

MINUTES
OF THE
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING
MARCH 16, 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: Chair Sherri LeBas, Acting Chairman Nicholas Verret, Commissioner Doug Brown, Commissioner Wayne Davis, Commissioner Marc Dupuy, Jr., Commissioner Paul Fleming, Commissioner Randell Fletcher, Commissioner James F. Maxey, Commissioner Alvin Owens, Commissioner Rogers M. Prestridge, Commissioner Michael Simpson.

Absent: Commissioner David L. Crutchfield, II, Commissioner Andrew J. Hodges, III

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

Others Present: Ms. Sharon Balfour, Mr. Larry Ardoin, Mrs. Jessica Broadway, Mrs. Robin Cosenza, Ms. Brandi Bradford, Mr. Rich Brontoli

3. **APPROVAL OF REVISED AGENDA**

By motion of Commissioner Dupuy, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, 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 Owens, seconded by Commissioner Prestridge, the minutes of the February 16, 2011 meeting were unanimously approved.

5. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

By motion of Commissioner Fleming, seconded by Commissioner Dupuy, the Expenditures, Financial Statements & Investment Reports for the month of February, 2011 were unanimously approved.

6. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) **Contracts**

Consideration of Boat Spraying Proposals - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Brown and unanimously approved, the Commission awarded the Boat Spraying Contract for aquatic vegetation control to Edko, LLC

Authority to Increase AFC/Additional Amenities-Central Project - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Owens, the Commission unanimously approved the increase to the Available Funds for Construction (AFC) for the Additional Amenities-Central Project to \$235,000, an increase of \$27,000, to allow for the addition of minor renovations in the ventilation/heating systems at the existing wash house and comfort station at the Colfax RV park.

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

Consideration of Bid Lease Cancellation Policy Proposal - By motion of Commissioner Dupuy, seconded by Commissioner Prestridge, the Commission unanimously approved revisions to the lease cancellation provisions section of the existing lease documents.

Consideration of Request by QEP Resources, Inc., for Freshwater Pipeline Right-of-Way - By motion of Commissioner Dupuy, seconded by Commissioner Davis, the Commission unanimously approved the request from QEP resources, Inc., for a freshwater pipeline right-of-way in Pool 5, Tract 15 at the Hutchinson Realignment.

At this time, by motion of Commissioner Dupuy, Seconded by Commissioner Simpson and unanimously approved, the following item was added to the agenda. Comments were called for from the public for this revision to the agenda, however, none were offered.

Approval of Timber Thinning Contract - By motion of Commissioner Dupuy, seconded by Commissioner Brown, the Commission unanimously approved the Timber Thinning Contract in Pool 3, Tract 24 in Grant Parish to Walsh Timber Company, L.L.C.

c) **Recreation**

Recreation Area Status Report - A prepared report was provided in the meeting packets, Mr. Mike Boydston also offered the following comments:

- There had been over 200,000 visitors to the district recreation facilities during the month of February, 2011.
- The aquatic vegetation inspections would be getting underway this week and next week.
- Bids for the Recreational Dredging project are scheduled to be opened April 5, 2011.
- Two fishing tournaments will be held this weekend out of the Grand Ecore Recreation Area; the BASSMASTERS Weekend Series on Friday and Saturday, which is one of the qualifying events for the BASSMASTERS CLASSIC as well as the Special Olympics Fishing Tournament on Sunday.

d) **Ports** - Commissioner Fleming noted the Open House for the new facility of the Caddo-Bossier Port Commission offices is scheduled for Thursday, March 24, 2011 at 2:00 pm. Mr. Randy Walters gave a brief

update regarding on-going port projects.

e) **Public Awareness & Marketing** - Mr. Randy Walters reported that Commissioner Fleming, Mr. Ken Guidry and he had attended the BASSMASTERS CLASSIC held in New Orleans, in February to set up the RRWC information booth.

f) **Personnel** - No report

g) **Revenue, Banking & Budget**

Approval of 2010 Audit Compliance Questionnaire - By motion of Commissioner Fleming, seconded by Commissioner Prestridge, the Commission unanimously approved the 2010 Audit Compliance Questionnaire.

h) **Legislative** - Acting Chair, Nicholas Verret, introduced and welcomed Chair Sherri LeBas. He took this opportunity to commend the Commissioners and staff of the Red River Waterway Commission for their dedication to the Commission and its efforts. Ms. LeBas offered the following:

