



**MINUTES
OF THE
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING
FEBRUARY 18, 2009
10:00 AM
DIAMOND JACKS CASINO & RESORT - GARNET ROOM
BOSSIER CITY, LOUISIANA**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Red River Waterway Commission was called to order by Acting Chairman, Ed Preau, in the Garnet Room of the Diamond Jacks Casino & Resort located in Bossier City, Louisiana.

2. ROLL CALL & INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Roll was called and a quorum was present. Others in attendance were asked to identify themselves and register their attendance on the sign-in sheet.

Present: Acting Chairman, Ed Preau, Commissioner Harmon Belgard, Commissioner Charles E. Britton, Commissioner Doug Brown, Commissioner Wayne Davis, Commissioner Marc Dupuy, Jr., Commissioner Paul Fleming, Commissioner Randell Fletcher, Commissioner James F. Maxey, Commissioner Alvin Owens, Commissioner Rogers M. Prestridge.

Absent: Commissioner Michael Simpson

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. Greg Upton - Legal Counsel.

Others Present: Mr. Rich Brontoli, Mr. Mike McQuillan, Mr. Eric England, Mrs. Robin Cosenza, Ms. Jackie Greer, Ms. Phyllis Jones, Mr. Gary Walker, Mr. Gary Etheridge.

3. APPROVAL OF REVISED AGENDA

By motion of Commissioner Belgard, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher, 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 Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Britton, the minutes of the January 21, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

Due to end-of-year close-out constraints, the approval for the December, 2008 Financial Statements as well as the January, 2009 Expenditures & Investment Reports were delayed until the March 18, 2009 Commission meeting.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Contracts

Approval of Ft. Randolph/Buhlow Change Order No. 5 - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Owens, the Commission unanimously approved the Ft. Randolph/Buhlow Change Order No. 5 regarding the substitution of 44' of boardwalk for aggregate trail at Fort Buhlow. The not-to-exceed cost was for \$28,575 with Facility Planning & Control paying 91.14% and the RRWC paying 8.86% or up to \$2,531.75.

Approval of Fort Randolph/Buhlow Change Order No. 6 - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Belgard, the Commission unanimously approved the Fort Randolph/Buhlow Change Order No. 6 regarding the deletion of 220' of aggregate trail, addition of 64' of aggregate trail, a addition of 81' of boardwalk to control flooding problems. The not-to-exceed cost was \$30,600 with Facility Planning and Control paying 91.14% and the RRWC paying 8.86% or up to \$2,711.16.

b) Land Management, Legal Affairs & Affirmative Action - No report

c) Recreation

Recreation Area Status Report - A prepared report was provided in the packets. Mr. Boydston reported that there had been 75,000 visitors to the various recreational facilities on Red River. He also noted that there are some underground electrical utility lines at the Arthur Teague Parkway facility, installed several years ago diagonally across the levee. A portion of this line has been exposed requiring the need for relocation of the lines, in order that the Bossier Levee District may obtain levee certification as required by the State of Louisiana. Following some discussion regarding this matter, Mr. Boydston was instructed to acquire the estimates for this work and report back to the Commission.

Mr. Boydston also pointed out that Park Ranger, Mr. Todd Meyers, will be involved with the BASSMASTERS Classic in assisting the anglers in scheduling the process of locking through the gates at Lock and Dam No. 5.

d) Ports

Approval of Cooperative Agreements:

Alexandria Regional Port - By motion of Commissioner Belgard, seconded by Commissioner Owens, the Commission unanimously approved the Cooperative Agreement with the Alexandria Regional Port in the amount of \$92,750 for the Dock Improvement Phase I project.

Avoyelles Parish Port - By motion of Commissioner Dupuy, seconded by Commissioner Britton, the Commission unanimously approved the Amendment No. 2 to the Cooperative Agreement with the Avoyelles Parish Port to provide an additional \$50,000 for cost overruns relative to the dock project at the Port.

Caddo-Bossier Port - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Brown, the Commission unanimously approved a Cooperative Agreement with the Caddo-Bossier Port Commission in the amount of \$4,500,000 for the 100,000sf Transit Shed project.

Mr. Randy Walters took this opportunity to note that the first quarterly report from the District Ports

will be provided during the quarterly Port Committing meeting scheduled for March 17, 2009.

e) Public Awareness & Marketing

Marketing Update - A prepared Client Activity Report was proved by KJA. Commissioner Owens also noted several articles regarding the J. Bennett Johnston Waterway appearing in different publications. In particular, he noted the most recent publication of BASSMASTERS magazine, which contains a two-page spread of the Red River just inside the front cover of the magazine, as well as three-page article further within the magazine. He also pointed out that each Commissioner has been provided with a DVD copy of all of the television spots about the Red River created and aired prior to and during the tournament.

