

MINUTES
OF THE
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING
JUNE 16, 2010
10:00 AM
COMMISSION HEADQUARTERS
NATCHITOCHE, LOUISIANA

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Red River Waterway Commission was called to order by Acting Chairman Nicholas Verret, 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: Acting Chairman Nicholas Verret, Commissioner Doug Brown, 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: None

RRWC Staff Members Present: Mr. Ken Guidry - Executive Director, Mr. Randy Walters - Marketing Director, Mrs. Cathy Rushing - Executive Assistant, Mr. Colin Brown- Engineer Supervisor, Mr. Garland Brown - Real Estate Manager, Mr. Greg Upton - Legal Counsel.

Others Present: Ms. Holly Porter, Mr. Rich Feibelman, Mr. Rich Brontoli, Mr. Lu Cutrera, Mrs. Jessica Broadway, Mrs. Robin Cosenza, Ms. Karen Ammerman, Mr. Gary Ethridge, Mr. David Evans, Ms. Sharon Balfour, Mr. Bob Munson

3. **APPROVAL OF REVISED AGENDA**

By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, 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 Dupuy, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher, the minutes of the May 19, 2010 meeting were unanimously approved.

5. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

6. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) **Contracts**

Approval of Electronic Bid Services Contract - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Commission unanimously approved award of an electronic bid services contract to Bid-Sync at no cost to the Commission as bidding contractors are required to pay an annual fee for use of the service.

Approval of Change Order No. 5/Poland Recreation Area - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Owens, the Commission unanimously approved Poland Recreation Area Change Order No. 5 which resulted in a reduction of \$4,116.00 in the contract amount due to asphalt inconsistencies in the parking lot. It was noted that although there are inconsistencies in the density of the asphalt in certain areas, it is still within the acceptable ranges overall.

Approval of Auctioneer Contract - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Commission unanimously approved award of the auctioneer contract to Kevin Kelley Auctioneers, LLC.

Consideration of Award of Office Renovations Contract - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Hodges, the Commission unanimously approved award of the office renovation contract to R & A Gilmore Enterprises of West Monroe, Louisiana at a contract bid amount of \$54,150.00 for that project. It was noted that the floor recovering portion of the renovations would be bid separately.

Approval of Contract Amendment/RRW415/Blount Brothers Construction/Additional Equipment - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Fleming, the Commission unanimously approved the amendment to Contract RRW-415 with Blount Brothers Construction to allow for aerial surveys by helicopter relative to control measures for giant salvinia.

Consideration of Engineering/Surveying Proposal, 2010 Recreation Dredging Contract - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher, the Commission unanimously approved award of Recreation Dredging, Surveying & Engineering contract to Coyle Engineering in the amount of \$24,200.00.

Approval of Forts Randolph/Buhlow State Historic Site Cooperative Agreement with LA State Parks - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Owens, the Commission unanimously approved the Cooperative Agreement with Louisiana State Parks for operations and maintenance funding assistance for the Forts Randolph & Buhlow State Historic Site in the amount of \$159,698.00 for the first year, July 1, 2010 thru June 30, 2011 and \$109,698.00 for the optional second year, July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012, not to exceed a total amount of \$269,396.00 and not to exceed a total period of two years.

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

Authority to Award Leaseback Lease/Pool 3, Tract 58 - By motion of Commissioner Dupuy, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Commission unanimously approved award of a leaseback of twelve (12) acres in Tract 58 of Pool 3 to Mr. Russell Stacey for an amount of \$700.00 or \$42.00 per acre for year for a five year term.

Approval of NSU Cooperative Agreement/Giant Salvinia - By motion of Commissioner Dupuy, seconded by Commissioner Brown, the Commission unanimously approved the Cooperative Agreement to provide funding in the amount of \$47,000.00 to Northwestern State University for the purpose of removing certain drainage structure from the levee in order to comply with FEMA requirements relative to levee certification. In exchange for this funding assistance, NSU agrees to provide to the Red River Waterway Commission, free of charge 110 acres of the Aquaculture Research Center to be used for researching and raising giant salvinia weevils for distribution in the Red River Valley.

