

**MINUTES
OF THE
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING
APRIL 20, 2022
10:00 AM
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION
5941 HWY 1 BYPASS
NATCHITOCHE, 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 David L. Crutchfield, II, Commissioner Michael P. Deville, Commissioner Paul Fleming, Commissioner Randell Fletcher, Commissioner David Jones, Commissioner Ronald Lattier, Commissioner James F. Maxey, Commissioner Michael Simpson.

Absent: Commissioner Jacques Goudeau and Commissioner Charles R. Greer

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. Ryan Ingles - Engineering Supervisor, Mr. Eric Gilmore - Marketing Director, Mr. Brian Cespiva - Staff Engineer, Mr. Greg Upton - Legal Counsel.

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

Others Present: Mr. Richard Brontoli, Executive Director of the Red River Valley Association and Major Charles Harris and SFC Jeff Wheeler of the Army Joint Readiness Training Center - Fort Polk.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

By motion of Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the minutes of the March 16, 2022 meeting were unanimously approved.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Deville, the Expenditures, Financial Statements, Investment Reports, & Fund Balance Report for the month of March 2022 were unanimously approved.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Contracts

b) Land Management, Legal Affairs & Affirmative Action

Consideration of Award of public Bid Lease/Wilson Point Realignment/69.7 Acres: By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved award of a 5-year lease to Bobby Hemphill for \$16,000.00 (\$45.91 per acre) for the 5-year term.

Consideration of Request for Temporary Use License/Department of Army: By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved the Temporary Use License for the Department of the Army for the period of May 1, 2022 thru December 31, 2022 to perform training exercises. The Commission directed the Executive Director to grant use permissions of a Red River Waterway Commission owned property to the Army prior to each instance.

Consideration of Renewal of Leaseback Agreement/Pool 3/Tracts 80 & 81/14 Acres: By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved award of the 5-year leaseback renewal to Darla Dunn for \$1,260.00 (\$18.00 per acre) for the 5-year term.

c) Recreation

Consideration of Funding Request/Bossier Parish Sheriff: By motion of Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, the Commission unanimously approved funding to the Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office (BPSO) in the amount of \$43,000.00 to be used to enhance safety, security, and rapid response capabilities of the BPSO marine units operating on the Red River.

Recreation Area Status Report - Mr. Ryan Ingles highlighted the prepared report provided in the meeting packet, noting that there had been 140,000 visitors to the District recreation areas during the month of March 2022.

d) Ports - None

e) Public Awareness & Marketing

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

- Recapped recently attended events: 2022 Bassmaster Classic Outdoors Expo/2022 Bassmaster Classic in Greenville, SC; Major League Fishing Tournament in Tulsa, OK; Ports Association of Louisiana in New Orleans, LA
- Lots of interest for use of Red River for major fishing events
- Mr. Crappie Invitational this weekend in Natchitoches with approximately 39 teams registered
- Weekly league fishing held out of Red River South Marina
- Commodities conference next week in New Orleans
- Potential for request to the Commission to assist with a high school fishing tournament out of Red River South Marina in July
- Disc golf sport growth and contacting leagues for interest assessment - i.e. Ft. Buhlow Recreation Area disc golf course

f) Personnel - None

g) **Revenue, Banking & Budget**

Adoption of 2022 Tax Millage by Resolution: By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission adopted its 2022 Tax Millage Rates of 1.52 mills for capital outlay and 0.82 mills for operations and maintenance for a total of 2.34 mills. Following is the 2022 Tax Millage Resolution read aloud by Commissioner Crutchfield:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following millage(s) are hereby levied on the 2021 tax roll on all property subject to taxation by the Red River Waterway Commission:

MILLAGE

TAX FOR CAPITAL OUTLAY	1.52 mills
TAX FOR OPERATION & MAINTENANCE	0.82 mills

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper administrative officials of the Parishes of Avoyelles, Bossier, Caddo, Grant, Natchitoches, Rapides, and Red River, State of Louisiana, be and they are hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to spread said taxes, as hereinabove set forth, upon the assessment roll of said Parish for the year 2022, and to make the collection of the taxes imposed for and on behalf of the taxing authority, according to law, and that the taxes herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject to taxation as herein set forth, and collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law.

h) **Legislative - None**

8. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Reminder that the Annual Tier 2.1 Financial Disclosures are due May 15, 2022
- Introduction of new Operations & Maintenance Director Marcus Long
- Letter of appreciation from the Friends of the Red River National Wildlife Refuge to the Commission for its contribution to the Red River Canoe Project
- Ribbon cutting for the Teague Trails Extension to be held May 06, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

9. **STATUS OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY/ENGINEERING REPORT** - Prepared reports were provided in the meeting packets. In addition, Staff Engineer, Brian Cespiva discussed the following:

- Teague Trails Extension Project is in the substantial completion period of 45 days with an anticipated final completion date of May 31st
- Comfort Station projects – roofs are in place at the Natchitoches and Red Oak locations

10. **GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT** - None

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

12. **RED RIVER VALLEY ASSOCIATION** - Richard Brontoli, Executive Director of the RRVA provided the Commission with the following update:

- Pools are up 1' to 2' above norm for the last couple of months, but not finding there to be any navigation issues with this rise
- Corps of Engineers has a dredging contract in place, did surveys of the river two weeks ago and all is in good shape
- President's Budget did include \$5,000,000.00 for dredging in FY '23 which is the annual dredging cost needs of the Corps
- Old River Lock and Lock 1 closures scheduled for August 15, 2022. Old River Lock will be on a 90 day closure with no openings and Lock 1 will run as a 60 day closure within those 90 days. Notices have been given to industries to stockpile goods in advance of the closures
- Following projects presented for requests of Community Project/Earmark funding: Dredging; 12' Channel; Alexandria Dike; Shreveport area bank stabilization
- Arkansas navigation study – all involved entities have agreed to the MOA and moving forward in the process

13. **OTHER BUSINESS** - None

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

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

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


JAMES F. MAXEY
SECRETARY/TREASURER


TROY ROUSSELL
CHAIR DESIGNEE