

# River Living



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THE RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION

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## RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION TO PROVIDE \$2.4 MILLION FOR PORT EXPANSION

The Red River Waterway Commission and the Port of Shreveport-Bossier entered into a cooperative endeavor agreement to build an \$8 million dock. The Red River Waterway Commission will provide \$2.4 million for construction costs in addition to their existing \$1 million contribution, while the remainder of the project will be provided by the Louisiana Port Priority program and the Port of Shreveport-Bossier. A signing ceremony was held following the February meeting of the Red River Waterway Commission in Shreveport.

The dock will be designed to accommodate Kalama, Washington-based company Steelscape, which began operations at the Port of Shreveport-Bossier in April 2006. In late July, the plant received its first major shipment of steel coils from Thailand.

"The Red River Waterway Commission is a vital Port partner," said Eric England, Director of the Port of Shreveport-Bossier. "Their assistance with this new dock will greatly benefit Steelscape's operations. Throughout the Port's development, the Waterway Commission has helped the Port establish the infrastructure necessary for continued development."

The Port of Shreveport-Bossier expects construction on the dock to begin in the fourth quarter of 2007 and says construction will last approximately one year.

▼ (l - r) James Pannell, Shreveport-Bossier Port; Mickey Prestridge, Wayne Davis, RRWC Commissioners



▲ Commissioner Mickey Prestridge meets with the media following signing ceremony

## US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS CONDUCTS PUBLIC AWARENESS TOUR

After canceling 2005's inspection tour due to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers held another round of inspection tours on Red River, October 3-13, 2006. The public was invited to attend. The Corps made four stops on Red River, starting in the southern portion of the river at Ben Routh Recreation Area. The inspection tour's other stops included Colfax Recreation Area, Coushatta Recreation Area and Downtown Shreveport-Bossier City.

"This is such a beautiful river," said Harmon Belgard, Rapides Parish Red River Waterway Commissioner. "These tours give the public the opportunity to see firsthand the progress we've made on Red River."

The purpose of the inspection tours is to inspect the river levees, locks and dams for possible repairs and routine adjustments.



▲ Tour participants await arrival at the next lock

## RED RIVER BASS STOCKING CONTINUES



◀ Workers prepare to begin fingerling distribution for restocking

For its fifth consecutive year, the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Division released 58,000 Florida largemouth bass (5 to 7-inch phase II fingerlings) into the five pools on Red River. Each pool received almost 12,000 fingerlings. The fish were procured with a \$50,000 donation from the Red River Waterway Commission and the Louisiana Wildlife & Fisheries Foundation.

The fish were delivered from Dunn's Fish Farms to the Red River's Grand Ecore Recreation Area

in Natchitoches. After dividing the fish into five equal lots, the fish were then trucked to four other recreational sites for distribution into the river. The four other sites were Fort Buhlow, Brouillette Landing, Coushatta Landing and Clark's Landing.

The purpose of this yearly restocking is to help establish the Florida strain's superior genetic traits into the native population of Red River bass. This effort continues to draw attention to bass anglers from all over the country. The Red River has been the site selected by many of the national bass fishing organizations because of the quality of its fisheries. Recreational and tournament fishing assist the local economies in several locations along the waterway.

## WIRELESS INTERNET QUIETLY INVADES COLFAX RECREATION AREA

The words “Colfax Recreation Area” and “wireless internet access” usually wouldn’t seem to go well together. But since August 2006, the two phrases rest comfortably together. That was the month the Colfax Recreation Area received wireless internet access throughout the barely five-year old recreation area and RV park.

The service is free to all customers who pay the \$18 fee to spend the night in any of the park’s 25 RV slots. At the front gate of the recreation area, guests are given a login name and password.

Most RV campers these days are equipped with computers. This allows them to travel throughout the country, conduct business, stay in touch, pay bills, leisure browsing of the internet and perform many other financial transactions.



## TERRAL RIVER SERVICES CHRISTENS NEW TUGBOAT AT ALEXANDRIA REGIONAL PORT

Among those in attendance: (l-r) Marilyn Haley, Shreveport-Bossier Port; Alvin Owens, RRWC Commissioner; Marion Chaney, Alexandria Regional Port Authority



With a crowd of about 50 onlookers, Renee Whatley christened Terral River Service’s newest tugboat the Renee T. Whatley, Friday, January 12, 2007, at the Alexandria Regional Port. The vessel is the newest tugboat in the fleet of Terral River Services.



“This is the third of four boats that we are building or scheduled to build,” said Thomas Gattle, president of Terral River Services. “I think our boats now would be responsible for moving the largest tonnage on the Red River.”

The boat was named for Gattle’s sister-in-law and the oldest daughter of his now deceased partner, John Terral. The Renee T. Whatley remained open all morning to give the public a chance to tour the boat and discover all its features. Following the ceremony, lunch was served at the nearby Port Transit Shed.



# ONGOING PROJECTS *with funding assistance from Red River Waterway Commission*

## **Rapides Parish**

Ft. Randolph - Civil War park development  
Port of Alexandria - Transit shed expansion  
Port of Alexandria - Operations Center

## **Natchitoches Parish**

Port of Natchitoches - Dock/Fill project  
Natchitoches - Grand Ecore, Phase II  
Port of Natchitoches - Operations Center

## **Red River Parish**

Red River Parish Port - Initial phase  
Red River Parish Port - ISG

## **Caddo/Bossier Parish**

Port of Shreveport-Bossier - Omni Industries project  
Port of Shreveport-Bossier - Slack water slip/shipbuilding facility  
City of Bossier City - Riverwalk  
Port of Shreveport-Bossier - Steelscape project  
Port of Shreveport-Bossier - Material Handling Equipment

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*These projects represent over \$20 million in funding assistance from the RRWC.*

Johnny B. Bradberry, Chairman; Ed Preau, Acting Chairman; Marc Dupuy, Jr., Vice Chairman; James F. Maxey, Secretary/Treasurer; Kenneth P. Guidry, Executive Director.  
Commissioners: Harmon Belgard, Rapides Parish; Charles E. Britton, At-Large; Wayne Davis, Bossier Parish; Marc Dupuy, Jr., Avoyelles Parish; Bruce Easterly, At-Large; Paul Fleming, Natchitoches Parish; Randell Fletcher, Grant Parish; James F. Maxey, At-Large; W. Alvin Owens, At-Large; Rogers "Mickey" Prestridge, Caddo Parish; Michael Simpson, Red River Parish.

*For more information, call the Red River Waterway Commission at 1-800-874-9431.*

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