

MINUTES  
OF THE  
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING  
MAY 19, 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 Roussel, 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 Roussel, Commissioner Versa Clark, Commissioner Michael Deville, Commissioner Paul Fleming, Commissioner Randell Fletcher, Commissioner Ronald Lattier, Commissioner James Maxey, Commissioner Michael Simpson. In accordance with Louisiana R.S.42.17.1 (Act 302) Commissioner David Jones participated virtually.

**Absent:** Commissioner David Crutchfield, II, Commissioner Jacques Goudeau, and Commissioner Charles Greer.

**RRWC Staff Members Present:** Mr. Colin Brown - Executive Director, Mr. Mike Boydston - Operations & Maintenance Director, 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 & PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD PURSUANT TO LRS 42:14**

**Others Present:** Mr. Rich Brontoli of the Red River Valley Association

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

By motion of Commissioner Fleming, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, 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 Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Deville, the minutes of the April 19, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

**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 April 2021 were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

**7. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) **Contracts**

1. **Consideration of Authority to Award Design Contract - Grand Ecore Additional Amenities/RRWC Project No.**

**21-08/Contract No. RRW-795:** By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, award of design contract and administration of the Grand Ecore additional amenities project to Cothren, Graff, Smoak Engineering.

2. **Consideration of Authority to Advertise for Construction Bids/RRWC Project No. 20-07/Contract No.**

**RRW-792/Teague Trails Extension (2020 Request):** By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, authorizing staff to advertise for construction bids.

3. **Consideration of Proposals/RRWC Project No. 21-01/Bishop Point, Red Oak, and Natchitoches Recreation Areas –**

**Electric Service Installation:** By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, award of contract to Stuart's Electrical Contracting in the amount of \$9,780.00 for installation of the electric service at all three sites.

4. **Consideration of Approval of Cooperative Endeavor Agreement and Budget Amendment/Red River Canoe:**

By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, entering into a cooperative endeavor agreement with the Friends of the Red River National Wildlife Refuge, Inc. and associated budget amendment of \$50,000.00 for the design and construction of a display case and for appropriate interpretive exhibits and educational materials.

5. **Consideration of Approval of Change Order No. 1/RRWC Project No. 20-02/Contract No. RRW-784/Grand Ecore and Colfax Recreation Area Dock Repair Project:**

By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, Change Order number 1. Contractor will replace two additional dock sections with composite boards at the cost of the materials only. The contract will increase in price, and a budget amendment approved, in the amount of \$6,315.00. The contract will also increase in time by 21 days.

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

1. **Consideration of Award of Public Bid Lease/Lock & Dam 2/Part of Tract 1/132.6 Acres:**

By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, award of bid lease to Mr. Sanford Guillory, along with Charles Bob Stevens, in the amount of \$15,025.00 (\$22.66 per acre) for the 5-year lease term.

2. **Consideration of Leaseback Renewal/Saline Revetment/Tracts 7A & 8A/40 Acres:** By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, award of the 5-year leaseback renewal to Dupuy Land Company for \$400.00 annually (\$10.00 per acre). A total lease amount of \$2,000.00 for the 5-year term.
3. **Consideration of Request for Pipeline Right-of-Way/Wilkerson Point Realignment/Tract 1:** By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, the request for a pipeline right-of-way with Performance Proppants, LLC and Sunny Point Aggregates, LLC. Entities will pay the Commission \$21,620.00 (\$500.00 per rod) for 43.24 rods for the right-of-way.
4. **Consideration of Request for Mineral Lease/Pool 5/Part of Tracts 24, 25, 27 & 29/29.5 Acres:** By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, authorizing staff to prepare a lease agreement to present at the June 2021 Commission meeting.
5. **Consideration of Funding and Land Use Request/City of Pineville/Ft. Buhlow Recreation Area:** By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, directing staff to prepare a cooperative endeavor agreement to present at the June 2021 Commission meeting.

c) **Recreation**

1. **Recreation Area Status Report**

Mr. Mike Boydston highlighted the prepared report provided in the meeting packet, noting that there had been 138,000 visitors to the District recreation areas during the month of April 2021. Updated maintenance items include, but not limited to:

- Ramps currently closed due to high water: Teague Parkway, Stoner Avenue, Ft. Buhlow, Alexandria Levee Park and Ben Routh recreation areas
- Necessary power line trimming being done at Ft. Buhlow recreation area
- Ramp closure updates are being posted on Facebook and the Red River Waterway Commission website

d) **Ports - None**

e) **Public Awareness & Marketing**

1. **Marketing Update**

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

- Travel for the Red River Valley Association conference being held June 02 – June 03 at the Horseshoe Riverdome
- BassMaster Classic scheduled for June 09 – June 13 in Fort Worth, Texas

f) **Personnel - None**

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

h) **Legislative – Legislature is in session**

8. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Upcoming Red River Valley Association conference
- Commission will begin travel now that Covid-19 restrictions have lifted
- Next month – discussion of meeting proceedings moving forward from post Covid-19 restrictions

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:

- Present bids for Teague Trails Extension project at the July 2021 Commission meeting
- Comfort station project moving forward under direction of today's Commission-approved award of electric contract
- Grand Ecore Additional Amenities project to move forward as directed by today's Commission-approved award of design contract to Cothren, Graff, Smoak Engineering.
- Alexandria Riverfront project – bids for band shell were opened May 18, 2021

10. **GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT** – Attorney General Jeff Landry versus the Red River Waterway Commission, Commissioner Deville, and Commissioner Lattier: The Red River Waterway Commission was formerly released from the lawsuit. It was determined that Commissioner Lattier was properly commissioned and charges were dropped against Commissioner Deville. Attorney General Landry is appealing the trial judge's opinion regarding Commissioner Lattier being properly commissioned.

11. **CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPORT** – Representative Katy Breaux informed the Commission office, prior to the monthly Commission meeting, that the Corps was in receipt of approval of cost-share funding of the formerly completed Boyce Comfort Station project. Once these funds are received by the Commission, all cost-share projects to date have been repaid.

12. **RED RIVER VALLEY ASSOCIATION** – Mr. Rich Brontoli, Executive Director, provided the following update:

- Appropriations: Corps of Engineers to receive 6.8 billion, but as yet no detailed breakdown for project-by-project
- Rains locally and in the northern states did not occur as predicted and therefore not seeing need for any closures
- Currently no navigation issues

13. **OTHER BUSINESS** – Brief discussion of the Natchitoches Parish Port and high water overflow issues.

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

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

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



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JAMES F. MAXEY  
SECRETARY/TREASURER



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TROY ROUSSELL  
CHAIR DESIGNEE