

MINUTES
OF THE
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING
APRIL 21, 2010
10:00 AM
COMMISSION HEADQUARTERS
NATCHITOCHEES, 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. Commissioner Dupuy took this opportunity to introduce and welcome Mr. Nicholas Verret, the recently appointed Acting Chairman of the Commission. Others in attendance were asked to identify themselves.

Present: Acting Chairman Nicholas Verret, Commissioner Wayne Davis, Commissioner Marc Dupuy, Jr., 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: Commissioner Doug Brown

RRWC Staff Members Present: Mr. Ken Guidry - Executive Director, Mr. Mike Boydston - Operations & Maintenance Director, Mrs. Cathy Rushing - Executive Assistant, Mr. Colin Brown- Engineer Supervisor, Mr. Greg Upton - Legal Counsel.

Others Present: Mrs. Jessica Broadway, Mrs. Robin Cosenza, Ms. Brand Bradford, Ms. Sharon Balfour. Mr. Gary C. Etheridge, Mr. Ken Juneau

3. **APPROVAL OF REVISED AGENDA**

By motion of Commissioner Simpson, 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 Hodges, the minutes of the March 17, 2010 meeting were unanimously approved.

5. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

By motion of Commissioner Maxey, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, the Expenditures, Financial Statements & Investment Reports for the month of March, 2010 were unanimously approved.

6. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) **Contracts**

Approval of Boat Purchase - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher, the Commission unanimously approved authorization for the purchase of a new Weldcraft 20' aluminum boat with a Yamaha motor at a low bid amount of \$17,728.00 as submitted by Red River Marine.

Consideration of Mary Magdeline Cemetery/Levee Repairs - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Davis, the Commission unanimously approved award of a contract in the amount of \$264,167.00 to Regional Construction of Natchitoches, Louisiana for the Mary Magdeline Cemetery and Levee Repair project in Pool 5.

Approval of Change Order #4/Poland Recreation Area - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Commission unanimously approved Change Order #4 on the Poland Recreation Area project in the amount of \$24,062.00 for additional work required to dry and compact an area on site due to extensive recent wet weather and to install geotextile fabric in that area.

Approval of Cooperative Agreement/Town of Boyce - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Owens, the Commission unanimously approved the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Town of Boyce whereby the Red River Waterway Commission agrees to construct a comfort station and approximately five picnic tables at the Boyce Recreational Area provided the Town of Boyce agrees to operate and maintain the comfort station.

Authority to Award Engineering Contract/Additional Amenities-Central - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Commission unanimously approved award of the engineering contract for and Additional Amenities Project to Ballard CLC of Alexandria for the central region of the District and to include the comfort station and picnic tables at the Boyce Recreation Area and a fish cleaning station at the Colfax Recreation Area. It was noted that the fish cleaning station to be installed at the Colfax site is not for commercial use and would be duly posted as such.

Amendment to Maintenance Contract #420 - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Hodges, the Commission unanimously approved an amendment to the dredging contract with Blount Brothers to allow for the use of additional equipment as needed for certain jobs and to increase the contract amount by \$50,000 to accommodate the cost of additional dredging requirements as a result of excessively high rainfall during the past several months.

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

Authority to Award Bid Lease/Pool 3, Tract 85 - No bids were received on this lease with no action required.

c) **Recreation**

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

reported the following:

- There were 150,000 visitors to the District recreation areas during the month of March, 2010.
- All boat ramps have been opened with the exception of the ramp at the Alexandria Levee Park and the north ramp of the Stoner facility. Staff is continuing to work toward have those ramps cleared of heavy silt deposits.

d) Ports

Commissioner Fleming reported that Mr. Lu Cutrera had presented to the Ports Committee, a status update regarding the 12-foot Channel Feasibility Study.

Approval of Cooperative Agreement/Alexandria Regional Port Authority/Lower Dock Expansion - By motion of Commissioner Fleming, seconded by Commissioner Owens, the Commission unanimously approved amending the Cooperative Agreement with the Alexandria Regional Port Authority regarding its Lower Dock Expansion Project with a total funding assistance of \$107,750.00 from the Red River Waterway Commission. Commissioner Fleming explained that the RRWC had originally authorized \$92,750 for that project in February, 2009. However, there had been an increase in the total tonnage of rip-rap, along with increased costs associated with the rip-rap and construction since the time the project was first submitted which resulted in additional costs of \$17,880. Through negotiations with Mr. John Marzullo, Executive Director of the Port, the Commission agreed to cancel a previously approved fencing project for the Port, approved in March, 2008, but not yet initiated, transferring those funds of \$15,000.00 to the dock extension project to help defray the increased costs of that project.

