

MINUTES
OF THE
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING
MAY 18, 2022
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 Vice Chair, Commissioner Paul Fleming, in the Board Room of the Red River Waterway Commission Office located at 5941 Highway 1 Bypass 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: Commissioner Versa Clark, Commissioner David L. Crutchfield, II, Commissioner Michael P. Deville, Commissioner Paul Fleming, Commissioner Randell Fletcher, Commissioner Jacques Goudeau, Commissioner Charles R. Greer, Commissioner David Jones, Commissioner Ronald Lattier, Commissioner James F. Maxey.

Absent: Chair Designee Troy Roussel 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. 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: Katy Breau with the Vicksburg Corps of Engineers, Ms. Lee Turner with Congressman Mike Johnson's office in Leesville, Louisiana and Mr. Ben Russo, Executive Director of the Central Louisiana Regional Port.

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

By motion of Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the revised agenda was unanimously approved. The revised agenda to include item two under Public Awareness & Marketing Committee and to read as follows: Consideration of Approval of Exclusive Use Agreement/Teague Parkway Recreation Area South Parking. Comments from the public were called for, however, none were offered.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

By motion of Commissioner Fletcher, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield the minutes of the April 20, 2022 meeting were unanimously approved.

6. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

7. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) **Contracts**

Consideration of Authority to Advertise for Construction Bids and Request to Increase the Available Funds for Construction and Budget/RRWC Project No. 21-08/Contract No. RRW-799/Grand Ecore Additional Amenities: By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved authorizing staff to advertise for construction bids for the Grand Ecore RV Park Additional Amenities Project and to increase the available funds for construction and budget by \$300,000.00.

Consideration of Approval of Cooperative Endeavor Agreement/Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office: By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Jones, the Commission unanimously approved the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office for enhancing safety, security, and rapid response capabilities of marine units operating on the Red River along with a corresponding budget amendment of \$43,000.00.

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

Consideration of Renewal of Leaseback Agreement/Carroll Realignment/Tract 4/Segments B & C/336 Acres: By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved award of the 5-year leaseback renewal to Elmwood Land Company, LLC for \$16,800.00 for the 5-year term.

Consideration of Options for Land for Mitigation: By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved authorizing Executive Director Colin Brown to execute a Buy-Sell Agreement that has been reviewed and recommended by General Counsel Greg Upton. The Buy-Sell Agreement is to contain the following conditions: 1) The offer to purchase is \$5,000 per acre based on surveyed acreage. The property shape and boundaries are to be similar to that depicted on the attached map. 2) The contract is subject to a 60-day inspection period, beginning on the date of the full execution of the Buy-Sell Agreement. The 60-day inspection period is to give the Commission adequate time to perform a Real Estate Appraisal performed by an independent, qualified and appropriately licensed third-party appraiser, an Environmental Assessment, a Cultural Assessment, a Boundary Survey, and any other due diligence deemed necessary by the Commission or the Staff. The Commission will indicate on or before the end of the 60-day inspection period if the property is acceptable to the Commission. If the Commission indicates the property is acceptable, the Commission will have 30-days to complete the purchase of the property. 3) The contract is subject to concurrence from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that the Federal Government can purchase the property directly from the Red River Waterway Commission for the purpose of mitigation. 4) The Commission will submit a \$35,000 security deposit at time the offer to purchase is delivered to the listing real estate broker. If at any time during the 60-day inspection, the Commission chooses to withdraw from the transaction, the \$35,000 deposit will be fully refundable. However, if before or at the end of the 60-day inspection period, the Commission indicates the property is acceptable and chooses to proceed within the 30-day closing period, the deposit will not be refundable, and the seller will keep the deposit. The \$35,000 deposit will be applied to the purchase price.

c) **Recreation**

Consideration of Budget Amendment/Ft. Buhlow Disc Golf and Comfort Station Rehabilitation: By motion of Commissioner Greer, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved the presented rehabilitation project costs and authorized staff to include the rehabilitation of three on-site pavilions (an additional cost of \$30,000.00) to the project and a corresponding budget amendment of \$145,000.00 for all rehabilitation costs.

