

MINUTES
OF THE
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING
MAY 17, 2023
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 Paul Fleming, Commissioner Jacques Goudeau, Commissioner Charles R. Greer, Commissioner David Jones, Commissioner Michael Simpson.

Absent: Commissioner David L. Crutchfield, II, Commissioner Michael P. Deville, Commissioner Ronald Lattier and Commissioner James F. Maxey

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. Dustin Hayes - Marketing Director, Mr. Brian Cespiva - Staff Engineer, Mr. Greg Upton - Legal Counsel.

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

Others Present: Ms. Katy Breaux with the US Army Corps of Engineers-Vicksburg District.

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

By motion of Commissioner Simpson, 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 Clark, seconded by Commissioner Jones, the minutes of the April 19, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved.

6. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

By motion of Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Jones, the Expenditures, Financial Statements, Investment Reports, & Fund Balance Report for the month of April 2023 were unanimously approved.

7. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) **Contracts** - None

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

Consideration of Request for Land Lease Extension/Colfax Revetment/Tract 5/34.6 Acres: By motion of Commissioner Goudeau, seconded by Commissioner Greer, the Commission unanimously approved the request for the 5-year lease extension to Donald Brown for a total lease amount of \$6,051.54 for the 5-year lease term.

Consideration of Request for Land Lease Extension/Grand Bend Realignment/246 Acres: By motion of Commissioner Goudeau, seconded by Commissioner Greer, the Commission unanimously approved the request for the 5-year lease extension to Kerry Luneau for a total of \$33,825.00 for the 5-year lease term.

Consideration of Request for Leaseback Renewal/Pool 3/Tracts 69 & 71/21.6 Acres: By motion of Commissioner Goudeau, seconded by Commissioner Greer, the Commission unanimously approved the renewal of a 5-year leaseback agreement with Darla Dunn for \$1,440.00 for the 5-year leaseback term.

Consideration of Request for Leaseback Renewal/Pool 3/Tract 72/2.8 Acres: By motion of Commissioner Goudeau, seconded by Commissioner Greer, the Commission unanimously approved the renewal of a 5-year leaseback agreement with Robert Charles Brossette, Jr. for \$280.00 for the 5-year term.

Consideration of Request for Leaseback Renewal/Pool 3/Tract 73/4.7 Acres: By motion of Commissioner Goudeau, seconded by Commissioner Greer, the Commission unanimously approved a 5-year leaseback renewal agreement with Mr. Frank Beaudoin for \$470.00 for the 5-year leaseback term.

Consideration of Request for Leaseback Renewal/Pool 3/Tract 74/14.5 Acres: By motion of Commissioner Goudeau, seconded by Commissioner Greer, the Commission unanimously approved a 5-year leaseback renewal agreement with Mr. Derrit D. "Danny" Matt for \$1,450.00 for the 5-year leaseback term.

Consideration of Authority to Declare Building as Surplus Property and Advertise for Removal/Lock & Dam 3/Tract 1: By motion of Commissioner Goudeau, seconded by Commissioner Greer, the Commission unanimously approved declaring the building at Lock & Dam 3 to be surplus property and authorized staff to advertise for bids or proposals for removal of the building.

Consideration of Proposal for Repairs to Lease Property Building/Lock & Dam 3/Tract 1: By motion of Commissioner Goudeau, seconded by Commissioner Jones, the Commission unanimously approved the proposal in the amount of \$16,300.00 from East Gate Electric & A/C, LLC and a corresponding budget amendment of \$20,000.00 to cover the \$16,300.00 repair cost and the costs for additional security measures at the property.

c) **Recreation**

Discussion of Fish Lake Master Plan: By motion of Commissioner Greer, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved authorizing staff to move forward with development of a master plan (the cost of which not to exceed \$50,000.00) to be presented at the June Commission meeting.

Recreation Area Status Report – Mr. Marcus Long highlighted the prepared report provided in the meeting packet, noting that there had been 133,000 visitors to the District recreation areas during the month of April 2023. Updated maintenance items include, but not limited to:

- Ongoing cleanup at Teague Parkway and Stoner Avenue boat ramps due to a highwater event
- The northern ramp at Stoner Avenue and southerly ramp at Teague Parkway remain closed
- Alexandria dock removal project is completed
- Ongoing with routine maintenance

d) **Ports** - None

e) **Public Awareness & Marketing** – The committee met and nominated Commissioner Jacques Goudeau as the new committee chairman.

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

- King Kat Tournament and kid's fishing rodeo were well attended and very well received. A slide presentation of the events was provided to the Commissioners
- BassMaster College tournament consisted of 135 teams representing 19 states. The two-day winning total was 29lbs 9oz
- BassMaster High School tournament consisted of 125 teams representing 7 states and the one-day winning total was 14lbs 12 oz
- BassMaster Junior High tournaments one-day winning total was 7lbs 9oz

f) **Personnel** - None

g) **Revenue, Banking & Budget**

Consideration of Authority to Declare Asset as Surplus/1995 Dump Truck: By motion of Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved declaring the dump truck as surplus and authorized staff to properly dispose of.

Presentation of 2022 Audit Reports: The auditing firm of Payne, Moore, and Herrington, LLP completed the 2022 audit and Statewide Agreed Upon Procedures report of the Red River Waterway Commission noting no findings with either.

h) **Legislative** - None

8. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- The Corps of Engineers has mobilized a dredge to begin work this week or next week at Lock and Dam 2 and will work its way upriver
- The Corps of Engineers has a good bit of dredging funding for fiscal year 2023. With this funding, the Corps is in discussion of refunding the Commission approximately \$1,000,000.00 back of the contributory funds provided them for dredging purposes

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

- Poland floating dock, pavilion, and comfort station project – Comfort station building is 80% complete with waterline 70% complete. The dock construction is the next project item.
- Lock & Dam 2 seawall failure – Merrick Construction has viewed the site and prepared repair options: A. Steel sheet-pile wall to be backfilled and toed in with stone down the entire length. Project cost of \$180,000 and is the recommended option B. Remove failed section of wall, reshape the bank and finished out with riprap. Project cost \$100,000.00
- Grand Ecore Additional Amenities Project – Progressing with culvert placement. Progression is slow due to numerous rain delays. Project will move to construction of the fire pit area in a couple of weeks

10. **GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT** - None

11. **CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPORT** – Katy Breaux with the Vicksburg District Corps of Engineers updated the Commission as to the following:

- Dredge is mobilizing to Lock & Dam 2 this morning and will begin tomorrow.
- Have a team reviewing for a redesign for the area at Lock & Dam 2 due to difficulties with re-silting
- Alexandria Dikes project – Advertising next month. Begin design phase in August or September for the Pineville side


12. **RED RIVER VALLEY ASSOCIATION** - None

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 Greer, seconded by Commissioner Clark, and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned.



JAMES F. MAXEY
SECRETARY/TREASURER



TROY ROUSSELL
CHAIR DESIGNEE