e) Public Awareness & Marketing

Marketing Update - Commissioner Owens highlighted the prepared report provided in the meeting packet. He also reminded the Commissioners to submit their disclosure statements to the Ethic Board by May 15, 2010, as required by legislation.

f) Personnel - No report

g) Revenue, Banking & Budget - No report. Mr. Guidry took this opportunity to remind the Commissioners that the millage adoption would be on the May 19, 2010 meeting agenda.

h) Legislative - Chairman Nick Verret provided the Commissioners with a copy of House Concurrent Resolution #1, requesting that the Ground Water Commission conduct a study and make recommendations on the management of the state's groundwater and surface water resources. There was some discussion regarding the relationship of this House Resolution and the on-going Haynesville Shale project. He called upon Mr. Greg Upton for his comments regarding this issue. Mr. Upton reported that he had sent a copy of the Cooperative Agreement between the Red River Waterway Commission and Questar regarding the permitting and usage of surface water from Lake Bistineau, relative to the Haynesville Shale project, to the Attorney General but had not received a response. However, Mr. Upton did note that riparian rights would not be affected by any permitting procedure as riparian rights address the right of landowners to use water for their own use but cannot sell the water. He further recommended that the Cooperative Agreement also be approved by the Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries. As soon as a response is received from the Attorney General's office, that information will be forwarded to the Commissioners.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT - Mr. Guidry reported on the following issues:

- The purchase of a new server for the office computer system is required, as the present equipment has reached its maximum usefulness for the Commission's needs. That item had already been included in the 2010 budget.
- A Legislative Reception is scheduled for May 26, 2010 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana at 6:00 PM.
- A ribbon cutting ceremony is scheduled for April 28, 2010 at the Rodemacher III facility.

8. STATUS OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY/ENGINEERING REPORT - Mr. Colin Brown highlighted the prepared reports provided in the meeting packets.

9. GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT - Mr. Greg Upton reported that the courts had ruled in favor of the Red River Parish Port Commission regarding its summary judgement issue with ISG. The ruling was that the Port did not need to repay ISG for the construction of the facility.

There has been no response yet regarding the Fry litigation issue.

10. CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPORT - Ms. Brandy Bradford of the Grand Ecore Visitors Center took this opportunity to thank Mr. Mike Boydston for all of his assistance. She also noted that a Water Resources Festival is scheduled for May 7 and 8, 2010 in Shreveport. Water and boating safety will be the main focus of the event. Also, there will be a Kids Fishing Derby at Lock and Dam #2, west, June 12, 2010. She invited all present to attend and participate. Hot dogs and refreshments will be served. She also pointed out that the new national focus of the U.S. Army, Corps of Engineers will be reaching out to the 18-34 year old males with boating and water safety issues.

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

- The Red River level is down to within a 1 ½ feet of pool stage. There has been some dredging issues as a result of the high water. There is silt in the locks at Lock and Dam #2. Dredging is underway to alleviate those issues.
- The COE is completing its survey of dredging requirements on the river from Shreveport to below Lock and Dam #1. They will determine their course of action regarding those issues. Due to recent budget cuts, the COE will need to prioritize the list resulting in some areas being left out of the maintenance dredging activities for the coming year. Mr. Brontoli expressed his intentions to pursue gathering budget structuring information from the USACE Division office in Vicksburg, the Headquarters Office in Washington, D.C. and from Office of Management and Budget in Washington, D.C. in an effort to determine the process by which funding is established for COE projects, specifically the J. Bennett Johnston Waterway.
- The Red River Compact Commission meets Tuesday, April 27, 2010 in Texarkana.
- There is a BASS fishing tournament scheduled for June 3 - 5, 2010 at the Red River South Marina.

- The River Awareness Trips on the Red River are scheduled for October 11 - 15, 2010 departing from the ports in Alexandria, Natchitoches, and Shreveport/Bossier. The exact schedule has not yet been determined. That information is forth coming.

12. OTHER BUSINESS -

Commissioner Dupuy took this opportunity to officially transfer the gavel for the position of Chairman presiding over the Commission meetings to Mr. Nick Verret and welcomed him, once again. In response, Chairman Nick Verret presented Commissioner Dupuy with a certificate of appreciation for his years of dedication and service to the Commission as Vice Chairman.

13. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - None

14. RECESS

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

JAMES F. MAXEY
SECRETARY/TREASURER

NICHOLAS F. VERRET, JR.
ACTING CHAIRMAN