Consideration of Headquarters Security Proposals: By motion of Commissioner Greer, seconded by Commissioner Deville, the Commission unanimously approved the security proposal from Simpson Security Systems in the amount of \$10,280.00 for a camera system and an alarm system installed in the Headquarters buildings and a corresponding budget amendment.

Recreation Area Status Report – Mr. Marcus Long highlighted the prepared report provided in the meeting packet, noting that there had been 155,000 visitors to the District recreation areas during the month of April 2022. Updated maintenance items include, but not limited to:

- Cleaning up northern boat launches following a high water period

d) **Ports** - None

e) **Public Awareness & Marketing**

Consideration of Approval of Cooperative Endeavor Agreement/Shreveport-Bossier Sports Commission: By motion of Commissioner Fletcher, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the Commission unanimously approved the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement of \$43,500.00 with the Shreveport-Bossier Sports Commission for the upcoming 2022 events on the Red River.

Consideration of Approval of Exclusive Use Agreement/Teague Parkway Recreation Area South Parking: By motion of Commissioner Fletcher, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the Commission unanimously approved authorizing an exclusive use agreement with the Red River Balloon Rally on June 24, 2022 in Shreveport-Bossier. The exclusive use agreement permits Pyromania Firework exclusive use of the south parking lot across from the Brookshires Grocery Arena. The parking lot will be closed to the public from 6 a.m. June 24, 2022 until 12 a.m. June 26, 2022.

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

- Groundbreaking of new Port tenant – frac sand operation
- Attended Gulf Ports Conference
- Planning site visit to Port of Port Arthur to observe the way the Port moves pulpwood and wood products, both import and export
- Mr. Crappie Expo was held in Natchitoches
- Inland Marine Expo next week in St. Louis, Missouri

f) **Personnel** - None

g) **Revenue, Banking & Budget**

Presentation of 2021 Audit Reports – By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Maxey, the Commission unanimously accepted the 2021 Audit Reports and noted that there were no findings in the Financial Audit and no exceptions found in the Statewide Agreed Upon Procedures Audit.

h) **Legislative** - None

8. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Reminder to Commissioners of the Legislative Monitoring Reports being sent out
- June 06, 2022 Legislative session ends and expecting confirmations of Commissioners Crutchfield and Lattier at session's end
- Red River is in pretty good condition. There is cleanup being done at some boat launches due to recent high water
- Corps of Engineers has a dredge contract in place and dredge funds for 2022
- Dewatering closures for Old River Lock and Lock & Dam 1 are still scheduled. Requesting that the dewater and closure of Lock & Dam 1 to take simultaneously with the dewater and closure of Old River Lock
- The Red River Waterway Commission was the recipient of the award for Hospitality Excellence at the recently held Bakowski Bridge of Lights Tourism Award event
- Farewell to Ryan Ingles, Red River Waterway Commission Engineering Supervisor

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 – Ribbon cutting last week and project at substantial completion
- Randall Smoak of Cothren, Graff, Smoak Engineering is finalizing the Grand Ecore RV Park Additional Amenities project plans. Will go out for bids in June and to be presented to the Commission in July
- MML&H proceeding with the Poland Floating Dock Project and review of first iteration of plans
- Comfort Station Rehabilitation Project should be at substantial completion within the next two months

10. **GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT** - None

11. **CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPORT** – The following was discussed by Corps of Engineers representative Katy Breaux:

- The Corps has received funding for construction and will be degrading the dikes in the Alexandria area to broaden the channel in that area of the Red River and thus decrease the water flow which will hopefully assist in slowing down erosion to the Pineville side of the river in that area
- There is 2023 Congressionally Directed Funding for such things as the Alexandria Riverfront and engineering analysis for both the Alexandria and Pineville riverbanks
- Mitigation funds are available and can only be used for mitigation. Corps is still interested in Fish Lake tract

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


JAMES F. MAXEY
SECRETARY/TREASURER


TROY ROUSSELL
CHAIR DESIGNEE