

MINUTES
OF THE
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING
AUGUST 20, 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 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. Brian Cespiva - Staff Engineer, Mr. Greg Upton - Legal Counsel.

3. **INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Others Present: Mr. Robert Vinet with KSA Engineers and Mr. Rich Brontoli representing the Red River Valley Association.

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

5. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

By motion of Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the amended agenda was unanimously approved with the following additions: Contracts Committee - Item 6: Consideration of Approval of Additional Services/Phase 1C Lake Improvements/1North Adventure Trails and the Land Management, Legal Affairs & Affirmative Action Committee to include the following – Item 2: Consideration of Request for Right-of-Entry for Sand Sampling/Pool 5/Multiple Tracts and Item 3: Consideration of Committee Name Change. Comments from the public were called for, however, none were offered.

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, the minutes of the July 16, 2025, meeting were unanimously approved.

7. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

8. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) **Contracts**

Consideration of Authority to Award Design Contract/John F. 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 Simpson, the Commission unanimously approved the award of the contract to Civil Design Group, LLC, for design and administration of the project.

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 Greer, the Commission unanimously approved the award of the contract to Nixon Engineering Solutions, LLC, for design and administration of the project.

Consideration of Approval of Spud Barge and Excavator Contract/Crosby Dredging: By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, the Commission unanimously approved a continuing services maintenance contract with Crosby Dredging to expire on December 31, 2027.

Consideration of Approval of Change Order No. 2/RRWC Project No.23-02/Contract No. RRW-821/Twelve Mile Bayou Boat Ramp and Access Road: By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Commission unanimously approved the change order which provides for an increase in cost in the amount of \$9,109.66, bringing the total construction cost to \$2,469,544.73, and an additional fifty-three (53) work days to the project due to delays caused by high water levels.

Consideration of Memorandum of Understanding/Department of the Interior/Red River National Wildlife Refuge Comfort Station: By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Deville, the Commission unanimously approved the Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of the Interior (Wildlife and Fisheries).

Consideration of Approval of Additional Services/Phase 1C Lake Improvements/1North Adventure Trails: By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Greer, the Commission unanimously approved contracting with Hydriick for additional services with Phase 1C lake improvements at 1North Adventure Trails.

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

Consideration of Request to Renew Leaseback/Lock & Dam 1/Tract 1/Segments B and B-1/106.9 Acres:

By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved the 5-year leaseback renewal with Southline Farms, LLC, in the amount of \$10,690.00 for the 5-year lease term.

Consideration of Request for Right-of-Entry for Sand Sampling/Pool 5/Multiple Tracts: By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved the Right-of-Entry agreement with Summit Envirosolutions, Inc. to perform sand sampling on multiple tracts in Pool 5 consisting of approximately 400 acres.

Consideration of Committee Name Change: By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Commission unanimously approved the change in the committee's name to Land Management and Legal Affairs Committee.

c) **Recreation**

Recreation Area Status Report - Mr. Marcus Long highlighted the prepared report provided in the meeting packet, noting that there had been 137,000 visitors to the District recreation areas during the month of July 2025. Updated maintenance items include, but not limited to:

- Oxbow dredging is underway and will continue into late October/early November
- Clean-up efforts at the Grand Ecore RV Park after a recent high-wind storm

d) **Ports** - The Commission was notified of the Caddo-Bossier Port receiving reimbursement for a recent property purchase.

e) **Public Awareness & Marketing**

Marketing Update -

- Commissioner Kenneth Richardson was nominated and elected as the new committee chairman
- Recently a highly attended/successful 3.8 mile all terrain biking event was held at INorth Adventure Trails

f) **Personnel** - None

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

h) **Legislative** - None

9. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Welcoming newly appointed Avoyelles Parish Commissioner, Mr. John Earles, and introduction to the Commission board
- Updates provided on the following: Commissioner Fleming, the Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana conference, and activity at INorth Adventure Trails

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

- Alexandria Levee Park project – Riverside portion is complete
- 12 Mile Bayou Project – Mobilizing contractor now that water levels are down
- Brouillette Recreation Area & Comfort Station project – project is at substantial completion
- INorth Adventure Trails – Ten miles of multi-use trails under construction. Phase 1B is 75% complete
- Ft. Buhlow project – Construction of pickle ball court and comfort station in progress

11. **GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT** - None

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

13. **RED RIVER VALLEY ASSOCIATION** -

- Executive Director, Emily Mott, has been replaced by Rich Brontoli, former Executive Director, in an interim position until a new Executive Director is appointed
- Arkansas Navigation extension study ongoing
- Navigation Committee meetings ongoing due to dredging needs and current river conditions
- 12' Channel Study continues to move forward

14. **OTHER BUSINESS**

a) **Consideration of Approval of Resolution of Appreciation/Jacques Goudeau:** By motion of Commissioner Greer, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved the Resolution of Appreciation.

b) **Consideration of Approval of Revised Committee Assignments:** By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved the assignment of Commissioner Earles to all committees.

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 Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned.


JAMES F. MAXEY
SECRETARY/TREASURER


TROY ROUSSELL
CHAIR DESIGNEE