



**MINUTES  
OF THE  
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING  
NOVEMBER 18, 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, Commissioner Michael Simpson.

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

**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. Ken Juneau, Mr. Lu Cutrera, Mr. Jacob Brister, Mr. Rich Brontoli, Mr. Larry Ferdinand, Ms. Robin Cosenza, Ms. Brooke Niette

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Fleming, the agenda was unanimously approved.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, the minutes of the October 21, 2009 meeting were unanimously approved.

**5. TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

**6. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a) Contracts**

**Consideration of 2010 Contracts** -By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Fleming, the Commission unanimously approved the 2010 Contracts Listing as presented by staff and based upon the staff recommendations.

**Approval of Change Order #1-Poland Recreation Area/Time Extension** - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Owens, the Commission unanimously approved Change Order No. 1 of the Poland Recreation Area for a time extension of 20 days.

At this time, by motion of Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher and unanimously approved, the following item was added to the agenda for consideration. Comments from the public were called for, however, none were offered.

**Colfax Activity Center Flooring Repairs** - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Owens, and unanimously approved, the Commission accepted the proposal from Armstrong Flooring to replace the tiles in the Colfax Activity Center, with Armstrong paying for the tiles and \$500 towards labor costs, and the Commission paying \$871.50 which represents half of the remaining labor costs and the sub-contractor absorbing the balance.

**Ratification of Change Order #16/Forts Randolph & Buhlow State Historic Site** - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Owens, the Commission unanimously approved ratification of Change Order No. 16 of the Forts Randolph & Buhlow State Historic Site, contingent upon the approval of Facility Planning and Control. The Change Order includes the grading of an approximate 300' ditch to divert much of the runoff and the placement of a reinforced concrete pipe to allow the runoff to cross under the access road rather than sheet flowing across the road as done in the past. Additional grading will be performed as necessary to ensure positive drainage. The total cost of Change Order No. 16 is \$3954.17. Facility Planning and Control has indicated that they will participate in the cost of this change order. Therefore, they will pay 91.13582% of the cost, or \$3603.66. The Commission will be responsible for the remaining amount, or \$350.51. Also included in that change order is a time extension of two days.

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

**Request for Sub-Lease/Pool 3, Tracts 68 & 88** - By motion of Commissioner Fletcher, seconded by Commissioner Hodges, the Commission unanimously approved the request to sub-lease Pool 3, Tracts 68 & 69 to Mr. Charles Bond.

**Request for Mineral Lease Nomination/ Pool 4, Huckabay Tract/Red River Parish** - By motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher, the Commission unanimously approved the Resolution (Attached along with Exhibits A & B), with regard to a mineral lease on property originally purchased from Jackie D. Huckabay, et ux, in Pool 4.

**Request from Natchitoches Parish Police Jury/Hampton Road Access** - By motion of

Commissioner Maxey, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Commission unanimously agreed to reject the request at this time, as submitted by the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury that the Commission provide aggregate for the resurfacing of the Natchitoches Recreation Area Access Road, a Police Jury road. Further, that staff was instructed to meet with the Natchitoches Parish Police Jury to discuss maintenance procedures for this road and to formulate a possible solution.

**c) Recreation**

**Recreation Area Status Report** - A prepared report was provided in the meeting packet. Mr. Boydston added the following comments:

- There were approximately 98,000 visitors to the Red River District recreational facilities during the month of October.
- All RRWC boat ramps are currently still closed due to high river levels. However, it is anticipated that the ramp at the Alexandria Levee Park may be opened by the end of this week with the Ft. Buhlow Recreation Area ramp possibly being opened sometime next week, pending necessary cleaning at both locations.
- There was minimal damage at the Colfax RV Park site.
- Major clean-up will be required at the ramps south of Alexandria, Louisiana, as well as the ramps at the Arthur Teague, Stoner Avenue, and the North Caddo-Bossier ramps.
- Major damages have occurred at the Coushatta and Red Oak boat ramps as a result of the high river levels. Those issues will need to be remedied prior to re-opening those ramps.

