

MINUTES
OF THE
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING
SEPTEMBER 17, 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 John F. Earles, Commissioner Charles R. Greer, Commissioner Ronald Lattier, Commissioner James F. Maxey, Commissioner Kenneth Richardson, Commissioner Michael Simpson.

Absent: Commissioner David L. Crutchfield, II, Commissioner Michael P. Deville, and Commissioner Paul Fleming.

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: Katy Breaux and Camryn Willoughby with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Clay Murray, David Verzwylt and Robert Vinet with KSA Engineers.

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

5. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the agenda as amended was unanimously approved. Amended agenda to include item No. 5 under Contracts to read as follows: Consideration of Approval of Contributed Funds for Dredging/Corps of Engineers. Comments from the public were called for, however, none were offered.

6. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

By motion of Commissioner Greer, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the minutes of the August 20, 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 August 2025 were unanimously approved.

8. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) **Contracts**

Consideration of Construction Bids/1North Adventure Trails/Phase 1F/Cross-Country Trails/RRWC Project No. 25-04/Contract No. RRW-857: By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the Commission unanimously approved award of the construction contract to Vanguard Trailworks, LLC, in the amount of \$1,098,729.00 for construction of 8.5 miles of cross-country trails.

Consideration of Funding Request and Cooperative Endeavor Agreement/Rapides Parish Sheriff's Office/License Plate Recognition (LPR) Cameras: By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Greer, the Commission unanimously approved the funding request of \$15,531.66, cooperative endeavor agreement, and corresponding budget amendment for purchase of LPR cameras in the amount of \$16,000.00.

Consideration of Funding Request and Cooperative Endeavor Agreement/Grant Parish Sheriff's Office/License Plate Reader (LPR) Cameras: By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the Commission unanimously approved the funding request of \$10,354.11, cooperative endeavor agreement, and corresponding budget amendment for purchase of LPR cameras in the amount of \$11,000.00.

Consideration of Surplus Property Declaration and Authority to Dispose/2020 F150: By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Richardson, the Commission unanimously approved declaring the 2020 F150 as surplus and authorized staff to dispose of properly.

Consideration of Contributed Funds for Dredging/Corps of Engineers: By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Greer, the Commission unanimously approved authorization of up to \$3,000,000.00 in contributed funds for dredging to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Memorandum of Agreement, and a corresponding budget amendment in the amount of \$3,000,000.00.

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

Consideration of Extension of Telecommunications Right-of-Way Agreement/Alexandria Levee Park/Unit 6/0.0358 Acres: By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved the 20-year extension of the right-of-way with Altice USA, Inc. dba Optimum for the amount of \$13,274.00.

Consideration of Resolution/U.S. Army Corps of Engineers/Sale of Mitigation Property: By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved the resolution to request the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to pursue the sale of this 1,240 acre tract in Avoyelles Parish.

c) **Recreation**

Presentation of Architectural Concepts/1North Adventure Trails/Phase 1E: Presentation was provided in committee. No action was taken.

Discussion of 2026 Recreation Projects List: Discussion was had in committee. No action was taken.

Recreation Area Status Report – Mr. Marcus Long highlighted the prepared report provided in the meeting packet, noting that there had been 130,000 visitors to the District recreation areas during the month of August 2025. Updated maintenance items include, but not limited to:

- Two dredges and a spud barge are on the river and currently in route northward from the Natchitoches area
- Grand Ecore RV Park pool is officially closed. Tree trimming and tree removal at the park following a recent weather event

d) **Ports** - None

e) **Public Awareness & Marketing**

- Crappie 1-day tournament on Cross Lake and 1-day on Red River
- Bass Tournament past weekend in Coushatta
- Bass restocking program – October 2025

f) **Personnel** - None

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

h) **Legislative** - None

9. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Discussed the possibility and parameters thereof of contributory funding to the USACE for dredging
- Navigation update – Red River isn't officially closed, but tows are not pushing up river due to lower water levels
- Preliminary work has begun on the proposed 2026 budget that will be presented at the November meeting
- 2026 contracts list to be presented at the October meeting
- Possibility of Congressional visits in October

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

- 12 Mile Bayou project boat launch is progressing
- 1North Adventure Trails project phase 1D, multi-use trails, is progressing
- 1North Adventure Trails project, phase 1B, nearly complete
- Ft. Buhlow project is approximately 50% complete with projected opening date of August 2026

11. **GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT** - None

12. **CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPORT** – Katy Breaux, US Army Corps of Engineers, provided an update to the Commission including:

- Construction contract awarded for the approach to Lock 2
- Dredging – Corps' larger dredge is working the gauntlet area and moving southerly
- 12' Channel Study – In review phase with draft in month or two

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

14. **OTHER BUSINESS** - None

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

16. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

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

a) **Discuss Privileged Matters Pursuant to Louisiana code of Evidence Article 506**

Immediately following Executive Session, by motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Richardson 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 Richardson, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned.


JAMES F. MAXEY
SECRETARY/TREASURER


TROY ROUSSELL
CHAIR DESIGNEE