

**MINUTES
OF THE
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING
JUNE 16, 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 Jacques Goudeau. In accordance with Louisiana R.S.42.17.1 (Act 302) Commissioner David Jones, Commissioner Ronald Lattier, and Commissioner James Maxey participated virtually.

Absent: Commissioner Charles Greer and Commissioner Michael Simpson.

RRWC Staff Members Present: Mr. Colin Brown - Executive 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.

Absent: Mr. Mike Boydston - Operations & Maintenance Director

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

Others Present: Mr. Ben Russo, Executive Director of the Central Louisiana Regional Port and Mr. Richard Brontoli, Executive Director of the Red River Valley Association

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Clark, 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 Clark, seconded by Commissioner Deville, the minutes of the May 19, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Jones, the Expenditures, Financial Statements, Investment Reports, & Fund Balance Report for the month of May 2021 were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) **Contracts**

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

1. **Consideration of Request to Assign Land Lease/Lock & Dam 3/Tracts 1, 2 & 3/399 Acres:** By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, the request to assign the remaining 2 ½ years of the land lease with Mr. Greg Petrus of Petred Hunt Propeorty, LLC to Mr. Ken Hale, Mr. Tyler Murchison, Mr. Stephen VanSickle, and Mr. Keith Miller, hereafter Ken Hale, et al. Ken Hale, et al will be required to assume and fulfill all terms, conditions and covenants of the lease agreement, including recognizing the sub-lease to Mr. Brandon Strother.
2. **Consideration of Renewal of Cooperative Endeavor Agreement for Dirt Removal/Red River, Atchafalaya & Bayou Boeuf (RRABB) Levee District:** By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, renewal of the 5-year cooperative endeavor agreement with RRABB Levee District for the removal of dirt for the purpose of raising and/or repairing the non-federal levees along the lower descending bank upstream of Lock & Dam No. 1.
3. **Consideration of Request for Electric Line Right-of-Way/Red River, Atchafalaya & Bayou Boeuf (RRABB) Levee District/Ft. Buhlow Recreation Area:** By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, the request for an electric line right-of-way at the Ft. Buhlow Recreation area for the purpose of providing electric service to the Rigollette Flood Control Structure. The RRABB Levee District will be responsible for all clearing, grubbing, and future maintenance of the right-of-way.

c) **Recreation**

1. **Recreation Area Status Report** – A brief report was given updating maintenance items and comment that there had been 158,097 visitors to the District recreation areas during the month of May 2021. Updated maintenance items include, but not limited to:
 - Normal maintenance taking place at recreation sites
 - Water levels are still high and some ramps remain closed
 - Once the water level recedes, clean up of boat ramps will commence

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:

- Port traffic is increasing
- BassMaster Classic held last week in Ft. Worth
- Grand Ecore RV Park occupancy numbers are doubling each month in comparison to previous year's numbers
- Commissioners will be notified of upcoming events/travel

f) **Personnel - None**

g) **Revenue, Banking & Budget**

1. **Presentation of 2020 Audit Report**

- Audit exit conference reflected a clean audit for the 2020 fiscal year
- Auditing firm's 3-year contract has termed and is up for renewal

h) **Legislative** – Legislative session ended June 10, 2021

8) **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Current river levels are not causing a lot of impact to the Red River, but some Ports are being impacted
- All seven (7) Parish/or At-Large Commissioners were confirmed during the recent legislative session
- The President's budget for operations and maintenance for fiscal year 2022 is \$27,800,000.00 including \$3,400,000.00 in dredging funds. Potentially there may be a need for the Red River Waterway Commission to provide contributed funds for dredging
- Monthly Commission meetings will return to being held in-person at the Commission headquarters located at 5941 Highway 1 Bypass, Natchitoches, beginning July 2021

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:

- July 13, 2021 accepting bids for the Teague Trails Extension project
- Electrical being installed at comfort stations. Natchitoches and Bishop Point Recreation areas are complete. Red Oak Recreation area install occurring today
- Currently under contract for the design work for the Grand Ecore RV Park Additional Amenities project

10) **GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT - None**

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

12) **RED RIVER VALLEY ASSOCIATION** – Richard Brontoli, Executive Director of the Red River Valley Association updated the Commission as to the following:

- Monitoring river rise and fall and needs for dredging in order to maintain the 9' channel
- Appropriations for dewater of Lock 1 received funding and will take approximately 6-8 weeks to complete. Old River Lock did not receive funding at this time. Will continue discussions to schedule the dewatering of Old River Lock for the same time as Lock 1 or a request for the Corps to skip a year between the two.

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 Deville, and unanimously approved by roll call vote, the meeting was adjourned.



JAMES F. MAXEY
SECRETARY/TREASURER



TROY ROUSSELL
CHAIR DESIGNEE