

**MINUTES
OF THE
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING
JUNE 21, 2023
10:00 AM
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION
5941 HWY 1 BYPASS
NATCHITOCHEES, LOUISIANA**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Red River Waterway Commission was called to order by Commissioner, David Crutchfield, 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: Commissioner Versa Clark, Commissioner David L. Crutchfield, II, Commissioner Michael P. Deville, Commissioner Charles R. Greer, Commissioner David Jones, Commissioner Ronald Lattier.

Absent: Chair Designee, Troy Roussell, Commissioner Paul Fleming, Commissioner Jacques Goudeau, Commissioner James F. Maxey, Commissioner Michael Simpson.

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. Joshua Dara, Jr. - Legal Counsel.

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

Others Present: Mr. Ben Russo, Executive Director of the Central Louisiana Regional Port.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Greer, the minutes of the May 17, 2023 meeting were unanimously approved.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

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

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Contracts

Consideration of Approval of Change Order No. 2/RRWC Project No. 21-08/Contract No. RRW-799/Grand Ecore Additional Amenities: By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Jones, the Commission unanimously approved the change order providing for an increase in contract cost of \$16,876.25, bringing the construction cost to \$3,056,959.65, and an additional two days to do the work described in the change order – Digging/re-shaping 2,000 linear feet of ditches to drain standing water away from the trail and adding 30 linear feet of 15” RCP.

Consideration of Approval of Change Order No. 1/RRWC Project No. 21-11/Contract No. RRW-806/Poland Floating Dock and Comfort Station: By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Deville, the Commission unanimously approved moving up the Notice to Proceed Date from January 30, 2023 to January 26, 2023.

Consideration of Approval of Change Order No. 2/RRWC Project No. 21-11/Contract No. RRW-806/Poland Floating Dock and Comfort Station: By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Greer, the Commission unanimously approved the change order which provides an increase in contract cost of \$45,804.00, bringing the construction cost to \$1,393,597.00, and an additional 14 days to do the work described in the change order – alter sidewalk layout, add wiring for four exterior soffit cameras, and change from button push flush valves for toilets/urinals to automatic flush valves connected to 110 power.

Consideration of Approval of Award of Master Plan Contract/KSA Engineers/Fish Lake: By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the Commission unanimously approved award of the Master Plan contract to KSA Engineers for the Fish Lake project as presented to the Commission with the following changes: Clarify language under Time & Material category to reflect A) “only as directed by the Red River Waterway Commission” and B) Not to exceed \$10,000.00.

b) Land Management, Legal Affairs & Affirmative Action

Consideration of Award of Public Bid Land Lease and Right of Use Agreement/Hadden Ft. DeRussy Cut-Off/Area 5/Segments 30-36/18.7 Acres: By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the Commission unanimously approved award of the 5-year lease and right of use agreement to the high bidder, Chadwick Dupuy, for \$2,500.00 for the 5-year term, plus \$1.50 per cubic yard of material removed.

Consideration of Award of Public Bid Land Lease/Pool 3/Tract 79/6 Acres: By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved award of the 5-year land lease to the high bidder, Darla Dunn, for \$750.00 for the 5-year lease term.

c) Recreation

Consideration of Approval of Budget Amendment/Lock & Dam No. 2/Seawall Rehabilitation: By motion of Commissioner Greer, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved a budget amendment of \$180,000.00 required to perform the work of removing the portion of the existing 30’ vinyl sheet pile wall that has failed and replacing it with 60’ sheet pile walls and replacing any necessary deck boards. The area will be backfilled with sand and dirt, and rip rap will be placed at the toe of the original portions of the seawall that are intact.

Recreation Area Status Report – Mr. Marcus Long highlighted the prepared report provided in the meeting packet, noting that there had been 145,000 visitors to the District recreation areas during the month of May 2023. Updated maintenance items include, but not limited to:

- Dredge contractors are starting clean-up of boat ramps and oxbow entrances where needed. Blount Brothers is in Pool 3 and Crosby and Testament will begin dredging processes in July
- Ongoing routine maintenance
- Spraying to kill Bahia grass in parks
- Pan American is working on preliminary design and cost estimate for Ft. Buhlow project

d) **Ports** - None

e) **Public Awareness & Marketing** - None

f) **Personnel** - None

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

h) **Legislative** – The legislative session has ended and updates to the session have been released. Currently there is no news on the Grant Parish seat. Once the Governor appoints someone to the seat, their confirmation will be with the next legislative session.

8. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Corps of Engineers is dredging Locks 2, 3, and 4 and pool 4. Will dredge the approach to Lock 1, the Gauntlet area and the approach to lower Lock 5.
- The Corps should have adequate dredging funding for fiscal year 2023
- The RRWC provided the Corps of Engineers with \$3,000,000.00 in contributory funding for dredging in May of 2021. The Corps has recently made repayment of \$1,027,255.39 of the contributory funding back to the Commission

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

- Poland Floating Dock project - All piles have been driven for the floating dock and the comfort station build is at 90% completion.
- Grand Ecore Additional Amenities project – Trail work continues with compaction testing every 1000 feet, parking lot completed (graded and compact tested), and 300' of rock laid down on the trail so far.
- 12 Mile Bayou – Draft design for site selection of boat ramp
- Fort Buhlow – Preliminary drawings and cost-estimates for playground area

10. **GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT** - None

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

12. **RED RIVER VALLEY ASSOCIATION** – Weekly navigation conference calls on river accessibility and dredging


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 Jones, seconded by Commissioner Deville, and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned.


JAMES F. MAXEY
SECRETARY/TREASURER


TROY ROUSSELL
CHAIR DESIGNEE