

1 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE**
2 **SABINE RIVER AUTHORITY**
3 **STATE OF LOUISIANA**
4 **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**
5 **CYPRESS BEND RESORT LEARNING CENTER**
6 **2000 CYPRES BEND PARKWAY**
7 **MANY, LA 71449**
8 **1:00PM THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 2023**
9

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11 **MEMBERS PRESENT:** **Mr. Jeremy Evans, Chairman**
12 **Mr. Kenneth Ebarb, Vice-Chairman**
13 **Mr. Shane Jeane, Secretary**
14 **Mrs. Rhonda Cupit**
15 **Mr. Jimmy Foret, Jr**
16 **Mr. Byron Gibbs**
17 **Mr. Ned Goodeaux**
18 **Mr. Mike McCormic**
19 **Mr. Kevin Mitchell**
20 **Mr. Therman Nash**
21 **Mrs. Hannah Savell**
22 **Mrs. Estella Scott**
23 **Mr. Stanley Vidrine**
24

25 **MEMBERS ABSENT:** **None.**

26
27 **OTHERS PRESENT:** **Warren Founds, Executive Director-SRA, Many, LA**
28 **Becky Anderson, Adm Asst 5-SRA, Many, LA**
29 **Kellie Ferguson, Adm Prog Dir 3-SRA, Many, LA**
30 **Alan Fulton, Eng. Intern 2-SRA, Many, LA**
31 **Chevy Medlock, Adm Mgr 3-SRA, Many, LA**
32 **Joey Remedies, Fac. Maint Mgr C-SRA, Many, LA**
33 **Chad Strother, Land Specialist 3-SRA, Many, LA**
34 **There were nine (9) visitors.**
35

36
37 Mr. Evans called the meeting to order. Mr. McCormic offered the Prayer and Mr.
38 Jeane led the Pledge. The roll was called and it was noted that all were present therefore,
39 a quorum was established.

40 Mr. Evans asked if there were any additions or deletions to the circulated agenda?
41 Hearing none, he asked for a motion to adopt the agenda as circulated. **Mr. Foret**
42 **moved, seconded by Mr. Ebarb to adopt the circulated agenda. Motion carried**
43 **unanimously.**

44 Mr. Evans stated that the minutes of the June 29, 2023 meeting were in the packet
45 and asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting, if there were no
46 corrections. **Mr. Gibbs moved, seconded by Mrs. Scott to approve the minutes of the**
47 **Board meeting of June 29, 2023 as circulated. Motion carried unanimously.**

48 **STAFF REPORTS: Item #1-TBPJO- Power House Operations:** Mr. Fulton
49 stated that as of August 16th, total generation was 205,857.7MWH. He stated that the

1 Power House Step Up Transformer Replacement Project work continues since the
2 transformers have been delivered and placed into position. **Reservoir Levels/Status:**
3 The average reservoir level through June was 171.26'msl, July 170.43'msl and as of
4 August 16th, it is 169.42'msl. He stated that the Prime Power Schedule runs May 1st thru
5 September 30th. **FERC/NERC/SERC:** Certrec Corporation continues to provide
6 support to SRA-TX and SRA-LA for NERC/SERC/FERC compliance issues for Power
7 House. He stated that the spillway inspection is scheduled for August 29th which will
8 check the motors and gears.

9 **Item #2-Shoreline: Permitting Activity:** Mr. Strother stated that from
10 June 22nd, 2023 thru August 17th, 2023, there were (13) new structure permits, (31)
11 transferred structure permits, (9) new water withdrawal(s), (11) transferred water
12 withdrawals, (1) cancelled water withdrawals, (0) shoreline improvements
13 (dredge/erosion control), (14) approved final inspections and (0) failed final inspection.
14 **NORTH-Converse area:** 1-new structures; 7-transferred structures; 1-transferred water
15 withdrawals and 0-cancelled water withdrawal. **NORTH-Noble area:** 0 new structures;
16 2-transferred structures; 0-new water withdrawal; 0-transferred water withdrawal and 0-
17 cancelled water withdrawal; **NORTH-Zwolle area:** 4-new structures; 7-transferred
18 structure; 0-new water withdrawal; 3-transferred water withdrawal; 1- cancelled water
19 withdrawal. **MID LAKE-Many area:** 5-new structures; 14-transferred structures; 7-
20 new water withdrawal; 4-transferred water withdrawal; 0-cancelled water withdrawals; 0-
21 shoreline improvements. **SOUTH-Florien:** 3-new structures; 3-transferred structures; 2-
22 new water withdrawal; 3-transferred water withdrawal and 0-cancelled water withdrawal.
23 **FLOWAGE EASEMENTS:** He stated that Emma's Retreat Subdivision which covered
24 24.81 acres with 43 proposed lots/sites is located on Sportsman Lane, north of Kites
25 Landing. **ENCROACHMENT PROGRAM:** None to report. **OTHER:** None to report.

