

MINUTES  
OF THE  
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING  
AUGUST 17, 2011  
10:00 AM  
COMMISSION HEADQUARTERS  
NATCHITOCHES, 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 at 5941 Highway 1 By-Pass in Natchitoches, Louisiana.

2. **ROLL CALL, INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS, AND CALL FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Roll was called and a quorum was present. Others in attendance were asked to identify themselves and offered any comments they may have regarding the agenda. However, no comments were offered.

**Present:** Acting Chair Nicholas Verret, Commissioner Doug Brown, Commissioner Wayne Davis, Commissioner Marc Dupuy, Jr., 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 David L. Crutchfield, II

**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:** Mrs. Jessica Broadway, Mrs. Robin Cosenza, Ms. Sharon Balfour, Ms. Holly Porter

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 Simpson, the minutes of the July 20, 2011 meeting were unanimously approved.

5. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

By motion of Commissioner Maxey, seconded by Commissioner Davis, the Expenditures, Financial Statements & Investment Reports for the month of July, 2011 were unanimously approved.

6. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) **Contracts** - No report

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

**Final Approval/Request for Partial Release of Servitude/Pool 1, Tract 12/Lower Gin Lake Realignment** - By motion of Commissioner Dupuy, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, the Commission unanimously approved the release of servitude on 9 acres of property in Pool 1, Tract 12 of the Lower Gin Lake Realignment at an appraised value of \$2,400 per acre for a total of \$21,600.

**Right-of-Way Request/Lock & Dam #2 Recreation Area Access Road** - By motion of Commissioner Dupuy, seconded by Commissioner Owens, the Commission unanimously approved the right-of-way request from CLECO at the Lock and Dam #2 Recreation area Access road.

**Surplus Property Request/Pool 3, Part of Tract 23, Segment A & Part of Tract 24** - By motion of Commissioner Dupuy, seconded by Commissioner Prestridge, the Commission voted to deny the request to surplus 73.7 acres of Pool 3, part of Tract 23, Segment A & B and part of Tract 24. Commissioner Fletcher opposed the motion.

**Act of Correction Request/Pool 4, Tracts III & V, Coushatta Realignment** - By motion of Commissioner Dupuy, seconded by Commissioner Hodges, the Commission voted to deny the request to approve an Act of Correction Deed for Pool 4, Tracts III & V of the Coushatta Realignment and to inform Mr. Thomas Wright of Hall Ponderosa, LLC, that the offer to release the servitude on 13 acres as previously approved by the Commission in 2009 still stands but that it would require an updated appraisal, at the expense of Hall Ponderosa, LLC, if they chose to accept that release.

c) **Recreation**

**Approval of BASS Deal Point Agreement** - By motion of Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Fleming, the Commission unanimously approved the Deal Point Agreement with BASS and instructed staff to move forward with the necessary preparations for that event.

**Approval of Ft. Randolph Cooperative Agreement Extension** - By motion of Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Brown, the Commission unanimously approved the one year extension to the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Office of State Parks relative to the operations and maintenance of the Forts Randolph/Buhlow State Historic Site.

**Recreation Area Status Report** - A prepared report was provided in the meeting packet. Mr. Mike Boydston noted that there were approximately 290,000 visitors in the District recreation areas during the month of July, 2011, noting that recreational activities on the river and in the District parks have exceeded that of 2010.

d) **Ports**

Prepared Tonnage and Project Status Reports were provided in the meeting packets. Mr. Randy Walters noted that both Terrel River Services and CLECO would begin moving approximately 250,000 tons of coal on the river within the next month.

e) **Public Awareness & Marketing**

**Marketing Update** - A prepared report was provided in the meeting packet. Mr. Randy Walters reiterated Mr. Boydston's comment that recreational activity on the river has increased over last year.

f) **Personnel** - No report

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

h) **Legislative** - No report

7. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Waterborne Transport Conference** - By motion of Commissioner Maxey, seconded by Commissioner Brown, the Commission unanimously approved the reimbursement of travel expenses for the Commissioners and necessary staff to attend the Arkansas Regional Waterways Conference on Waterborne Transport scheduled for October 3-5, 2011 in Little Rock, Arkansas. Mr. Guidry also encouraged the Commissioners to contact Mrs. Cathy Rushing in the Commission office should they wish to accompany him to Washington, D.C., September 14-16, 2011, to meet with OMB personnel and Congressional members.

8. **STATUS OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY/ENGINEERING REPORT** - Mr. Colin Brown highlighted the prepared reports as provided in the meeting packets. He also took this opportunity to encourage the Commissioners to contact him prior to the September meeting with any changes they may want the Commission to consider relative to the Recreation Priorities list so that he may incorporate those changes into the document for review and discussion during the October meeting.

Mr. Luke Pearson noted that the Bossier Parish Police Jury took action to begin the process of extending Sligo Road, which would improve river access in Bossier City.

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

10. **CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPORT** - Ms. Holly Porter took this opportunity to encourage the Commissioners to offer their comments relative to the LIDAR & Hydrograph project relative to the J. Bennett Johnston Waterway.

11. **RED RIVER VALLEY ASSOCIATION** - In the absence of Mr. Rich Brontoli, Acting Chair Nick Verret reported that the meeting held with the USACE-Vicksburg District to oppose the Corps' reduced operations and maintenance schedule for the J. Bennett Johnston Waterway was well attended by both civic and commercial leaders, as well as Congressional members.

12. **OTHER BUSINESS**

**Consideration of September, 2011 Meeting Date Change** - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher, the Commission unanimously approved moving the September, 2011 meeting date to September 28, 2011 to avoid the conflict in the timing of the National Waterways Conference which several Commissioners will be attending, scheduled for September 19-21, 2011 in Ft. Worth, Texas.

13. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC** - Ms. Sharon Balfour took this opportunity to encourage the Commissioners to provide to her any comments they may have relative to impacts of the recent Mississippi River flooding event.

14. **RECESS**

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

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JAMES F. MAXEY  
SECRETARY/TREASURER

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NICHOLAS F. VERRET, JR.  
ACTING CHAIRMAN