



**MINUTES
OF THE
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING
DECEMBER 16, 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 Doug Brown, 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 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, Mr. Greg Upton - Legal Counsel.

Others Present: Mr. Ken Juneau, Mr. John Marzullo, Mr. Rich Brontoli, Ms. Brooke Niette, Mrs. Robin Cosenza, Mr. Bob Munson

3. APPROVAL OF REVISED AGENDA

By motion of Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Prestridge, 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 Crutchfield, the minutes of the November 18, 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 November, 2009 were unanimously approved.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Contracts

Approval of Partial Suspension of Work-Poland Recreation Area - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Brown, the Commission unanimously approved a Partial Suspension of Work at the Poland Recreation Area, due to continued high river levels and current weather conditions.

Approval of Change Order #17/Forts Randolph & Buhlow State Historic Site - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Owens, the Commission unanimously approved Change Order #17 of the Forts Randolph and Buhlow State Historic Site, rejecting the stained concrete flooring in the Visitor's Center and replacing it with wood flooring, not to exceed a total of \$5,000 in Red River Waterway Commission funds.

Approval of Cooperative Agreement with NSU/Structure Removal/Giant Salvinia Ponds - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Commission unanimously approved the Cooperative Agreement with Northwestern State University, subject to concurrence by NSU and the RRWC Staff as to the construction of ponds for the purpose of raising beetles for the purpose of controlling giant salvinia in Red River.

b) Land Management, Legal Affairs & Affirmative Action

Authority to Advertise for Land Leases Expiring in 2010 - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Hodges, and unanimously approved, staff was authorized to advertise accordingly for leases expiring in 2010, as those expirations occur, in accordance with the lease policy.

Authority to Renew Leasebacks Expiring in 2010 - By motion of Commissioner Hodges, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, and unanimously approved, staff was authorized to renew those leasebacks which expire in 2010, as those expirations occur, in accordance with the leaseback policy.

Approval of Bid Lease - Wilson Point Realignment - By motion of Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Prestridge, the Commission unanimously approved award of the Wilson Point Lease bid to Mr. Steve Lambert in the amount of \$15,210.00, or \$26.00 per acre on 117 acres for a five year term.

c) Recreation

Recreation Area Status Report - A prepared report was provided in the meeting packet. Mr. Mike Boydston noted that there were approximately 102,000 visitors to the District parks during November, 2009. He also commented on boat ramp closures due to high river levels and those that will be re-opening in the coming weeks, as the river levels recede.

d) Ports - No report. Prepared tonnage reports were provided in the meeting packet. Mr. Randy Walters noted that the District Ports will be presenting their year-end reports during the January 20, 2010 Commission meeting.

e) **Public Awareness & Marketing**

Marketing Update - A prepared Client Report was provided in the meeting packet. Commissioner Owens took this opportunity to introduce Mr. Bob Munson who recently acquired the KJA Communications Group marketing firm. Mr. Munson addressed the Commission, adding that he looked forward to working with the Commissioners and staff in the future. Mr. Walters also report on the following events in which he will be participating in 2010:

- January 21 - 23, 2010 - The Washington, D.C. Mardi Gras festivities.
- February 19 - 21, 2010 - BASSMASTERS Classic - Birmingham, Alabama

f) **Personnel** - No report

g) **Revenue, Banking & Budget**

Approval of 2010 Budget - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Davis, the Commission unanimously approved the 2010 Budget as recommended by Committee.

Approval of 2009 Surplus List and Authority for Disposal - By motion of Commissioner Maxey, seconded by Commissioner Hodges, the Commission unanimously approved the 2009 Surplus Items list as presented by staff and authorized staff to dispose of the items in accordance with Commission policy regarding such.

Authority to Unreserve and Undesignate Remaining Project Funds - By motion of Commissioner Fletcher, seconded by Commissioner Owens, and unanimously approved, the Commission declared remaining unused funds totaling \$68,000 from completed projects as unreserved and undedicated, returning those funds to the general fund.