Discussion of St. Maurice Lake Issue - By motion of Commissioner Dupuy, seconded by Commissioner Hodges, and unanimously approved, the Executive Director was instructed to issue a letter to Dr. Michael Redmond, requiring the removal of culvert(s) and drill stem from the entrance to St. Maurice Lake and return the entrance to the lake to its original state within 30 days, beginning June 17, 2010. Staff was further instructed to determine the cost of this project and include in the letter to Dr. Redmond that should he fail to remove the obstruction as instructed within the thirty day period, the Red River Waterway Commission will have the obstruction removed and forward the invoice to Dr. Redmond for payment.

c) Recreation

Recreation Area Status Report - A prepared report was provided in the meeting packet. In the absence of Mr. Mike Boydston, Mr. Kenneth P. Guidry reported that there had been approximately 209,000 visitors to the recreation areas in the District during the month of May, 2010.

d) Ports

Approval of O & M Funding Funds/Red River Parish Port Commission - By motion of Commissioner Fleming, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, the Commission unanimously approved operations and maintenance funding match of \$40,000.00 to the Red River Parish Port Commission for 2010.

Twelve-Foot Channel Up-Date - Mr. Lu Cutrera up-dated the Commission regarding the Twelve-Foot Channel Study conducted by Shaw Environmental & Infrastructure, Inc. The Commission instructed Mr. Cutrera to arrange for the Commission to meet with the members of the Congressional Delegation to discuss the findings of the study and seek funding for the feasibility study. Following those meetings, the Commission will consider its next course of action.

At this time, Mr. Randy Walters briefly highlighted the Port Project Status Reports and the Port Tonnage Reports as provided by the various Ports and included in the meeting packets.

e) Public Awareness & Marketing

Marketing Update - A prepare report was provided in the meeting packet along with a calendar of events.

f) Personnel - No report

g) Revenue, Banking & Budget

Approval of 2009 Audit Report - By motion of Commissioner Fleming, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, the Commission unanimously approved the 2009 Audit Report as prepared by Roberts, Cherry and Company. Commissioner Davis specifically requested that in the future, the auditor be instructed to provide copies of the annual audit to the Commissioners for review via regular mail and not via email.

h) Legislative - Acting Chairman Nick Verret reported that House Bill 1486 is currently under consideration for vote by the Louisiana Legislature relative to surface water usage. Final determination of that legislation is still pending as of this date. The current session of the legislature ends Monday, June 21, 2010.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Water Use Permits - Mr. Kenneth P. Guidry reported that the permitting process is currently on hold, pending the outcome of House Bill 1486 relative to that issue.

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

- The Poland Recreation Area is currently approximately 60% complete.
- The Additional Amenities-Central Project is currently in the design phase.
- The surveying proposal has been approved and a Notice to Proceed has been issued to the contractor regarding the Additional Amenities-North.
- Photos of the Forts Randolph/Buhlow State Historic Site will be provided in July 21, 2010 meeting. There is still some minor issues being completed in the project.

9. GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT - Mr. Greg Upton reported on the following items:

- A decision is still pending as to whether the Louisiana Supreme Court will hear the case regarding the Fry litigation matter.
- The Red River Parish Port has issued a letter to Headwaters requesting that their facility be removed from the Port premises. The estimated cost for that removal process is \$275,000.00. The Court has instructed the Red River Parish Port to make a settlement offer, which the Port has done. They are awaiting a response from Headwaters on that matter. A trial date of December 6, 2010 has been set for any unresolved issues in that case.

10. CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPORT - Actiong Chairman Nicholas Verret introduced and welcomed Mr. Rich Feibelman and Ms. Holly Porter from the COE. Mr. Feibelman reported on the following items:

- Solicitations will be issued within the next few weeks for construction of the Socot Revetment to included some desperately needed reinforcement at the Ben Routh Recreation Site, as well. Award of that contract is anticipated in late August or early September, 2010.

11. RED RIVER VALLEY ASSOCIATION - Mr. Rich Brontoli reported that he will be traveling to Washington, D.C. the week of June 21 - 25, 2010 to meet with Congressional members, as well as with members of the COE Headquarters and OMB to discuss dredging budget cuts.

12. OTHER BUSINESS - None

13. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - None

14. RECESS

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

JAMES F. MAXEY
SECRETARY/TREASURER

NICHOLAS F. VERRET, JR.
ACTING CHAIRMAN