**d) Ports**

**Approval of 2010 Port Development Projects** - By motion of Commissioner Fleming, seconded by Commissioner Prestridge, the Commission unanimously approved the following funding requests from the District Ports for 2010 with the stipulation that all matching funds must be in-place prior to RRWC funds being disbursed:

Avoyelles Parish Port	\$1,300,000
Alexandria Regional Port	\$ 470,000
Natchitoches Parish Port	\$ 310,000
Red River Parish Port	\$ 218,750
Caddo-Bossier Parishes Port	\$1,000,000

At this time, Mr. Lu Cutrera presented and update regarding the Twelve Foot Channel Cost/Benefit Ratio study. He highlighted some of the various issues being addressed in that study. Following some discussion by motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Fleming and unanimously approved, the Commission added the following item to the agenda for consideration. Comments from the public were called for, however, none were offered.

**Approval of Amendment to the Shaw Environmental Infrastructure Contract/Time Extension** - By motion of Commissioner Fleming, seconded by Commissioner Davis, the Commission unanimously approved a three month extension to the contract with Shaw Environmental Infrastructure, extending the deadline for that report to March 17, 2010.

**e) Public Awareness & Marketing**

**Marketing Update** - A prepared report was provided in the meeting packet. Mr. Randy Walters added the following comments:

- The Ports Association of Louisiana will be holding its annual conference in Natchitoches, Louisiana, December 7 & 8, 2009. He encouraged the Commissioners to attend as their schedules allowed.
- A plaque of appreciation was presented to former Commissioner Charles E. Britton during a recent Avoyelles Parish Rotary Club meeting held in Marksville, Louisiana.

**f) Personnel** - No report

**g) Revenue, Banking & Budget** - The 2010 budget will be presented in December for consideration and approval.

**h) Legislative** - Mr. Guidry took this opportunity to note that Mr. David Miller with the Louisiana Department of Transportation is being named to replace Mr. Ed Preau and may be attending the December, 2009 Commission meeting.

**7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT** - Mr. Guidry reported that the American Planning Association award was presented to Shaw Environmental Infrastructure for its Strategic Plan for the J. Bennett Johnston Waterway Project prepared for the Red River Waterway Commission in November 2007.

**8. STATUS OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY/ENGINEERING REPORT** - Prepared reports were provided in the meeting packets. Mr. Colin Brown added the following comments:

- The Forts Randolph & Buhlow State Historic Site construction project is approximately 95% complete. The exhibit contract for that facility is still on-going. It is not anticipated that the project will reach final completion prior to the end of the year. However, once completed, the facility will be placed into caretaker status, to be maintained but not open to the public pending operational funding allocation from the State of Louisiana to State Parks for that purpose.
- The contractors are currently working on the access road and parking area of the Poland Recreation facility until the river recedes to enable construction of the coffer dam in order to construct the boat ramp.

**9. GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT** - Mr. Greg Upton reported on the Fry litigation noting that the deadline for the submission of briefs is sometime in January, 2010, with oral arguments to take place in February. Final ruling should be issued sometime in the April/May 2010 time frame.

**10. CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPORT** - Mr. Jacob Brister offered the following comments:

- The St. Agnes Revetment project is complete
- A \$1.1 million contract was issued to Crowe Paving for the Dickson Revetment project.
- Colonel Michael Wehr is being transferred out of the Vicksburg District in December. The new

Commander is scheduled to be appointment December 15, 2010.

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

- With regard to the WRDA Bill, the House has requested that letters be submitted by the first week in December regarding funding.
- A request has been made for authorization to dredge the opening to the oxbow at the Old River Locks.
- The Coast Guard is presently assessing and replacing buoys on the Red River, lost as a result of the high water.
- A high water advisory for all ramps on the Red River is still in effect by the Coast Guard.
- The current high river event has resulted in the first time that Locks and Dams 3, 4, & 5 have all been closed. The boat ramps were closed September 21, 2010, followed by the closing of the Locks and Dams in October.

**12. OTHER BUSINESS**

***a) Committee Assignments/Commissioner David L. Crutchfield, II***

By motion of Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher and unanimously approved, Commissioner Crutchfield was appointed to serve on all Committees of the Red River Waterway Commission, as per Commissioner Crutchfield's request.

**13. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC** - Former Commissioner Larry Ferdinand took this opportunity to say hello the Commissioners and staff of the Red River Waterway Commission.

**14. RECESS**

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

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JAMES F. MAXEY  
SECRETARY/TREASURER

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WILLIAM D. ANKNER, PH. D.  
CHAIRMAN