

MINUTES  
OF THE  
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING  
JANUARY 21, 2009  
10:00 AM  
COMMISSION HEADQUARTERS  
NATCHITOCHE, LOUISIANA

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Red River Waterway Commission was called to order by Acting Chairman, Mr. Ed Preau, in the Board Room of the Red River Waterway Commission Office located in Natchitoches, Louisiana.

2. **ROLL CALL & INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS**

Roll was called and a quorum was present. Others in attendance were asked to identify themselves.

**Present:** Acting Chairman, Ed Preau, Commissioner Harmon Belgard, Commissioner Charles E. Britton, Commissioner Wayne Davis, Commissioner Marc Dupuy, Jr., Commissioner Paul Fleming, Commissioner Randell Fletcher, Commissioner Alvin Owens, Commissioner Michael Simpson.

**Absent:** Commissioner James Doug Brown, Commissioner James F. Maxey, Commissioner Rogers M. Prestridge

**RRWC Staff Members Present:** Mr. Ken Guidry - Executive Director, Mr. Randy Walters - Marketing Director, Mr. Mike Boydston - Operations & Maintenance Director, Mrs. Cathy Rushing - Executive Assistant, Mr. Colin Brown - Engineer Supervisor, Mr. Garland Brown - Real Estate Manager, Mr. Greg Upton - Legal Counsel.

**Others Present:** Mr. Jacob Brister, Mr. Rich Brontoli, Ms. Brooke Niette, Mr. John Marzullo, Mr. Johnny Martin, Mr. Eric England, Mr. Robert Breedlove

3. **APPROVAL OF REVISED AGENDA**

By motion of Commissioner Belgard, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, the agenda was revised and unanimously approved. Comments from the public were called for, however, none were offered.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

By motion of Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Dupuy, the minutes of the December 17, 2008 meeting were unanimously approved.

5. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

By motion of Commissioner Dupuy, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher, the Expenditures & Investment Reports for the month of December, 2008 were unanimously approved. Due to end of the year close-out procedures, the Financial Statements for the month of December, 2008, were not available for approval at this time.

6. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) **Contracts**

**Approval of Louisiana Economic Development Cooperative Agreement/Bassmasters** - By motion of Commissioner Belgard, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher, the Commission unanimously approved the Louisiana Economic Development Cooperative Agreement with BASSMASTERS with regard to the 2009 BASSMASTERS Classic scheduled for February 20 - 22, 2009 in the Shreveport/Bossier City area.

**Ratification of Change Order #1/Alexandria Levee park Painting Contract** - By motion of Commissioner Belgard, seconded by Commissioner Owens, the Commission unanimously approved Change Order #1 for an additional \$576.00 with Vermillion Paint Contractors with regard to the Alexandria Levee Park repainting project.

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

**Award of Bid Lease/Verswyvelt Island** - By motion of Commissioner Dupuy, seconded by Commissioner Fleming, the Commission unanimously approved award of the Verswyvelt Island lease of 108 acres for a bid amount of \$7,000 for a term of five years to Mr. Bobby Hamilton.

**Award of Bid Lease/Pool 4, Tract 25** - By motion of Commissioner Dupuy, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, the Commission unanimously approved award of the Pool 4, Tract 25 lease of .82 acres for a bid amount of \$10,968.75 for a period of 25 years to Red River Environmental Products.

