



**MINUTES
OF THE
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING
JUNE 17, 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 Vice Chairman, Commissioner Marc Dupuy, Jr., 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: Vice Chairman, Commissioner Marv Dupuy, Jr., Commissioner Harmon Belgard, Commissioner Doug Brown, Commissioner Wayne Davis, Commissioner Paul Fleming, Commissioner Randell Fletcher, Commissioner Andrew J. Hodges, III, Commissioner James F. Maxey, Commissioner Alvin Owens, Commissioner Rogers M. Prestridge.

Absent: Chairman, Mr. Ed Preau, 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. Garland Brown - Real Estate Manager, Ms. Peggy St. John - Legal Counsel.

Others Present: Mr. Ken Juneau, Mrs. Robin Cosenza, Mr. Rich Brontoli

3. APPROVAL OF REVISED AGENDA

By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Owens, 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 Brown, seconded by Commissioner Prestridge, the minutes of the May 20, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

By motion of Commissioner Maxey, seconded by Commissioner Hodges, the Expenditures, Financial Statements & Investment Reports for the month of May, 2009 were unanimously approved.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Contracts

Authority to Advertise for Purchase of Vehicle - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Belgard and unanimously approved, staff was authorized to advertise for the purchase of a new 3/4 ton pick-up truck.

Authority to Advertise for Poland Recreation Area Construction - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Belgard, and unanimously approved, staff was authorized to advertise for the construction contract for the Poland Recreation Area.

Approval of Electronic Bidding Services Contract/Contract No. RRW-580 - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher, the Commission unanimously approved the Electronic Bidding Contract with BidSync, LLC, as recommended by staff.

Approval of Change Order No. 11/Fort Randolph - By motion of Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Belgard, the Commission unanimously approved Ft. Randolph Project Change Order No. 11 including the following items:

- 1) addition of ADA truncated domes at trail crossing near Main Street;
- 2) change to colored ceiling tile in Meeting Room and Reception and Gift Areas at Visitor's Center;
- 3) change to a handicapped accessible trail at Fort Buhlow;
- 4) credit for deletion of wild flowers in lieu of Bermuda by hydro-seeding.

The total cost increase of this change order is \$2658.00. Additionally, this change order results in an increase of 17 days in overall contract time.

City of Pineville Request/Main Street Overlay and Repair - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Fleming, and a vote of nine (9) ayes and two (2) nays, the Commission rejected a request by the City of Pineville to repair and overlay, a portion of Main Street, a city street.

b) Land Management, Legal Affairs & Affirmative Action

Authority to Dedicate Property for Recreation/Poland Recreation Area - By motion of Commissioner Belgard, seconded by Commissioner Owens, the Commission unanimously approved the dedication in perpetuity of 9.4 acres of property recognized as the site for the Poland Recreation Facility for recreational purposes.

Approval of Property Easement/Poland Recreation Area - by motion of Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Belgard, the Commission unanimously approved a property easement on COE property for the purpose of constructing the access road for the Poland Recreation Facility and authorized the Executive Director to execute the documents regarding the same.

c) Recreation

Recreation Area Status Report - A prepared report was provided in the meeting packet. Mr. Mike Boydston added that there were approximately 143,000 visitors to the Red River recreation facilities during month of

May, 2009. Also, all boat ramps south of Coushatta, previously closed due to high water, have now been re-opened to allow public access to the river. There is a lot of silt deposits to be cleaned off of the ramps. Ben Routh and Alexandria Levee park are heavily silted and work is still going on to completely clean those ramps. Some dredging will be required at the mouth of Bayou Rapides to re-open that access to the river. Pine Bluff Sand and Gravel is on hand to assist with those requirements. The ramps at Teague Parkway and Stoner Avenue are still heavily silted; work continues to clear at least one ramp at each of those facilities as soon as possible, although the river level is still above the docks at present. The North Caddo facility at the Highway 2 bridge is still closed with heavy siltation issues at that site. It will take quite a bit longer to get that facility re-opened. Mr. Guidry took this opportunity to point out that all of the sheriffs within the district parishes insisted that if one ramp on the river is closed due to high water, then all ramps should be closed in the interest of public safety.

d) Ports

Ratification of Changes to Red River Parish Port Agreement - By motion of Commissioner Fleming, seconded by Commissioner Hodges, the Commission unanimously approved ratification of changes to the Red River Parish Port Cooperative Agreement with regard to funding assistance for legal fees relative to the Headwaters litigation suit. The staff was instructed to engage with legal counsel for the Port to determine the basis of their opposition to the receipt and release language included in the cooperative agreement.