Approval of and Authority to Execute 2009 Audit Letter of Engagement/Roberts, Cherry & Company - By motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Brown, the Commission unanimously approved the 2009 Audit Engagement Letter with Roberts, Cherry & Company accounting firm and authorized the Executive Director to execute same.

h) **Legislative** - No report

7. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT** - Mr. Guidry took this opportunity to inform the Commissioners that RRWC employee, Mrs. Lillie Delphin's husband and former Commissioner, Mr. Terrel Delphin, is in the hospital in Houston, Texas, as a result of some serious health conditions. He asked those present to remember that family in their thoughts and prayers.

At the request of Mr. Guidry, by motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Brown, the Commission unanimously approved authorization for the reimbursement of expenses for the Commissioners and staff member as part of their job to attend the functions in Washington, D.C. as well as the BASSMASTERS Classic in Birmingham, Alabama.

8. **STATUS OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY/ENGINEERING REPORT** - A prepared report was provided in the meeting packet. Mr. Colin Brown took this opportunity to acknowledge the presence of RRWC employee, Mr. Greg Robertson, as the construction inspector on the Forts Randolph and Buhlow project. Mr. Brown gave a brief update of activities regard the Ft. Randolph project and the Poland project, with specific comments about the effects of weather conditions on the construction progress.
9. **GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT** - Mr. Greg Upton reported that Mr. Jerry Harper, legal counsel for the Commission located in Shreveport, Louisiana, will be attending the oral arguments regarding the Fry litigation, in January. The brief on that matter is due on December 21, 2009. Following some discussion, the Commission instructed Mr. Greg Upton to also be present for the oral arguments.
10. **CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPORT** - No report. Mr. Guidry noted that Colonel Wehr of the Vicksburg District, is being transferred to Iraq. Colonel Jeff Eckstein will be replacing him in Vicksburg. Change of Commands activities are currently underway in Vicksburg.
11. **RED RIVER VALLEY ASSOCIATION** - Mr Rich Brontoli reported on the following matters:

- The House had required all members to submit requests for WRDA issues for 2010, two weeks ago. The only Red River related project submitted was for the oxbow on the river side of Old River, to be dredged during periods of low water.
- The President's budget comes out February 1, 2010. He will be going to Washington, D.C. February 3 - 5, 2010 with Ken Guidry and Bob Tullos to meet with staff members for the Red River delegation to discuss funding requirements.
- Mr. Brontoli will be returning to D.C. March 8 - 12, 2010 to attend the National Waterways Conference and to once again, visit with delegates regarding appropriations needs.
- The RRVA Annual Convention is February 17 - 19, 2010 at Diamond Jacks Hotel and Resort in Bossier City, Louisiana.
- There will be a Red River Levee meeting held January 27, 2010 in Shreveport, Louisiana. Those participating will include representatives from FEMA, the Corps of Engineers, and all of the levee districts. More information regarding that exact meeting date, time and location will be forthcoming.
- A WRDA request has been submitted to include the Red River, Atchafaylaya, and Bayou Boeuf Levee District into the federal system.

Mr. Guidry took this opportunity to ask that the Commissioners to check their calendars as to their availability to go to Washington, D.C. March 8 - 13, 2010. He noted that the Commission meeting is March 17, 2010. He added that dates for the March meeting could be changed if it would be more convenient for Commission to travel to D.C. during that week. He urged the Commissioners to let the staff know of their intentions so that appropriate travel arrangements can be made. He also pointed out that Mike Boydston will be making the trip to D.C. February 3 - 5, 2010.

12. **OTHER BUSINESS** - At this time, Commissioner Prestridge requested that the Executive Director sending a thank you note on behalf of the Commission to the Natchitoches Parish Port for the special gathering held on Tuesday, December 15, 2009 in appreciation of the Red River Waterway Commission's continued support of that entity and its projects. Also, Commissioner Prestridge noted that he had attend the open house held by the Alexandria Regional Port Authority at their new office facility at the Port complex.

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

14. **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.

15. **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