**Tensas Delta Request/Lease Assignment** - By motion of Commissioner Dupuy, seconded by Commissioner Belgard, the Commission unanimously approved the Cash Sale Deed for the sale of surplus property to the original landowner, Tensas Delta Exploration, LLC, in the amount of \$164,220.00 with assignment of the existing lease on that property to Tensas Delta Exploration, LLC.

c) **Recreation**

**Recreation Area Status Report** - A prepare report was provided in the meeting packet. In addition, Mr. Boydston reported on the following items:

- There was a total of approximately 1.8 million visitors to the District recreation areas during 2008.
- The painting project at the Alexandria Levee Park is substantially complete. Mr. Boydston noted that Vermillion Paint Contractors have done an excellent job and added that the painted structures look almost as good as they did when newly constructed.
- For the first time in several years, all boats ramps in the District are clean in January. There has been very little high water issues resulting in ramp clearing activities.
- State Farm Insurance Company had notified Mr. Boydston that they will be paying for the replacement of the damaged sign at the Teague Parkway location which occurred as a result of a traffic accident under terms of the coverage by the party at fault. He anticipates that sign being in place prior to the

BASSMASTERS Classic event in February, 2009.

- Mr. Spencer Griffith has expressed his appreciation of the Commission in authorizing his placement of a memorial plaque honoring his daughter who drowned at the Coushatta Boat Ramp facility as a result a boating incident.
- Advertisements have been issued for bids for mowing contracts as well as contracts for aquatic vegetation spraying by boat. Those bids will be opened in February, 2009.
- The RV Park Investment Conference scheduled for February in Virginia has been cancelled due to lack of an adequate number of attendees to justify the conference. Therefore he will not be making that trip, as previously approved.
- Blount Brothers is currently working on the opening to the Wilkerson Point bend way to improve access into that area.
- The recreation dredging project is 100% complete.

**d) Ports**

**Request for Amended Cooperative Agreement/Avoyelles Parish Port** - By motion of Commissioner Britton, seconded by Commissioner Belgard, the Commission approved a funding assistance request for \$50,000 to the Avoyelles Parish Port to assist in cost overruns for the fertilizer off-loading facility construction project, contingent upon the Port obtaining and providing documentation to the RRWC regarding the following items:

- Approval by State Facility Planning and Control
- Additional funds be secured to make up the difference so that all parties are paid for outstanding invoices.
- Insure that there are adequate funds to complete the project, including engineering.
- Provide copy of executed lease with Helena Chemical.

Commissioner Marc Dupuy, Jr. recused himself from voting on this matter as he performs legal activities for the Port.

**e) Public Awareness & Marketing**

**Marketing Update** - A Client Activity Report was provided by KJA. Mr. Randy Walters reported as follows:

- Funds were budgeted for a Freight Analysis Study. The Commission will be provided with a scope of services for that project for the Commission's approval in February so that work may begin on that project in March. Mike McQuillin with DiMatter & Associates will be conducting that study.
- Items have been purchased for distribution during the BASSMASTERS Classic event in February.
- He will be going to Washington, D.C. with Eric England during the Mardi Gras break. He added that the 12 foot channel issue is very high on the list of priorities.
- Mr. Johnny Martin with Terrel RiverServices invited the Commissioners to a boat christening, January 22, 2009 at 11:00 AM.
- He will provide the Commissioners with an activity calendar by the February meeting in Bossier City.

**f) Personnel** - No report

**g) Revenue, Banking & Budget** - No report

**h) Legislative** - No report

**7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT** - No report

**8. STATUS OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY/ENGINEERING REPORT** - Prepared reports were provided in the meeting packet. Mr. Colin Brown also reported on the following items:

- The Ft. Randolph project is moving along with 55% completion at this point. He encouraged the Commissioners to stop by to view the project at their convenience.
- Mr. Brown is currently reviewing the plans and specifications for the Poland Recreation Area project. Preliminary review indicates the cost estimates are very high. He will be working to bring those costs in-line with the budget amount for that project.

**9. GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT** - Mr. Greg Upton reported that litigation issue between Headwaters and the Red River Parish Port is still in the fact-finding stage of the process. There has been no talk of settlement at this point. At this point, Commissioner Michael Simpson reported that some mention was made in reference to a meeting that was held between members of the RRWC staff and Commissioners, Port officials and representatives of Headwaters, Inc. in June, 2007, whereby the representatives of Headwaters were requested in that meeting to provide certain information within 45 days of that meeting. Commissioner Simpson suggested that Mr. Guidry review his notes of that meeting and consult with Mr. Greg Upton regarding the same.

