

MINUTES
OF THE
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING
AUGUST 19, 2026
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 William R. Altimus, Commissioner Versa Clark, Commissioner David L. Crutchfield, II, Commissioner Michael P. Deville, Commissioner John F. Earles, Commissioner Charles R. Greer, Commissioner Ronald Lattier, Commissioner James F. Maxey, Commissioner Michael Simpson.

Absent: Commissioner Paul Fleming and Commissioner Kenneth Richardson

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. Greg Upton and Steve LaFleur - Legal Counsel.

3. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Others Present: Katy Breaux with USACE, Vicksburg District

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

5. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

By motion of Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the amended agenda was unanimously approved. Comments from the public were called for, however, none were offered. The amended agenda to include item 4 in Land Management to read as follows: Consideration of Approval of Land Purchase for Bijou Island Access Road/Rapides Parish.

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Earles, the minutes of the July 15, 2026, meeting were unanimously approved.

7. **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 July 2026 were unanimously approved.

8. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) **Contracts**

Consideration of Change Order No. 1/INorth Adventure Trails Phase 1F/Additional Cross-Country Trails/Project No. 25-04/Contract No. RRW-857: By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the Commission unanimously approved the change order to increase the contract time by 113 days due to weather and other changes/additions with a zero net change to the contract amount.

Consideration of Construction Quotes/Fort Buhlow Recreation Area/Wood Dock Removal and Three Concrete Fishing Piers: By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Commission unanimously approved awarding the project to Lowe's Construction, LLC, in the amount of \$238,000.00 for the removal of a wood dock and construction of three concrete fishing piers.

Consideration of Authority to Advertise for Construction Bids/St. Maurice Comfort Station: By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the Commission unanimously approved the request for the authority to advertise for construction bids.

Consideration of Authority to Solicit Quotes for Water Well and Advertise for Construction Bids/John Franks Wildlife Management Area-Operations and Maintenance Building and Equipment Shed/Project No. 25-02/Contract No. RRW-850: By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Commission unanimously approved the request for the authority to solicit quotes for the water well and to advertise for construction bids for the buildings and site work.

Consideration of Award of General Maintenance Contract/Vanguard Trailworks, LLC: By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the Commission unanimously approved placing Vanguard Trailworks, LLC, under contract for trail maintenance at INorth Adventure Trails.

Discussion of Teague, Stoner, and Coughatta Comfort Station Rehabilitation Project: No action was taken.

Consideration of Construction Quotes/Grand Ecore RV Park/Dog Park: No action was taken.

b) **Land Management & Legal Affairs**

Consideration of Resolution/U.S. Army Corps of Engineers/Divestiture of Mitigation Property/Catavoy Tract: By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the Commission unanimously approved the resolution to request that the United States Army Corps of Engineers pursue the divestiture of the 1,240 acre tract of mitigation property in Avoyelles Parish.

Consideration of Approval of Concursus Settlement Agreement/Red River Parish: By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, and one abstention by Commissioner Simpson, the Commission approved the proposed Compromise and Boundary Agreement in the matter of the Petition in Concursus, Docket No. 36074, Red River Parish, Louisiana.

Consideration of Amendment to Right-of-Use Dredging Agreement/Pool 4: Matter was tabled in committee. No action was taken.

Consideration of Approval of Land Purchase for Bijou Island Access Road/Rapides Parish: By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Earles, the Commission unanimously approved moving forward with the purchase of the 25.38 acres (access road for Bijou Island) from the current owners who have an 85% undivided interest in the property.

c) **Recreation**

Consideration of Pool 5 Backwater Improvement Project: By motion of Commissioner Greer, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved authorizing staff to create an approximately 40' wide boat roads at the specified locations in Pool 5 by clearing stumps and marking both sides of the road with 4" sch 40 pvc pipes marked with green or red tape.

Recreation Area Status Report - Mr. Marcus Long highlighted the prepared report provided in the meeting packet, noting that there had been 161,500 visitors to the District recreation areas during the month of July 2026. Updated maintenance items include, but not limited to:

- Dredging completed in Powhattan area and moving to Porter's Island
- 1,000 acres of arial spraying in Colfax and Pools 4 and 5
- Stoner Avenue Boat Launch – clean up via spud barge

d) **Ports**

Consideration of Approval of Cooperative Endeavor Agreement/Central Louisiana Regional Port/Material Handling Equipment: By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved the cooperative endeavor agreement with the Central Louisiana Regional Port in an amount up to \$1,725,972.80 along with the corresponding budget amendment and reservation of funds.

e) **Public Awareness & Marketing**

Consideration of Budget Amendment/Recognition Plaques: By motion of Commissioner Greer, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Commission unanimously approved the recommended budget amendment of \$65,000 for the procurement and installation of recognition plaques as selected by the Commission.

Marketing Update - None

f) **Personnel** - None

g) **Revenue, Banking & Budget**

Consideration of Budget Policy Revision: By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, the Commission unanimously approved moving Dredging (Ports and Other) from the Capital Projects fund back to the Operations Fund, in order to better balance the Unassigned amounts in the two funds, and reserve an additional \$1,000,000.00 for Dredging-Ports and an additional \$5,000,000.00 for Dredging-Other Areas and the necessary budget amendments and reservation of funds to perform the transactions.

Consideration of Funding Request/Red Bayou Irrigation District and Caddo Soil and Water Conservation District: By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Greer, the Commission unanimously approved the creation of a cooperative endeavor agreement with the Red Bayou Irrigation District and Caddo Soil and Water Conservation District in which the Commission will fund up to \$700,000.00 with \$350,000.00 to be reimbursed from the State of Louisiana and for the corresponding budget amendment and reservation of funds.

h) **Legislative** - None

9. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- The Corps is currently dredging and Lock & Dam 1 keeping navigation channel open
- An in-person navigation committee meeting will be held at the Commission Headquarters Wednesday, August 26, 2026
- The USACE has requested half of the contributed funding monies and are in receipt of the funds
- The "CURRENT Authority" convened in August and elected Austin Vaughn as their Executive Director
- D.C. delegation visits - travel is tentatively scheduled for September 27 – October 1

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

- A drone video presentation updating the progress at the Fort Buhlow additional amenities project was provided to the Commission
- 1North Adventure Trails bike path work ongoing
- Projects the Commission authorized for advertising will begin doing so

11. **GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT** - None

12. **CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPORT**

- 12' Channel Study – final report is in review, should be completed in December and sent for approval by the Chief at which point can receive authorization for construction through WRDA bill for 2028. During the interim time a request can be submitted for monies for engineering and design.
- P&D is in the 2027 workplan and the 2028 budget
- There are two O&M items, Joffrion and Westdale, that are holdups with the 12' channel. The Gauntlet uses approximately half the dredging funds annually but with rock dike placement it should self-scour and alleviate that dredging need/expense

13. **RED RIVER VALLEY ASSOCIATION** – Oklahoma Conference August 19 & 20, 2026

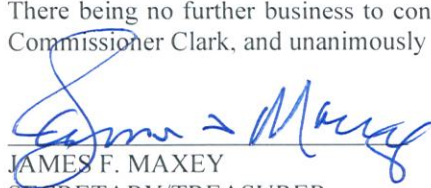
14. **OTHER BUSINESS** - None

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

16. **EXECUTIVE SESSION** - None

17. **ADJOURNMENT**

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


JAMES F. MAXEY
SECRETARY/TREASURER


TROY ROUSSELL
CHAIR DESIGNEE