

**MINUTES  
OF THE  
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING  
JULY 17, 2024  
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 Michael P. Deville, Commissioner Paul Fleming, Commissioner David Jones, Commissioner Ronald Lattier, Commissioner James F. Maxey, Commissioner Kenneth Richardson, Commissioner Michael Simpson.

**Absent:** Commissioner David L. Crutchfield, II, 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 AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD PURSUANT TO LRS 42:14**

**Others Present:** Mr. Robert Vinet with KSA Engineers.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

By motion of Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the revised agenda was unanimously approved. The revised agenda to include items two and three under the Revenue, Banking and Budget Committee to read as follows: 2. Consideration of Approval of Memorandum of Agreement for Contributed Funds for Dredging/Corps of Engineers and 3. Consideration of 2024 Tax Millage Rates. Comments from the public were called for, however, none were offered.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the minutes of the June 18, 2024, 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 June 2024 were unanimously approved.

**7. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a) Contracts**

**Consideration of Approval of Cooperative Endeavor Agreement Between the Louisiana Office of State Parks and the Red River Waterway Commission/Fort DeRussy State Historic Site Improvements:** By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the Commission unanimously approved the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism, and Office of State Parks for the proposed project for walking trail, washroom, pavilion, and pedestrian bridge at the Fort DeRussy State Historic Site.

**Consideration of Authority to Advertise for Construction Bids/1North Adventure Trails/Phase 1A/Initial Parking and General Use Area/Contract No. RRW-832:** By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the Commission unanimously approved authorizing staff to proceed with advertising for construction bids.

**Consideration of Authority to Advertise for Construction Bids/1North Adventure Trails/Phase 1B/Cross-Country Trails/Contract No. RRW-834:** By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the Commission unanimously approved authorizing staff to proceed with advertising for construction bids.

**Consideration of Authority to Award Design Contract/1North Adventure Trails/Phase 1C/Lake Improvements:** By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the Commission unanimously approved the award of the design contract to KSA Engineers and approved the corresponding \$1,000,000.00 budget amendment and reservation of funds.

**b) Land Management, Legal Affairs & Affirmative Action - None**

**c) Recreation**

**Consideration of Approval of Proposal for Site Improvements/1North Adventure Trails:** By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved the proposal from Synergen Construction, LLC under their General Services Agreement to perform site improvements not to exceed \$150,000.00 and approved the corresponding budget amendment.

**Consideration of Approval of Logo/1North Adventure Trails:** This item was tabled in committee and no further action was taken.

**Recreation Area Status Report** – Mr. Marcus Long highlighted the prepared report provided in the meeting packet, noting that there had been 120,000 visitors to the District recreation areas during the month of June. Updated maintenance items include, but not limited to:

- Boat ramp clean up
- Dredging crews mobilized
- Part time employee at the Commission's Colfax RV Park is retiring
- Grand Ecore RV Park pool contractor has ended their contract with the Commission and therefore maintenance is currently being handled in-house

d) **Ports**

**Consideration of Funding Request/Avoyelles Parish Port Commission/Storage Tank:** By motion of Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Richardson, the Commission unanimously approved the request for an additional \$40,000.00 in funding assistance bringing the full funding amount by the Commission to \$890,000.00 and approved the amended cooperative endeavor agreement and corresponding budget amendment.

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

f) **Personnel** - None

g) **Revenue, Banking & Budget**

**Consideration of Approval of Budget Amendment:** By motion of Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Richardson, the Commission unanimously approved the budget amendment as presented.

**Consideration of Approval of Memorandum of Agreement for Contributed Funds for Dredging/Corps of Engineers:** By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Richardson, the Commission unanimously approved the memorandum of agreement and contributory funds of up to \$3,000,000.00.

**Consideration of 2024 Tax Millage Rates:** By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the Commission unanimously approved directing staff to prepare millage documents reflecting adopting the 2024 adjusted millage rate decrease to 2.23 mills.

h) **Legislative** - None

8. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- New Commander of the Vicksburg Corps of Engineers, Colonel Jeremiah Gipson
- 12' Channel documents approved. Corps of engineers is scheduling a planning meeting around the first of August
- The Commission hosted the Emergency Plan Exercise with the Corps and industries

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

- Alexandria Riverfront Project – working through the four-phase project
- Ft. Buhlow Recreation Area Project – Plans were received July 16<sup>th</sup> and are under review
- Brouillette Recreation Area Project – Preliminary plans have been received
- Twelve Mile Bayou Project – Have issued Notice to Proceed
- 1North Adventure Trails – Phase 1A, 1B are under design and Phase 1C, approved in today's meeting, will begin bidding process in August
- Ft. DeRussy Recreation Area Project – Approved in today's meeting

10. **GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT** - None

11. **CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPORT**

- Alexandria Front Dikes Project to begin in 2-3 weeks
- Opposite of Alexandria Front Dikes Project to go to bidding in September

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

  
JAMES F. MAXEY  
SECRETARY/TREASURER

  
TROY ROUSSELL  
CHAIR DESIGNEE