**10. CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPORT** - Mr. Jacob Brister reported on the following items:

- Notice to proceed has been issued to the contractor approximately three weeks ago on the Phillip Bayou Revetment project.
- The final inspection of the Bois D'Arc Revetment Project was performed on December 17, 2008.
- The Natchitoches Levee, West Bank Project is complete.

**11. RED RIVER VALLEY ASSOCIATION** - Mr. Rich Brontoli reported on the following items:

- It is anticipated that the Presidents Budget due out in early February, 2009, will be very general with no specifics. More details of that budget should be available in March, 2009.
- The Senate has moved their members request to April. No word on that issue from the House. Therefore, he and Mr. Guidry will not be traveling to D.C. in February as previously planned. However, Mr. Brontoli will be sending fact sheets to all of the congressional members in February so that they will be aware of the concerns of the Red River Waterway District.
- Mr. Brontoli is planning to go to Washington, D.C. in March 9-13, 2009, with the RRWC group scheduled for March 11- 13, 2009 to meet with the delegation.
- The RRVA Annual Conference is February 18 - 20, 2009 at Diamond Jacks Resort and Hotel in Bossier City, Louisiana. He highlighted the various meeting schedules of the conference.
- Mr. Brontoli gave a brief outline of the schedule of events for the BASSMASTERS Classic event.
- A meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 29, 2009 at 2:00 PM at the Colfax RV Park Activity

Center with all of the Louisiana Levee & Drainage Districts, FEMA, and COE & LADOTD engineers who work with the levees.

## 12. PORTS

a) **Alexandria Regional Port** - Mr. Marzullo reported on the following items:

- Construction on the Port office began in early January, 2009. Occupancy is anticipated in April 2009.
- A rail study has been completed except for the site selection portion of that study, however, he will report to RRWC when that is complete. He highlighted some of the aspects of rail shipments.

b) **Avoyelles Parish Port** - Mr. Randy Walters pointed out that the tonnage totals for 2008 was between approximately 25,000-28,000 tons.

c) **Caddo-Bossier Port** - Mr. Eric England reported on the following items:

- Out of 150 potential sites across the U.S., the Port has been selected by a Norway based company as the only site in the U.S. for a \$1 billion solar industry project which has the potential to expand into an \$1.8 billion project. The keys to the project are the administration's use of renewable energy policies and programs. This would be a river user operation employing 300+ employees. The Port's competition for the ultimate site selection for this project was China. This is approximately a 35 acre project.
- The Port is currently in an administrative office expansion mode, indicating the growth of the Port. The new facility will be located on Doug Attaway Blvd. at Red River and will provide adequate administrative office space to accommodate the current staff evaluation and restructuring process, as well as provide meeting space for the Port Commission to conduct its monthly business meetings, etc. The site chosen for the administrative offices has been a site which has been passed on by several Port users in the past and was chosen for the administrative offices for that reason, to make use of that property, leaving other sites open which may be more favorable for potential port users.
- Future activities of the Port includes plans to acquire additional lands west of the main Port office and south along the river adjacent to the Port complex. Once those sites are identified and negotiations are made with the landowners, the Port will be addressing the Red River Waterway Commission for assistance in those land acquisitions.
- Mr. England invited the Commissioners and staff to an annual Appreciation Dinner to be held on Wednesday, February 18, 2009 at 7:00 PM at the Diamond Jacks Casino and Resort, in conjunction with the Red River Valley Association Annual Conference.
- The Port will be participating in the Gulf Ports Association of the America's "Hit the Hill" event, scheduled for the end of February, 2009, in Washington, D.C. This event will provide the various ports and waterways an opportunity to bring the newly elected congressional members up to date with various Port activities, concerns and needs with regard to appropriations.
- Mr. England gave a brief overview of the series of events leading up to the Ports energy requirements being met by Southwest Energy and Power Company (SWEPCO) as opposed to the Port investing in the development of their own on-site power plant facility. He pointed out the rates offered by SWEPCO are some of the lowest in the country, which is certainly a consideration for industries seeking locations for their operations. He added that Pratt Industries has developed a process whereby they incinerate their waste fiber product to generate energy with their focus on a two to three year payback on their \$50 million investment in that "Clean Energy" facility.
- Mr. England offered to give the Commissioners a tour of the Port Complex during the RRVA conference, should there be a window of opportunity to get all of the Commissioners together for such. Details for that tour will be worked out between the Port and RRWC staff members.

