

MINUTES
OF THE
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING
June 18, 2025
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 David L. Crutchfield, II, Commissioner Michael P. Deville, Commissioner Paul Fleming, Commissioner Ronald Lattier, Commissioner James F. Maxey, Commissioner Kenneth Richardson, 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. Kyle Smith - Engineering Supervisor, Mr. Brian Cespiva – Staff Engineer, Mr. Greg Upton - Legal Counsel.

3. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Others Present:

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD PURSUANT TO LRS 42:14**

5. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Deville, the minutes of the May 2025 meeting were unanimously approved.

7. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

By motion of Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Expenditures, Financial Statements, Investment Reports, & Fund Balance Report for the month of May 2025 were unanimously approved.

8. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) **Contracts**

Consideration of Authority to Award Design Contract/Red River National Wildlife Refuge Lake Caroline Comfort Station/Project No. 25-01/Contract No. RRW-848: By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the Commission unanimously voted to delay action on this item.

Consideration of Authority to Award Design Contract/John Franks Wildlife Management Area-Operations & Maintenance Building and Equipment Shed/Project No. 25-02/Contract No. RRW-850: By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the Commission unanimously voted to delay action on this.

Consideration of Amendment No. 1 to Design Contract/Seawall Rehabilitation Red Oak and Bishop Point/Project No. 24-02/Contract No. RRW-829: By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the Commission unanimously voted to decline the request of Amendment No. 1 to the originally executed contract agreement.

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

Consideration of Revisions to Land Lese and Leaseback Insurance Requirements: By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved the recommended increase in minimums of liability coverage requirements to \$1 million per person per claim and \$2 million aggregate for Public Bid Land Leases and Leaseback agreements.

c) **Recreation**

Consideration of Equipment Purchase: By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved the purchase of equipment as presented to the Board along with a corresponding budget amendment in the amount of \$200,000.00.

Consideration of Approval of Addendum No. 2/Grand Ecore RV Park Operator Agreement: By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved Addendum No. 2 to the Grand Ecore RV Park Operator agreement.

Recreation Area Status Report – Mr. Marcus Long highlighted the prepared report provided in the meeting packet, noting that there had been 111,000 visitors to the District recreation areas during the month of May 2025. Updated maintenance items include, but not limited to:

- Notice of river cresting and should begin to fall in the next few days
- A second boat has sunk near the Colfax Recreation Park
- KingKat Tournament on Red River July 11-12, 2025

d) **Ports - None**

e) **Public Awareness & Marketing**

Marketing Update

- KingKat Tournament July 11-12, 2025
- F1 Powerboat Racing event video presentation

f) **Personnel - None**

g) **Revenue, Banking & Budget**

Presentation of 2024 Audit Reports: Commissioner Crutchfield updated the Commission of the 2024 Audit results – No findings or exceptions were noted.

Presentation of 2025 Economic Impact Study Update/Dr. Loren Scott: A presentation of the study results was presented by Dr. Scott.

h) **Legislative**

- Legislative session is over
- New Secretary of the DOTD – Glenn Ledet
- Significant changes being made by the Governor within the DOTD

9. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Legislative Session ended June 12, 2025
- Senate Bill 97 passed and sent to the Governor. Program to be funded through House Bill 460 (Department of Energy and Natural Resources in the amount of \$1 million, one year only)
- Governor has not made Board appointments as yet. Commission has received notice of nomination letters for the Avoyelles Parish seat
- New employee – Hunter Wise, Park Manager at 1North Adventure Trails

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

- Alexandria Levee Park – Riverside portion of project is complete. Third Street side of construction project has slowed down due to weather
- Ft. Buhlow – Progress slowed due to weather
- Brouillette – Comfort station completed and playground area/equipment installed
- Seawall Rehabilitation – Substantially complete
- 1North Cross Country Trails – Moving towards completion
- 12 Mile Bayou – Road and parking lot paved. Ramp remains to be completed once water recedes

11. **GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT** - None

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

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

14. **OTHER BUSINESS** - None

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

16. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Lattier and unanimously approved, the Commission entered into Executive Session to discuss the following matters of litigation:

Discuss Privileged Matters Pursuant to Louisiana Code of Evidence Article 506

Immediately following Executive Session, by motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield and unanimously approved, the Commission entered into Regular Session.

17. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

JAMES F. MAXEY
SECRETARY/TREASURER



TROY ROUSSELL
CHAIR DESIGNEE