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**MINUTES
OF THE
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING
JULY 15, 2009
10:00 AM
COMMISSION HEADQUARTERS
NATCHITOCHES, LOUISIANA**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Red River Waterway Commission was called to order by Chairman 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: Chairman, Ed Preau, Commissioner Harmon Belgard, Commissioner Wayne Davis, Commissioner Marc Dupuy, Jr., Commissioner Paul Fleming, Commissioner Randell Fletcher, Commissioner Andrew J. Hodges, III, Commissioner James F. Maxey, Commissioner Alvin Owens, Commissioner Rogers M. Prestridge, Commissioner Michael Simpson.

Absent: Commissioner Doug Brown,

RRWC Staff Members Present: Mr. Ken Guidry - Executive Director, Mr. Randy Walters - Marketing Director, Mr. Mike Boydstun - 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. Jerry Harper, Mr. Jacob Brister, Capt. Thomas F. Murray, Mr. Charles Waters, Mr. Riley Milligan, Mr. Gary Etheridge, Mr. Ken Juneau, Mts. Robin Cosenza, Mrs. Jessica Broadway

3. APPROVAL OF REVISED AGENDA

By motion of Commissioner Belgard, seconded by Commissioner Prestridge, the agenda was revised and unanimously approved. Comments from the public were called for, however, none were offered. Through the revised agenda, the Executive Session originally scheduled as item No 14, was moved to Item No. 3(a) due to time constraint requirements of legal counsel.

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION - By motion of Commissioner Fleming, seconded by Commissioner Simpson and unanimously approved, regular session recessed and the guests in attendance were asked to leave the room as the Commission entered Executive Session to discuss the following litigation:

Cynthia F. Peironnet, et al vs RRWC

1st Judicial District Court

Suite # 482,499-B

Caddo Parish, Louisiana

Executive Session was for briefing purposes only and no action was required. By motion of Commissioner Belgard, seconded by Commissioner Prestridge and unanimously approved, Executive Session ended and the Commission resumed regular session.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

By motion of Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Belgard, the minutes of the June 15, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

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

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Contracts

Approval of Electrical & Lighting Proposal/Poland Recreation Area - By Motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher, the Commission unanimously approved the light proposal submitted by CLECO for the Poland Recreation Facility in the amount of \$13,584.00

Consideration of Engineering/Surveying Proposal/Pool 5 Levee Berms - By Motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Fleming, and unanimously approved, the Commission accepted the proposal from Coyle Engineering for the engineering and surveying services to design the levee berms repairs in Pool 5 under its current professional services contract No. RRW-521 with the condition that the total work be billed on an hourly basis, not to exceed the proposed amount of \$7,675.00 for surveying and \$14,950.00 for engineering.

Approval of Change Order No. 12/Forts Randolph-Buhlow State Historic Site - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Belgard, the Commission unanimously approved Change Order No. 12 for the Forts Randolph/Buhlow State Historical Site for the installation of a retaining wall adjacent to the visitors center for the purpose of drainage control, provided Facility Planning and Control participates in this change order at approximately 92% and not to exceed \$2,500.00 in costs to the Commission.

b) Land Management, Legal Affairs & Affirmative Action

Authority to Award Bid Lease/Grand Ecore - By motion of Commissioner Dupuy, seconded by Commissioner Hodges, the Commission unanimously approved the award of a lease at Grand Ecore to Mr. Winston Birdwell at a bid amount of \$73,357.40 for a five year term on 385.0 acres which includes a grove of pecan trees as well as pastureland.

c) Recreation

Recreation Area Status Report - A prepared report was provided in the meeting packet. Mr. Mike Boydstun

noted that there were 250,000 visitors to the area recreation facilities during the month of June, 2009. He also reported that additional dredging will be required due to the excessive amount of siltation left behind as a result of high river levels. All of the boat ramps at the various park facilities were re-opened prior to July 4 with the exception of one boat launch at the North Caddo/Bossier Recreation Area located on Hwy 2., north of Shreveport, Louisiana.

d) Ports

Approval of Natchitoches Parish Port Cooperative Agreement - By motion of Commissioner Fleming, seconded by Commissioner Prestridge, the Commission unanimously approved the Cooperative Agreement with the Natchitoches Parish Port Commission for funding assistance in the amount of \$50,000.00 for the purpose of conducting a land study for future Port expansion requirements.

