

**MINUTES
OF THE
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING
DECEMBER 18, 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 David L. Crutchfield, II, Commissioner Michael P. Deville, Commissioner Paul Fleming, Commissioner Charles R. Greer, Commissioner David Jones, Commissioner Ronald Lattier, Commissioner James F. Maxey, Commissioner Kenneth Richardson, Commissioner Michael Simpson.

Absent: Commissioner Jacques Goudeau

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: Mayor Joe Bishop of Pineville and Mr. Darrell Basco, Chief Operations Officer.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD PURSUANT TO LRS 42:14

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Deville, the minutes of the November 20, 2024 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 November 2024 were unanimously approved.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Contracts

Consideration of Construction Bids/Fort Buhlow Recreation Area-Additional Amenities 2023/Project No. 23-01/Contract No. RRW-819: By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the Commission unanimously approved award of base bid to Pat Williams Construction, LLC in the amount of \$4,465,000.00.

Consideration of Approval of Change Order No. 1/RRWC Project No. 23-02/Contract No. RRW-812/Twelve Mile Bayou Boat Ramp: By motion of Commissioner Clark, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Commission unanimously approved the change order which provides for an increase in contract cost of \$2,786.40, bringing the total construction cost to \$2,460,435 and rectifies the bid items in the contract to represent the updated boat ramp construction plan, at no cost, and increases the contract time by four (4) days.

b) Land Management, Legal Affairs & Affirmative Action

Consideration of Authority to Re-Advertise Public Bid Land Leases Expiring in 2025 and Early 2026: By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Richardson, the Commission unanimously approved granting staff authority to re-advertise the applicable properties for public bid lease.

Consideration of Authority to Re-Appraise Leasebacks Expiring in 2025: By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Commission unanimously approved granting staff the authority to re-appraise the following leaseback properties: Lock and Dam 1, Tract 1, 43 acres and Lock and Dam 1, Tract 1 segment B and B-1, 106.9 acres.

Consideration of Request for Land Lease Cancellation and Authority to Advertise/Hadden Ft. DeRussy Realignment/Tracts 45, 46 & 47/235 Acres: By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved the request from Mr. Aubrey McNeal to cancel the land lease with an early cancellation fee of \$200.00 and authorized staff to re-advertise the property for public bid lease at a minimum bid of \$15.00 per acre.

Consideration of Approval of Annexation of 1North Adventure Trails Mitigation Property to Town of Blanchard/437.57 Acres: By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved the annexation of the 437.57 acres of 1North Adventure Trails Mitigation property to the Town of Blanchard and authorized Executive Director, Colin Brown, to execute the Petition for Annexation on behalf of the Commission.

c) Recreation

Recreation Area Status Report – Mr. Marcus Long highlighted the prepared report provided in the meeting packet, noting that there had been 63,000 visitors to the District recreation areas during the month of November 2024. Updated maintenance items include, but not limited to:

- Ongoing routine maintenance
- Bassmaster Classic will be held in Fort Worth, March 2025
- Red Crest Expo will be held in Alabama, April 2025

d) **Ports**

Consideration of Funding Request/Avoyelles Parish Port Commission/Liquid Fertilizer Storage Tank:

By motion of Commissioner Jones, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Commission unanimously approved the additional \$150,000.00 project funding request with requirements that the cooperative endeavor agreement to include requirement for a legal opinion from the Avoyelles Port Commission' legal counsel on properly followed Bid Law before payment may be released.

e) **Public Awareness & Marketing**

Marketing Update – Sports Spectrum hosted the annual Turkey Trot at the Commission's Stoner Recreation area with 1100 participants. Sports Spectrum will be putting on the first trail race at INorth Adventure Trails March 1, 2025.

f) **Personnel - None**

g) **Revenue, Banking & Budget**

Consideration of Approval of 2024 Surplus Equipment List and Authority to Properly Dispose of Items:

By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Greer, the Commission unanimously approved the list of items declared as surplus and for the proper disposal of them.

Consideration of Authority to Un-Reserve/Un-Designate Remaining Project Funds: By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Greer, the Commission unanimously approved un-reserving/un-designating \$677,910.13 of remaining funds from various completed 2024 projects or projects that were not developed.

Consideration of Approval of 2025 Budget: By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, the Commission unanimously approved/adopted the 2025 budget as presented and the following Resolution was read aloud:

RESOLUTION FOR ADOPTION OF THE 2025 BUDGET FOR THE RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION

WHEREAS, the Red River Waterway Commission has appointed Executive Director, Colin Brown, to prepare and submit a proposed budget to said governing body; and

WHEREAS, Executive Director, Colin Brown, has submitted a proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2025, beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2025, to this governing body on December 18, 2024 for its consideration, and;

WHEREAS, upon due and proper notice, published and posted in accordance with the law, said proposed budget was open for inspection by the public at a designated place, a public hearing was held on December 18, 2024, and interested taxpayers were given the opportunity to inspect and comment as to said proposed budget, and;

WHEREAS, the budget remains in balance, as required by law.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE Red River Waterway Commission of the State of Louisiana:

Section 1. That the budget as submitted, amended, and summarized by fund, hereby is approved and adopted as the budget of the Red River Waterway Commission for the year stated above.

Section 2. That the budget hereby approved and adopted shall be signed by the Secretary/Treasurer and Executive Director.

ADOPTED, this 18th day of December 2024 after vote of the Red River Waterway Commission.

h) **Legislative - None**

9. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Reminder to Commissioners that annual requirements are due December 31
- Appreciation in approving the 2025 Budget
- Reminder to Commissioners to submit any 2024 reimbursable expenses
- Holiday Wishes

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

- INorth Adventure Trails Phase 1A/Interim Parking Lot – should be completed by the end of January/first of February
- INorth Adventure Trails Phase 1B/6 miles of trails – Design completed. Bid opening February 6
- INorth Adventure Trails Phase 1C/Lake Deepening – Approved design contract. Bleeder ditches in place. Bid opening in early Spring and begin in June
- INorth Adventure Trails Phase 1D/Multi-Use Trails – Approved design contract. 8-9 miles available for use now and will be used March 1 by Spectrum Sports trails race. Bid opening in March or April
- INorth Adventure Trails Phase 1E/Permanent Parking, Restrooms, Picnic Pavillions – Present for consideration the first of the year
- INorth Adventure Trails Phase 1F – Remainder of bike trails wrapped up and maintenance shed
- Alexandria Levee Park – continued progress in construction phases
- Additional projects: 12 Mile Bayou Boat Ramp; Ft. Buhlow Additional Amenities; Brouillette Recreation area

11. **GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT** - None

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

- 13. **RED RIVER VALLEY ASSOCIATION** - None
- 14. **OTHER BUSINESS** - None
- 15. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC** - None
- 16. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

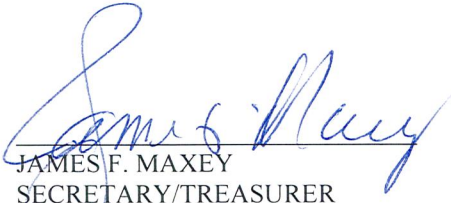
By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Richardson and unanimously approved, the Commission entered into Executive Session to discuss the following matters of litigation:

Discuss Privileged Matters Pursuant to Louisiana Code of Evidence Article 506

Immediately following Executive Session, by motion of Commissioner Simpson, 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 Crutchfield, and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned.



JAMES F. MAXEY
SECRETARY/TREASURER



TROY ROUSSELL
CHAIR DESIGNEE