- Chair LeBas commended the Commissioners and staff on the Grand Ecore Visitors Center and Grand Ecore Recreation facility which she had the opportunity to visit on Tuesday, March 15, 2011.
- Chair LeBas has issued a letter to the Congressional delegation regarding the lack of funding for dredging the Red River. She also met with Congressional members and/or members of their staff regarding those issues, as well as other areas of concern statewide. She also met with members of OMB to discuss those concerns for lack of funding.
- Chair LeBas also commented on issues regarding Port funding. She pointed out that legislation was passed in 2009 whereby vehicle sales tax would be going into the Transportation Trust Fund (TTF), with the stipulation that if the General Fund was in jeopardy, that transfer of funds would not take place. In that regard, the TTF has not received those funds. However, in the event that those funds are made available to the TTF, it would increase available funds for port projects. It is hopeful, that those funds may start coming into the TTF in the Fiscal Year 2015/16.
- Chair LeBas thanked the Commissioners and staff for their efforts. There was some discussions held regarding activities in Washington, D.C. , and funding issues.

7. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT** - Mr. Guidry reported that Nelson Energy, L.L.C. is continuing to pursue permits required for a hydroelectric facility at Lock and Dam #4. He also stated that the staff is continuing to attempt to make contact with BASSMASTERS in an effort to coordinate planning activities for the 2012 BASSMASTERS Classic in the Shreveport/Bossier City area. There has been no response as yet.

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

- Bids will open for the Additional Amenities-North project on April 7, 2011.
- The Additional Amenities -Central project, final design phase is nearing completion.
- The Additional Amenities-South project which includes a lighting project at the Brouillette Recreation facility and a reforestation project at the Ben Routh Recreation Facility should be completed today.
- Staff is continuing to work with the Caddo Soil & Water Conservation District on the Red Bayou Irrigation District project. The COE has issued the necessary permit and the that project should be getting underway this summer.
- Staff has addressed some erosion control issues at the Poland Recreational facility. CLECO should be complete with the installation of lighting within the short term. Once that is complete, the staff will begin the planning stages of a dedication ceremony for that facility.
- The COE will begin to re-mill the road at Lock and Dam No. 2 in approximately two weeks.

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

10. **CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPORT** - Ms. Brandi Bradford reported on the following items:

- Ms. Bradford recently attended the International Boating and Water Safety Summit held in Savannah, Georgia, where she gave a presentation on Partnering Outside the Boat highlighting the COE's i-phone applications featuring their Explorer Weekend at Crossroads Visitor Guide.
- The Water Resource Festival is scheduled for May 6-7, 2011 in the Shreveport/Bossier City area.
- There has been some recent major vandalism issues at the Lock & Dam No. 2 recreational facility whereby the comfort station was almost completely destroyed over the New Year's Eve weekend. Unfortunately, with current budget cuts, it appears that the COE will be forced to close that comfort Station until such time funds become available to complete the repairs. The Rapides Parish Sheriff's office and the local game warden in that area have stepped up patrols of that general area.

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

- Navigation conditions on the river have been excellent given the current lack of rainfall in the area. This has resulted in a reduction in siltation issues.
- Mr. Brontoli traveled to Washington, D.C., along with Commissioner Randall Fletcher, Mr. Ken Guidry and Mr. Colin Brown, and visited with congressional members and/or their aides in an effort to secure funding for dredging. However, there was no encouraging word regarding funding for earmarks. There was some talk regarding the de-classification of WRDA projects as earmarks. However, no definite action has been taken regarding such, as of this date. Harbor dredging funds are also under consideration.
- The Navigation Committee will meet at 1:00 PM April 5, 2011 to discuss navigation issues during the construction process of the O.K. Allen Bridge in Alexandria, Louisiana.
- Mr. Brontoli will be attending the Mississippi River Commission meeting on April 13, 2011 in Greenville, Mississippi.
- The Red River Compact meeting will be held April 25-26, 2011, in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

At this time, Ms. Sharon Balfour gave a brief update regarding her attendance of the National Waterways conference in Washington, D.C. She reiterated some of the budget cuts and funding concerns discussed with contacts she had made while in D.C.

- 12. **OTHER BUSINESS** - None
- 13. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC** - None
- 14. **RECESS**

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

JAMES F. MAXEY
SECRETARY/TREASURER

NICHOLAS F. VERRET, JR.
ACTING CHAIRMAN