

MINUTES
OF THE
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING
OCTOBER 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 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 Marc Dupuy, Jr., Commissioner Wayne Davis, Commissioner David L. Crutchfield, II, Commissioner Paul Fleming, Commissioner Randell Fletcher, Commissioner Andrew J. Hodges, III, Commissioner James F. Maxey, Commissioner Alvin Owens, Commissioner Rogers M. Prestridge.

Absent: Chairman, Dr. William D. Ankner, Ph.D., Commissioner Doug Brown, Commissioner Michael Simpson

RRWC Staff Members Present: 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. Mark Roberts, Mrs. Robin Cosenza, Mrs. Jessica Broadway, Mr. Ken Juneau, Mr. John Marzullo, Mr. Johnny Martin, Mr. Jack Masters

3. **APPROVAL OF REVISED AGENDA**

By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, 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 Owens, seconded by Commissioner Prestridge, the minutes of the September 16, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved.

5. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

6. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) **Contracts**

Authority to Advertise for Office Renovation & Repairs - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Davis, unanimously approved, staff was authorized to proceed to advertise for bids for the office renovations and repairs contract. The estimated cost was \$77,142.00 for this project.

Approval of Change Order # 15/Forts Randolph & Buhlow State Historic Site - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Hodges, the Commission unanimously approved the Forts Randolph & Buhlow State Historic Site Change Order No. 15 for a change from hydro-seeding to centipede sod adjacent to the Visitor's Center and to delete the adjustment of a manhole elevation near the maintenance building. The resulting total cost increase to the contract was \$9,895.00 with \$877.11 being the RRWC's pro-rata portion. Facility Planning and Control agreed to participate in the cost at approximately 91.13582%.

Poland Recreation Area Update - No action was required in this matter and none was taken. However, staff was instructed to advise the contractor to proceed with those items which are not impacted by the current high river levels. Mr. Colin Brown took the opportunity to note the various scenarios and possible consequences as may occur as a result of the time delays due to weather conditions as noted in the Staff Position Paper and Comments regarding this matter and placed in the project file.

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

Authority to Award Bid Lease/Once More Realignment/646 Acres - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Davis, the Commission unanimously approved award of a Once More Realignment lease bid to Dr. Randall Wilson for a bid amount of \$37,145.00 on 646 acres for a five year term or \$11.50 per acre per year.

Authority to Award Bid Lease/L&D #2, Tracts A & B/20 Acres - By motion of Commissioner Hodges, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher, the Commission unanimously approved award of the Lock & Dam No. 2, Tracts A & B to Mr. Charles Bob Stevens at a bid amount of \$1,000.00 on 20 acres for a five year term or \$10.00 per acre per year.

Approval of Easement Amendment No. 1/Poland Recreation Area - By motion of Commissioner Fletcher, seconded by Commissioner Prestridge, the Commission unanimously approved Easement Amendment No. 1 at the Poland Recreation site for an additional 2.29 acres for the purpose of extending the stockpile area onto Corps of Engineers property.

Request for Correction Deed/Dr. Jackie D. Huckabay Heirs - At the recommendations of legal counsel, by motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Davis, the Commission unanimously rejected the request for execution of a Correction Deed as requested by the heirs of Dr. Jackie D. Huckabay with regard to the Buy/Sell Agreement executed by Dr. Huckabay on August 15, 1992, as specifically related to the transfer of mineral rights. As noted by legal counsel, the matter of

mineral rights was specifically addressed in the execution of that document whereby Dr. Huckabay conveyed all mineral rights to the RRWC. Therefore, he advised that filing a Correction Deed would be inappropriate in this matter.

c) Recreation

Recreation Area Status Report - A prepared report was provided in the meeting packet. Mr. Mike Boydston noted that there were 185,009 visitors to the Red River recreational facilities during the month of September, 2009. He also pointed out that the RRWC boat ramps remain closed due to high river levels and treacherous conditions on the river. He also reported that the River Awareness trips scheduled for the week of October 26 - 30, 2009 have been cancelled for the same reasons. Those trips will not be rescheduled this year due to scheduling constraints with the C.O.E. barge and the *Fred Lee* tug.

d) Ports - The Ports Committee had met on the evening of Tuesday, October 20, 2009 to hear the annual reports from the various district ports. No action was required at this time with regard to those reports and none was taken. Mr. Randy Walters highlighted a prepared report of active port projects totaling \$10,792,360.47 as outlined in a prepared handout.

e) Public Awareness & Marketing

Marketing Update - A prepared report was provided in the meeting packet. Commissioner Owens commended the staff for its cooperation with the Rapides Parish Sheriff's Department, the Federal Aviation Administration and the National Transportation Safety Board during the closing of the Ft. Buhlow recreation facility as a result of the crash of two small engines planes over the past weekend, and the subsequent investigation and clean-up operations conducted by the F.A.A., the Sheriff's Dept. and the N.T.S.B..

Commissioner Marc Dupuy took this opportunity to comment on an article which appeared in the *CenLa Focus* regarding the bicentennial celebration of the Town of Marksville. He encouraged the Commissioners and guests to pick up a copy of the *Focus* located on the media table located in the lobby.

f) Personnel - No report

g) Revenue, Banking & Budget - No report

h) Legislative - No report

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

a) Commissioner Resolution of Appreciation/Harmon R. Belgard - By motion of Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher and unanimously approved, staff and Mrs. Robin Cosenza of KJA were instructed to proceed to prepare a Resolution of Appreciation for former Commissioner Harmon R. Belgard for future presentation and to work out the details of the presentation.

8. STATUS OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY/ENGINEERING REPORT - Prepared reports were provided in the meeting packet. Mr. Colin Brown noted that the construction at the Forts Randolph & Buhlow State Historic Site was 95% complete with preparation of the exhibits still on-going. Work at the Poland Recreation Area will proceed as possible considering the high water conditions.

9. GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT - Mr. Greg Upton reported that the Fry litigation matter was moving through the appellate court process.

10. CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPORT - No report

11. RED RIVER VALLEY ASSOCIATION - A prepared report was provided.

12. OTHER BUSINESS - None

13. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - Mr. Jack Masters addressed the Commission regarding handicapped access at the Colfax RV site. He noted that although the camping/parking sites No. 21 & 22, adjacent to the bath house at that facility were constructed to accommodate handicapped individuals, they are often occupied by non-handicapped individuals. He requested that the Commission check into the matter and establish policy whereby handicapped individuals are given precedence when other camp sites are open, requiring that non-handicapped individuals relocate their RV to the alternate open campsites. The Commission thanked Mr. Masters for his comments and took the matter under advisement.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION

By motion of Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Hodges and unanimously approved, the Commission recessed for five minutes and then entered into Executive Session to discuss the following matters of litigation:

Morgan's Landing, Inc.
10th Judicial District Court
Suite # 77390-B
Natchitoches Parish, Louisiana

Immediately following Executive Session, by motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Owens and unanimously approved, the Commission entered into Regular Session. No action was taken as a result of the Executive Session.

15. RECESS

At this time, by motion of Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher, 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 Owens, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher, and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned.

JAMES F. MAXEY
SECRETARY/TREASURER

WILLIAM D. ANKNER, PH. D.
CHAIRMAN