26 **Item #3-Operational:** Mr. Remedies stated that the crew had returned to the
27 Golf Course to cut and remove trees that were not reachable earlier in the year due to the
28 wet conditions. He stated that the Restrooms at San Miguel Park are being trimmed out,
29 the fixtures need to be installed and a handicap parking space needs to be poured before
30 completion. He stated that Cypress Bend Park had a limb to go thru the roof of Cabin
31 #10, all necessary repairs have been assessed and the work is completed. He stated that

1 the crew has mobilized the equipment to Garrett Park in Logansport for the new boat
2 launch project. He stated that trees have been removed at the launch site, the launch has
3 been roughed in and dredging the canal is underway. **SRD:** Mr. Remedies stated that the
4 report was handed out to each member and he would answer any questions. He stated
5 that the Coach Williams Drive Project has a final completion date of September 18th, the
6 parish contractors are currently installing the road surface. He stated that that the
7 contractor's equipment is on-site at the Ozan Bridge Capital Project with a projected start
8 date of September 4th. He stated that staff is currently reviewing bids for electrical
9 upgrade at Pump Station #3 for the two larger capacity pumps.

10 **Financial Report:** Mrs. Ferguson stated that the Draft financial reports were
11 circulated within the meeting packet. She stated that the final financial for FY'23 is not
12 complete because staff hasn't received the adjusting entries to be made to close the
13 books. She stated that the revenues for the Toledo Bend Division for July 2023 were
14 \$779,981.51 expenses were \$358,130.67, showing a profit of \$421,850.84. She stated
15 that for the Diversion Canal Division revenues for July 2023 were \$705,264.49, expenses
16 were \$62,317.67, leaving a profit of \$642,946.82. She stated that there is a footnote
17 reminder typed at the bottom of the report as a request that the Board approve the
18 standard expenditures in excess of Mr. Founds' purchasing authority such as electricity,
19 insurance, and Compact etc. She stated that also included is Louisiana's one-half of
20 Toledo Bend Project's Fiscal Year '24 Budget that she requests the Board approve with
21 the report. She stated that staff would like to inform the Board of a possible finding on
22 the audit. She stated that it had to do with the depreciation of Joint Operations
23 accounting. She stated that depreciation is a non-cash expense so there's no money
24 associated with the finding. She stated that after much research, from 1995-96 audits,
25 half of the Joints' assets were placed on our books. She stated that later in the 2004 audit
26 of Joint, it stated that Reservoirs and Waterway was not to be depreciated. She stated that
27 Joint reversed their books; however, this was not reflected through our audit that year
28 which should have been done by the current auditors so therefore, the books do not
29 balance. She stated that the item will be reflected on the books this year to the amount of
30 about \$13million dollars. She stated that the auditors took the hand written books and
31 prepared the reports. She stated that later the accounting was computerized and staff

1 started preparing the depreciation. She stated that September 25-29 will be the Civil
2 Service Compliance Audit on all employees. She stated that a few months ago, park
3 managers were given permission to post on the Facebook Page for their park as well as
4 answer any requests that from visitors on the page. She stated that staff has been asked to
5 also post current events or happenings within the park and in doing all of this, there have
6 been 12,000 visitors to the park pages. She stated that online reservations are continuing
7 to increase with last month's count of 150. **Mr. Foret moved, seconded by Mr. Jeane**
8 **to approve staff reports as circulated and presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

9 **SPECIAL REPORTS: None.**

10 **PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.**

11 **OLD BUSINESS: Item #1-Update Project Boundary FERC Order:** Mr.
12 Founds stated that staff had submitted to FERC a plan to amend the Project Boundary in
13 order that requests could be handled by our staff rather than the requests having to be sent
14 to FERC for approval. He stated that several examples were used by SRA to support the
15 request for the amendment and FERC has ordered those examples to proceed with their
16 projects. He stated that Sunset Subdivision was one of the examples. He stated that these
17 projects would include land exchanges.