Mr. Randy Walters gave a brief overview of active port projects as provided by the district ports.

e) Public Awareness & Marketing

Request by Shreveport Regional Sports Authority/Associate Board Membership - By motion of Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Belgard and unanimously approved, the Commission voted to respectfully decline the invitation of membership on the Associate Board of the Shreveport Regional Sports Authority with the understanding that the Commission will continue to work with the staff of SRSA regarding future projects associated with the promotion of events on the Red River.

Marketing Update - A prepared report was provided by KJA and included in the meeting packet.

f) Personnel - No report.

g) Revenue, Banking & Budget

Rescind 2009 Millage Rates Previously Adopted on May 20, 2009 & Adoption of Revised 2009 Tax Millage Rates - By motion of Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher and unanimously approved, the Commission rescinded the 2009 tax millage previously adopted on May 20, 2009 and adopted the revised millage rates for 2009 (See attached Resolution).

h) Legislative - Chairman Ed Preau expressed the appreciation of the Commission for the efforts of Senator Adley resulting in the passage of Act 319 relative to changing the allocation of millage collected by the Commission from the District to allocate 65% of that collected millage for construction purposes and 35% of the collected millage for operations and maintenance purposes. He urged the Commissioners to take the opportunity to express their own appreciation to Senator Adley, personally, for his efforts on behalf of the Commission. He also commended the efforts of Mr. Ken Guidry and Mr. Randy Walters in keeping up with that piece of legislation from beginning to end.

Chairman Preau also informed the Commissioners about SCR 50 which is a study resolution introduced by Senator Gerald Long to study infrastructure used for Haynesville Shale revenues. Currently, the purpose of that study is intended for roads, however, it could be modified for other uses, as well.

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

**a) National Playground Safety Inspector Certification Course
San Antonio, TX - October 26-28, 2009
L. DeWitt Daigre**

By motion of Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Fleming, the Commission unanimously approved travel expenses for Mr. DeWitt Daigre to participate in the National Playground Safety Certification Course and Exam scheduled for October 26-28, 2009 in San Antonio, Texas.

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

- The construction contract for the Ft. Randolph project is approximately 85% complete. The exhibit contract which is separate from the construction contract is moving along. It is anticipated that completion of the construction contract will be sometime in the September/October time frame.
- Bid opening for the construction of the Poland Recreation Area is scheduled for August 13, 2009. Commissioner Marc Dupuy, Jr., addressed the condition of the access road to the Lock and Dam #2 on the Poland side of the river, noting the numerous pot-holes. That issue was referred to Mr. Jacob Brister of the Corps of Engineers for inspection.

10. GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT - None

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

- There are two revetment and one dike repair projects to be awarded by the end of the year. There probably will not be any rip-rap being placed during this FY, however, the contracts must be awarded before the end of the year.
- A Navigation Committee meeting was held on June 23, 2009 in the Commission board room. It was a very well attended and very productive meeting in identifying areas of needed repairs and/or modifications, depending on river user issues. Mr. Brister explained that the COE is no longer allowed to reprogram funding monies between different areas such as the project management section, the engineering section or the operations and maintenance section based on "left-over" funds in one section and specific needs in another section.
- The number one concern on the river at present is dike repairs. The dikes just north of the bridge in Alexandria is currently the main focus with numerous complaints from barge tows that this structure tends to direct the barges toward the bridge. A hydraulic analysis is presently underway to determine the best course of action and proposed affects.

Commissioner Fleming addressed his concerns regarding bouys on the river. Mr. Brister responded that the Coast Guard is addressing those issues as a result of the high river levels.

12. RED RIVER VALLEY ASSOCIATION - A prepared report was provided in the meeting packets.

13. OTHER BUSINESS - Chairman Ed Preau took this opportunity to announce that this will be his last meeting as he has decided to retire after forty-one years of service to the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development. He stated that he has been proud to have been a part of the activities of the Red River Waterway

Commission. It is his desire to remain active with the Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - None

15. RECESS

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

16. 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.

JAMES F. MAXEY
SECRETARY/TREASURER

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