



**MINUTES
OF THE
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING
JANUARY 19, 2011
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 Chair, 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 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 Marc Dupuy, Jr.

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. Luke Pearson - Real Estate Manager, In-Training, Mr. Greg Upton - Legal Counsel.

Others Present: Ms. Sharon Balfour, Mr. Rich Brontoli, Mr. Jim Brontoli, Mrs. Robin Cosenza, Ms. Brandi Bradford, Mr. Robert Breedlove, Mrs. Jennifer Hawkins, Mr. Jason K. Placke, Mr. Gary Etheridge

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 Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the minutes of the December 15, 2010 meeting were unanimously approved.

5. TREASURER'S REPORT

By motion of Commissioner Fletcher, seconded by Commissioner Hodges, the Expenditures for the month of December, 2010 were unanimously approved. Due to year end closeout issues, approval of the Financial Statements & Investment Reports for the month of December, 2010, was delayed.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) Contracts

Consideration of Safety Training Proposals - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Brown, the Commission unanimously approved the award of the Safety Training Program proposal from Arklatex Safety Council at \$352 per monthly training session.

Regional Construction/Pool 5/Cemetery Close-Out - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, and unanimously approved, staff was authorized to close out the Regional Construction contract with a \$300contract reduction for the removal of dirt from the radius built between the levee and the cemetery road, which had not been removed as per the contract.

b) Land Management, Legal Affairs & Affirmative Action

Consideration of Request to Cancel Land Lease/Bijou Island - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher, the Commission unanimously approved the cancellation of the lease of the Bijou Island property.

Consideration of Request to Cancel Land Lease/Wilson Point - by motion of Commissioner Hodges, seconded by Commissioner Maxey, the Commission voted to reject the request for cancellation of the lease for the Wilson Point property. Commissioner Crutchfield opposed this motion and requested that the staff prepare suggested policy parameters for the Commission to consider adopting with regard to future lease cancellation requests, possibly to include the implementation of cancellation fees.

At this time, by motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher, and with no comments from the public, the Commission unanimously approved amending the agenda to include the following action item:

Authority to Re-advertise for lease bids for Bijou Island - By motion of Commissioner Hodges, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, and unanimously approved, the staff was authorized to re-advertise for lease bids for the Bijou Island property.

c) Recreation

Recreation Area Status Report - A prepared report was provided in the meeting packet. Mr. Mike Boydston noted 93,000 visitors to the district recreation areas during the month of December, 2011.

d) Ports - No report. The Port Committee will meet with the District Ports next month.

e) Public Awareness & Marketing

Marketing Update - A prepared port was provided in the packets. Mr. Randy Walters noted that the BASSMASTERS Classic will be held February 219 - 19, 2011 in New Orleans, Louisiana. It is scheduled to be held in the Shreveport/Bossier City area in 2012.

f) Personnel

Approval of 2011 Merit Increases & Budget Amendment - By motion of Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Owens, the Commission unanimously approved the 2011 salary increases and related budget

adjustments as recommended by the Executive Director, effective January 24, 2011.

g) **Revenue, Banking & Budget** - No report.

h) **Legislative** - No report. However, Acting Chairman, Mr. Nicholas Verret, noted that he, along with Mr. Ken Guidry, Ms. Sharon Balfour and Mr. Rich Brontoli had met with Ms. Sherri LeBas, Chair of the Commission, in Baton Rouge last month to discuss funding issues. Ms. LeBas indicated that she hopes to be able to attend the March 16, 2011 Commission meeting.

7. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Fleet Conference - June 6-8, 2011

San Diego, California/Mike Boydston - By motion of Commissioner Fleming, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Commission unanimously approved reimbursement of registration and travel expenses for Mike Boydston to attend a Fleet Conference to be held June 6-8, 2011 in San Diego, California.

8. **STATUS OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY/ENGINEERING REPORT** - Prepared reports were provided in the meeting packets.

9. **GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT** - No report.

10. **CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPORT** - Ms. Brandi Bradford announced that the Water Resources Festival hosted by the USACE is scheduled for May 6-7, 2011 at the River Boardwalk in Bossier City, Louisiana. The main focus this year will be safety and swimming. Also, there is a new free i-Phone application which includes the locations of the recreation facilities and locks on dams on the Red River. There will be a seminar on accessing and utilizing that application on February 3, 2011 from 5:00 - 7:00 pm at the Natchitoches Events Center.

11. **RED RIVER VALLEY ASSOCIATION** - Mr. Rich Brontoli reports on the following items:

- The 2011 RRVA Annual Conference is scheduled for February 23-25, 2011 at Sam's Town Casino Resort and Hotel.
- The COE is still operating under a continuing resolution until March 3, 2011 as no additional funds have been appropriated for the 2011 budget cycle.
- Mr. Brontoli and Mr. Guidry will be traveling to Washington, D.C., February 8-11, 2011 for visits to congressional staff members, OMB & COE Headquarters to discuss funding issues. The main focus will be dredging and operation and maintenance requirements.
- A second trip to Washington, D.C. is scheduled for March 7-11, 2011 along with the National Waterways Conference. Those Commissioners planning to go during that time frame are urged to contact the Commission office regarding travel arrangements.
- Mr. Brontoli provided a copy of the USACE 2009 Tonnage Report and compared some of the figures of various waterways throughout the country, as published in that report.

At this time, by motion of Commissioner Fletcher, seconded by Commissioner Prestridge, and unanimously approved with no comments or objections from the public, the agenda was amended to include the following action item :

Authorization for the Reimbursement of Travel Expenses - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Owens, the Commission unanimously approved the provision for the reimbursement of travel expenses for Commissioners and necessary staff to travel to Washington, D.C. February 8-11, 2011 and March 7-11, 2011.

12. **OTHER BUSINESS** - At this time, by motion of Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Fleming, and unanimously approved with no comments or objections from the public, the agenda was amended to include the following action item :

Approval of Resolution of Appreciation - By motion of Commissioner Fleming, seconded by Commissioner Prestridge, the Commission unanimously approved and presented to Mr. Garland L. Brown, a Resolution of Appreciation to Mr. Garland L. Brown for his 19 years of service to the Red River Waterway Commission and congratulated him on his retirement with his last date of employment being January 31, 2011.

13. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC** - Mr. Gary Etheridge took this opportunity to introduce Mr. Jason K. Placke who will be taking Mr. Etheridge's place upon his retirement from the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, effective February 4, 2011.

14. **RECESS**

At this time, by motion of Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Fleming, 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