At this point, Mr. Randy Walters reported that he had attended the Washington, D.C. Mardi Gras event about three weeks ago with Eric England of the Caddo-Bossier Port. He added that is was the best networking opportunity that he had ever attended. He stated that there were a lot of attendees who deal with the issues of the Red River Waterway Commission. Mr. Walters will be setting up the Red River Waterway Commission booth at the trade show associated with the BASSMASTERS Classic. There was some discussions regarding the logistics of getting to the launch sites for the tournament as well as the weigh-in location and the availability of parking. Mr. Guidry informed the Commissioners that he would be meeting with BASSMASTERS representatives at noon to obtain credentials for special access to some of the limited access areas.

f) Personnel - No report

g) Revenue, Banking & Budget - No report

h) Legislative - Mr. Ed Preau stated that a few bills have been pre-filed but nothing that affects the business of the Commission. He stated that DOTD has begun its tracking system of bills tat are introduced and he will try to keep the Commission informed of the status of bills which may affect the Commission.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Mr. Ken Guidry requested that the Commissioners meet with him in the lobby of the hotel at 2:00 PM to discuss parking issues relative to the BASSMASTERS Classic event and to obtain necessary VIP passes for the various activities associated with same.

8. STATUS OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY/ENGINEERING REPORT - Prepared reports were provided.

9. GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT - No report

10. CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPORT - Mr. Gary Walker reported in the following items:

➤ Construction is underway for the Fausse/Natchitoches/Clarence Revetment project and the Phillip Bayou project. Total project cost is \$6 million. Completion of that project is anticipated within the next two weeks.

➤ In 2009, the COE anticipates work on the Lake St. Agnus Revetment Project in Avoyelles Parish as well as the Lumbra Dikes Project. Completion of the gravel resurfacing project on the levees in Natchitoches Parish is anticipated in 2009.

➤ The COE is awaiting the results of the president's stimulus package in considering additional projects.

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

➤ RRWC Ranger Todd Meyers has been a great help in the BASSMASTERS Classic event.

➤ Congress is currently working on an OMNIBUS Bill for FY 09.

➤ The annual spring trip to Washington, D.C. to meet with congressional members and/or their aides is scheduled for March 11 - 13, 2009.

➤ The RRVA Convention kicks off this date with a meeting of the Navigation Committee at 3:00 PM followed by the Ice -Breaker and Port Appreciation Dinner beginning at 6:00 PM

➤ Representative John Fleming is the scheduled speaker for the luncheon on February 19, 2009.

➤ Senator David Vitter will be present for the early morning launch of the BASSMASTERS Classic and will return to address those attending the breakfast buffet at 8:15 AM on February 20, 2009.

➤ Representative Rodney Alexander will address the convention at 9:00 AM on February 20, 2009.

12. PORTS

At this time, Chairman Ed Preau explained that, in discussions held during the January meeting, the Commission decided to dispense with the monthly reports from the various Ports in the District and have quarterly reports, instead, beginning in March, 2009 as the first quarter of the year. Therefore, he requested that Mrs. Cathy Rushing adjust the regular meeting agendas for all future Commission meetings, thereby removing the reports from the District Ports from the regular monthly agenda and list those reports under the Ports Committee Report on a quarterly basis only. Objections to this action were voiced by Commissioners Fleming,, Davis, and Prestridge. Commissioner Fleming added that he felt the Ports should report this month and start next month with the quarterly reports. In accordance with this object, Chairman called upon the District Ports for a monthly report.

a) Alexandria Regional Port - No report

b) Avoyelles Parish Port - No report

c) Caddo-Bossier Port - Mr. Eric England thanked the Commission for its continued support of the Port and its projects and reported on the following:

➤ The CBPC will take action to execute the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement approve by the Red River Waterway Commission for the Transit Shed project.

➤ The Port is looking to acquire additional lands and has initiated appraisals on tracts of land adjacent to the Port.

➤ The Port is currently engaged in reorganization efforts as a result of an expanding staff.

➤ Mr. England once again thanked the Commission for its continued support and reminded those present of the Appreciation Reception and Dinner scheduled to begin at 6:00 PM this date at Diamond Jacks Casino and Resort.

d) Natchitoches Parish Port - No report

e) Red River Parish Port - No report

13. OTHER BUSINESS

By motion of Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Belgard, and unanimously approved, the newly appointed Commissioner At-Large, Mr. Doug Brown of Bossier City, Louisiana was appointed to serve on all Committees of the Commission.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - None

15. ADJOURNMENT

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

JAMES F. MAXEY
SECRETARY/TREASURER

WILLIAM D. ANKNER, PH.D.
CHAIRMAN