Natchitoches Parish Port Commission Land Acquisition Proposal - By motion of Commissioner Fleming, seconded by Commissioner Prestridge, the Commission unanimously approved funding assistance of \$50,000 to the Natchitoches Parish Port for the purpose of conducting a study to evaluate the proposed property to confirm the useable acreage and the estimate cost associated with elevating the property to the 100 year flood elevation for land acquisition for future port expansion and amend the budget accordingly to accommodate this expenditure. Further, staff was instructed to begin to create criteria for Commission approval for all future funding assistance from Red River Waterway Commission for port land acquisitions.

Operations & Maintenance Matching Funds Policy - By motion of Commissioner Fleming, seconded by Commissioner Brown, the Commission unanimously agreed to suspend the Operations & Maintenance funding policy for all ports until such time the Commission takes action on revisions to that policy.

At this time, Mr. Randy Walters noted that the District Ports will be requested to present their quarterly reports before the Commission during the July Ports Committee meeting, July 14, 2009. There was some discussion held regarding time limitations to be set for each Port to present their report, in the interest of time availability. Mr. Guidry pointed out that the staff issues a letter to each port requesting certain information including their tonnage reports, capital outlay projects, port tenants and number of jobs along with their anticipated prospects and funding needs in order that the Commissioners will be in a better position to make an informed decision with regard to funding assistance granted to each individual port. Mr. Guidry suggested that the Port Committee insist that each Port respond to those requests for information.

e) Public Awareness & Marketing

Marketing Update - A prepared report was provided in the meeting packets. There was some discussion held regarding Senate Bill #222 currently up before the House in its amended form to account for the adjustments in millage rates accrued over the years due to changes in property values. The staff will continue to monitor this situation and keep the Commissioner informed as to its progress.

f) Personnel - No report

g) Revenue, Banking & Budget

Approval of 2008 Audit Report - By motion of Commissioner Maxey, seconded by Commissioner Prestridge, the Commission unanimously approved the 2008 Annual Audit Report. Commissioner Maxey noted that there were no issues submitted as a result of the audit and commended the staff and accountants for their efforts. Vice Chairman, Commissioner Marc Dupuy, Jr., echoed Commissioner Maxey's comments of commendation for the staff and accountants.

h) Legislative - Mr. Guidry commented that there area number of proposed legislative items dealing with public bid laws and some port related items which the staff will continue to monitor and report to the Commissioners as to their status.

7. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT** - Mr. Guidry thanked the Commissioners for their comments of approval with regard to the 2008 Annual Audit.

Commissioner Dupuy took this opportunity to request that he be registered for the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Conference scheduled for August 25-27, 2009 in Point Clear, Alabama.

8. **STATUS OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY/ENGINEERING REPORT** - Prepared reports were provided in the meeting packets. Mr. Colin Brown added that the Ft. Randolph project is 75% complete and the Poland Recreation Project is moving forward on schedule. He urged the Commissioners to stop in and view the progress at Ft. Randolph.

9. **GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT** - No report

10. **CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPORT** - No report

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

- Old River Lock was originally scheduled to close for 45 days beginning September 15, 2009. However, that start date has been pushed back to October due to strong opposition to grain harvesting operators. New gates will be installed on the Mississippi River side of the locks. The gates on the Red River side of the locks were changed out last year.
- The Navigation Committee will meet at the Red River Waterway Commission headquarters on Tuesday, June 23, 2009 beginning at 10:30 AM
- Letters requesting appointments with the District Congressional Delegation will be mailed out after July 4, 2009 for appointments during the August, 2009, recess at the local legislative offices.
- Red River high water is receding and dredging activities are getting underway.
- The Vicksburg District is currently conducting surveys to determine river depths and assess dredging

needs.

12. **OTHER BUSINESS** - None

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

14. **RECESS**

At this time, by motion of Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Prestridge, 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.

15. **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 Owens, and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned.

JAMES F. MAXEY
SECRETARY/TREASURER

EDMOND J. PREAU, JR., P.E.
CHAIRMAN