18 **Item #2-Melancon Property per FERC Order:** Mr. Founds stated that the
19 Melancon Tract is a new development where there would be an actual sale of some of the
20 property to clear up the boundary. He stated that within the packet, an appraisal was
21 done of the property in order to clarify the value of the land to be purchased by Melancon
22 to satisfy the order. He stated that the appraised value is what SRA would be allowed to
23 sell the property to Melancon. He stated that staff is recommending that you approve the
24 sale of the 6.03 acres to Melancon for the price of \$42,000 and authorize the Executive
25 Director to execute the necessary documents. **Mr. McCormic moved, seconded by Mr.**
26 **Foret to approve the sale of the 6.03 acres to Melancon Subdivision for the amount**
27 **of \$42,000 and authorize the Executive Director to execute the necessary documents.**
28 **Motion carried unanimously.**

29 **NEW BUSINESS: Item #1-Approve FY'24 Budget:** Mrs. Ferguson stated that
30 the total FY'24 recommended budget is Revenues of \$16,452,832, Expenses of
31 \$19,561,938 showing a loss of \$3,109,106. She stated that staff is requesting this budget
32 be approved as well as the approval of the Emergency Repair for SRD (diversion canal)

1 pump/motors not to exceed \$250,000. She stated that this item is being requested strictly
2 in case of an emergency so that staff can expedite the necessary repairs without having to
3 wait to call a Board meeting; however, the Board will have the opportunity to approve the
4 expenditures if necessary after the fact. **Mr. Gibbs moved, seconded by Mr. Mitchell**
5 **to approve the Budget for FY'24 and to approve the Emergency Repair Fund for**
6 **the diversion canal not to exceed \$250,000 for necessary repairs for pump/motors in**
7 **the event the need arises. Motion carried unanimously.**

8 **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

9 **1) Diversion Canal: No meeting.**

10 **2) Toledo Bend Division: No meeting.**

11 **3) Parks: No meeting.**

12 **4) Finance: No meeting.**

13 **5) Cypress Bend Golf Resort:** Mr. Ebarb stated that the committee had met.

14 He stated that he had been re-elected to serve as chairman. He stated that there
15 were several items discussed. He stated that ALH has asked for an extension for
16 the renovation project. **Mr. Ebarb moved, seconded by Mr. McCormic to**
17 **approve extending the date for the Renovation Project at the hotel by ALH**
18 **until December 1, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.** He stated that

19 circulated within the meeting packet was the financial list. He stated that there
20 several items that needed to be paid for such as pumps, motors & controls for golf
21 course, conference center fitness air conditioning, insulation from Interstate
22 Building Supplies, Chris McCallum contract, and ice machine for the pro shop.

23 **Mr. Ebarb moved, seconded by Mr. Jeane to approve the total expenditure**
24 **of \$34,782.55 for the aforementioned items. Motion carried unanimously.**

25 Mr. Ebarb stated that staff requested that the Executive Director be authorized
26 permission to spend, only if needed, up to \$30,000 for a Consent Agreement item
27 in FY'24 and report that amount spent back to the board. **Mr. Ebarb moved,**
28 **seconded by Mr. McCormic to approve authorizing the Executive Director**
29 **permission to spend up to \$30,000 for a Consent Agreement item and report**
30 **back to the Board the expenditure amount. Motion carried unanimously.**

1 Mr. Ebarb stated that the staff requested that the Jeff Blume Contract be closed
2 out at the total cost of \$200,300. **Mr. Ebarb moved, seconded by Mrs. Savell to**
3 **approve closing out the Jeff Blume Contract for the total cost of \$200,300.**
4 **Motion carried unanimously.** Mr. Ebarb stated that staff requested that the
5 Executive Director be authorized to sign the “Consent and Recognition
6 Agreement” which is the “sublease agreement” between ALH, No.5 and Sterling
7 Golf. **Mr. Ebarb moved, seconded by Mr. McCormic to authorized the**
8 **Executive Director to sign the “Consent and Recognition Agreement”**
9 **between ALH, No. 5 and Sterling Golf. Motion carried unanimously.**
10 **6) Toledo Bend Project Operations: No meeting.**

11 **LEGAL REPORT:** Mr. Founds stated that the pending 2016 lawsuit that was
12 filed in Texas is waiting to hear if a Jury Trial date will be granted or no within the next
13 eighteen months. **Mr. Foret moved, seconded by Mr. Ebarb to approve the legal**
14 **report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

15 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:** Mr. Founds stated that he had no
16 report.

17 Mr. Evans stated that the next meeting would be Thursday, September 28, 2023 at
18 1PM at the Cypress Bend Conference Center 2000 Cypress Bend Parkway Many, LA.

19 With no further business to discuss, Mr. Evans asked for a motion to adjourn.
20 **Mrs. Cupit moved, seconded by Mr. Ebarb to adjourn. Motion carried**
21 **unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 2:21p.m.**

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JEREMY EVANS, CHAIRMAN

KENNETH EBARB, VICE-CHAIRMAN

ATTEST: _____
SHANE JEANE, SECRETARY