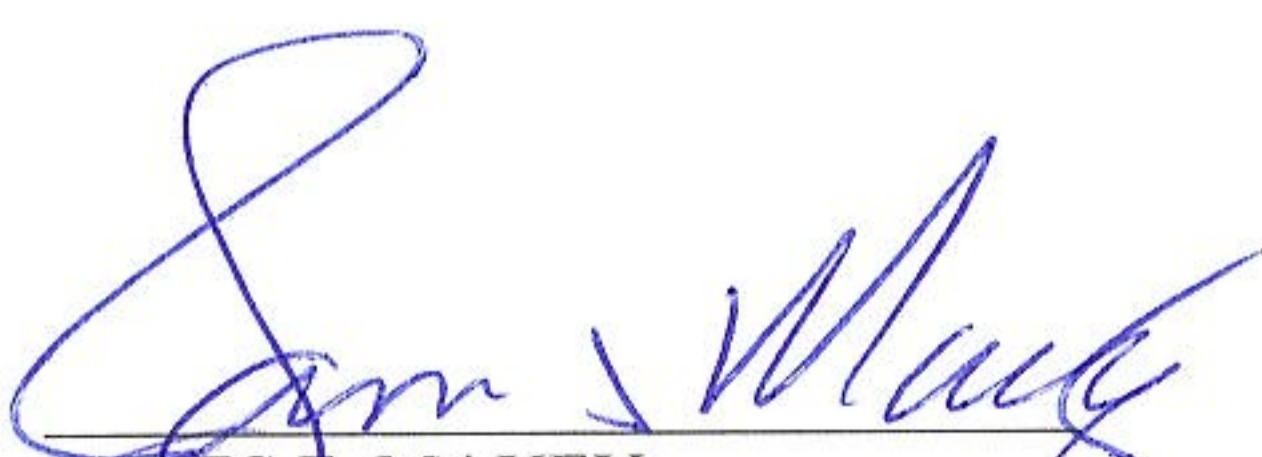
- Surveying of the Red River is to begin. Checking lock approaches and for any siltation issues
- The Corps of Engineers has a 2021 dredging budget of \$3,000,000.00. Currently the Corps has approximately \$2,600,000.00 available for dredging

13. **OTHER BUSINESS**

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

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to conduct at this time, by motion of Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, and unanimously approved by roll call vote, the meeting was adjourned.


JAMES F. MAXEY
SECRETARY/TREASURER


TROY ROUSSELL
CHAIR DESIGNEE