d) **Natchitoches Parish Port** - Mr. Robert Breedlove reported on the following items:

- Total barge tonnage figures for 2008 was only 32% of those figures for 2007. Total truck tonnage was 55% of the total for 2007. He anticipates the wood chip shipments to reduce even further in 2009, due to the state of the economy at present. The total rail tonnage for 2008 was 93% of what it was in 2007. Overall, the total tonnage handled through the Port in 2008 was 64% of that in 2007.
- ADA will be coming into the Port and are approximately 30% complete with the construction of their facility. They will be pouring concrete for their office building on Friday, January 23, 2009, weather permitting.
- The Port is working with Terrel River Services so that they will function as the Stevedore for the Port.

e) **Red River Parish Port** - Mr. Robert Breedlove reported as follows:

- The Port Commission was scheduled to meet on January 20, 2009. However, that meeting did not take place due to a lack of a quorum. However, the Red River Parish Port Commission is interested in negotiating some form of settlement with Headwaters, Inc. relative to the litigation issue. He will keep the RRWC informed as to any progress in that matter.

Mr. Johnny Martin gave a brief update regarding the Petcoke operation at the Cleco plant. He indicated that it currently takes about two days to off-load a six pack barge unit. However, once they finally get the relay motor in for the conveyor system, that operation will improve. He also reiterated previous comments and invitation to the Commissioners to attend the christening ceremonies for the motor vessel "Christy T" as the first boat constructed solely to go into the Red River.

## 13. OTHER BUSINESS

**Change of Location/February 18, 2009 Meeting** - By motion of Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Belgard, the Commission unanimously approved the location change for the February 18, 2009 Commission meeting to Diamond Jacks Resort and Hotel in Bossier City, Louisiana with possible Committee meetings to be held on February 17, 2009 at that same location.

**Ratification of Committee Elections** - By motion of Commissioner Fleming, seconded by Commissioner Britton, the Commission unanimously approved the Committee appointments and the elected Chairmen of those committees as recommended by the various committees (See Attached).

**Resolution of Appreciation/S. Bruce Easterly** - My motion of Commissioner Belgard, seconded by

Commissioner Owens, the Commission unanimously approved the Resolution of Appreciation for former Commissioner S. Bruce Easterly to be presented to Mr. Easterly during the RRVA Conference in February.

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

15. **RECESS**

At this time, by motion of Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Fleming, and unanimously approved, the meeting recessed for lunch and the Secretary/Treasurer was authorized to pay for the meals of the Commissioners and their guests out of the funds of the District.

17. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting reconvened immediately following lunch, however, there being no further business to conduct at this time, by motion of Commissioner Fletcher, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned.

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JAMES F. MAXEY  
SECRETARY/TREASURER

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ED PREAU  
ACTING CHAIRMAN

# Red River Waterway Commission Committees

**Service Years: 2009 & 2010 \*\***

**CHAIRMAN**  
**ACTING CHAIRMAN**  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**Dr. William D. Ankner, Ph. D**  
**Ed Preau**  
**Kenneth P. Guidry**

\*\*\*\*\*      \*\*\*\*\*      \*\*\*\*\*      **CURRENT OFFICERS**      \*\*\*\*\*      \*\*\*\*\*

**VICE CHAIRMAN**  
**SECRETARY/TREASURER**  
**VICE SECRETARY/TREASURER**

**Marc Dupuy, Jr.**  
**James F. Maxey**  
**Michael Simpson**

CONTRACTS		PUBLIC RELATIONS & MARKETING	
<b>CHAIRMAN:      PRESTRIDGE, Rogers M.</b>		<b>CHAIRMAN:      OWENS, W. Alvin</b>	
BELGARD, Harmon	FLETCHER, Randell A.	BELGARD, Harmon	FLETCHER, Randell A.
BRITTON, Charles E.	MAXEY, James F.	BRITTON, Charles E.	MAXEY, James F.
DAVIS, Wayne T.	OWENS, W. Alvin	DAVIS, Wayne T.	OWENS, W. Alvin
DUPUY, Marc, Jr.	PRESTRIDGE, Rogers M.	DUPUY, Marc, Jr.	PRESTRIDGE, Rogers M.
FLEMING, Paul	SIMPSON, Michael	FLEMING, Paul	SIMPSON, Michael
LAND MANAGEMENT, LEGAL AFFAIRS & AFFIRMATIVE ACTION		PERSONNEL	
<b>CHAIRMAN:      DUPUY, Marc, Jr.</b>		<b>CHAIRMAN:      SIMPSON, Michael</b>	
BELGARD, Harmon	FLETCHER, Randell A.	BELGARD, Harmon	MAXEY, James F.
BRITTON, Charles E.	MAXEY, James F.	BRITTON, Charles E.	OWENS, W. Alvin
DAVIS, Wayne T.	OWENS, W. Alvin	DAVIS, Wayne T.	PRESTRIDGE, Rogers M.
DUPUY, Marc, Jr.	PRESTRIDGE, Rogers M.	DUPUY, Marc, Jr.	SIMPSON, Michael
FLEMING, Paul	SIMPSON, Michael	FLEMING, Paul	
RECREATION		REVENUE, BANKING & BUDGET	
<b>CHAIRMAN:      FLETCHER, Randell A.</b>		<b>CHAIRMAN:      MAXEY, James F.</b>	
BELGARD, Harmon	FLETCHER, Randell A.	BELGARD, Harmon	MAXEY, James F.
BRITTON, Charles E.	MAXEY, James F.	BRITTON, Charles E.	OWENS, W. Alvin
DAVIS, Wayne T.	OWENS, W. Alvin	DAVIS, Wayne T.	PRESTRIDGE, Rogers M.
DUPUY, Marc, Jr.	PRESTRIDGE, Rogers M.	DUPUY, Marc, Jr.	SIMPSON, Michael
FLEMING, Paul	SIMPSON, Michael	FLEMING, Paul	
PORTS		LEGISLATIVE	
<b>CHAIRMAN:      FLEMING, A. Paul</b>		<b>CHAIRMAN:      Ed Preau    All Commissioners Serve</b>	
BELGARD, Harmon	FLETCHER, Randell A.	BELGARD, Harmon	FLETCHER, Randell A.
BRITTON, Charles E.	MAXEY, James F.	BRITTON, Charles E.	MAXEY, James F.
DAVIS, Wayne T.	OWENS, W. Alvin	BROWN, Doug	OWENS, W. Alvin
DUPUY, Marc, Jr.	PRESTRIDGE, Rogers M.	DAVIS, Wayne T.	PRESTRIDGE, Rogers M.
FLEMING, Paul	SIMPSON, Michael	DUPUY, Marc, Jr.	SIMPSON, Michael
		FLEMING, Paul	

**\*\* NOTE:**    *It has been the practice of the RRWC that Committees are re-established every two years in an effort to allow rotation, giving each Commissioner the opportunity to serve actively on the various Committees. However, there are no limitations as to the number of Committees upon which any Commissioner may serve simultaneously.*