

MINUTES  
OF THE  
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING  
JANUARY 18, 2012  
10:00 AM  
COMMISSION HEADQUARTERS  
NATCHITOCHEs, LOUISIANA

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Red River Waterway Commission was called to order by Interim Acting Chair, Mr. Larry Ardoin, 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:** Interim Acting Chair, Mr. Larry Ardoin, 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

**Absent:** Commissioner Michael Simpson

**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. Robin Cosenza, Mr. Bob Munson, Mrs. Jessica Broadway, Mr. Rich Brontoli

3. **APPROVAL OF REVISED AGENDA**

By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, 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 Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the minutes of the December 21, 2011 meeting were unanimously approved.

5. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Expenditures & Investment Reports for the month of December, 2011 were unanimously approved. Approval of the Financial Statements for the month of December, 2011 were delayed due to year end close-out activities.

6. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) **Contracts** - No report

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

**Authority to Award Public Bid Lease/Pool 4, Part of Tract 2/Red Oak Lake** - By motion of Commissioner Hodges, seconded by Commissioner Brown, the Commission unanimously approved award of the public bid lease to Mr. Jolley Nash for 405.6 acres at Pool 4, Part of Tract 2 of Red Oak Lake property at a bid amount of \$32.00 per acre for a total of \$12,979.20 per year for a five year term.

**QEP Energy Company Request for Fresh Water Pipeline Right-of-Way Time Extension/Pool 5, Tact 55** - By motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher, the Commission unanimously approved the time extension request from QEP Energy Company to extend their pipeline right-of-way at Pool 5, Tract 55 from December 31, 2011 to June 1, 2013.

**Quit Claim Deed Request/Pool 5, Part of Tract 8/Wells Island Road Revetment/Mary N. Smith** - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Hodges, the Commission unanimously approved the execution of a Settlement Agreement with the landowner for the release of Pool 5, Part of Tract 8 at the Wells Island Road Revetment, at a cost of \$500 to the landowner, with the stipulation that the language be included in the settlement document whereby the landowner hold the RRWC harmless from any and all future claims by themselves, as well as from the previous and future landowners. Legal Counsel, Mr. Mark Roberts, was instructed to draft the necessary document for Commission final approval.

**NSU Aquaculture Center Funding Request for the Giant Salvinia Research Proposal** - By motion of Commissioner Hodges, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Commission unanimously approved the funding request by the NSU Aquaculture Research Center (NSUARC) for \$100,000 per year for a period of three years for its Giant Salvinia Weevil Research Program. The purpose of this program is to construct, operate and maintain greenhouse structures necessary for the production of giant salvinia weevils to be introduced into the Red River and its tributaries in an effort to control the giant salvinia infestation. The Cooperative Agreement with the NSUARC will be funded through the NSU Foundation. General counsel, Mr. Greg Upton, was instructed to draft the cooperative agreement for final Commission approval.

c) **Recreation**

**Recreation Area Status Report** - A prepared report was provided in the meeting packet. Mr. Mike Boydston pointed out that there had been 101,000 visitors to the District recreational facilities during the month of December, 2011. Commissioner Crutchfield called for a committee meeting to be scheduled prior to the February 15, 2012 Commission meeting to discuss the Grand Ecore, Phase II project.

There was some discussion held regarding the lack of operation and maintenance of some of the recreational facilities owned by the Corps of Engineers at the various locks and dams. It was noted that these facilities are owned by the COE and, as such, are the responsibility of the COE to operate and maintain.

**d) Ports**

**Approval of Cooperative Agreement/Natchitoches Parish Port Commission/Waterline Extension Project** - By motion of Commissioner Fleming, seconded by Commissioner Maxey, the Commission unanimously approved the Cooperative Agreement document with the Natchitoches Parish Port relative to the waterline project extension from 4,500 feet to 7,000 feet at a total project cost of \$445,000.

**Approval of Cooperative Agreement/Natchitoches Parish Port Commission/Dock Improvement Project** - By motion of Commissioner Fleming, seconded by Commissioner Maxey, the Commission unanimously approved the Cooperative Agreement document with the Natchitoches Parish Port relative to the Dock Improvement Project.

Prepared Tonnage and Port Project Status reports were included in the meeting packets.

**e) Public Awareness & Marketing**

**Marketing Update** - A prepared report was provided to the commissioners. Mrs. Robin Cosenza gave a brief update as to the activities relative to the BASSMASTERS Classic tournament to be held in February in the Shreveport/Bossier City area.

**f) Personnel** - No report

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

**h) Legislative** - No report

- 7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT** - At this time, by motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield and unanimously approved, the agenda was amended to allow for action regarding travel expenses for scheduled events in 2012. Comments and/or objections from the public were called for relative to this amendment to the agenda, however, none were offered.

**Approval of Travel Expenses for 2012 Events** - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Commission unanimously approved the reimbursement of associated in-state and out-of-state travel expenses and related registration fees for commissioners and necessary staff to attend the various events and functions scheduled for 2012.

- 8. STATUS OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY/ENGINEERING REPORT** - Prepared reports were provided in the meeting packets. Mr. Colin Brown gave a brief update as to the status of on-going projects.

- 9. GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT** - Mr. Greg Upton took this opportunity to note that he has not yet received an Attorney General's opinion regarding the ownership of Oxbow/river bottom lands.

Also, as a follow-up to previous discussions relative to the operation and maintenance responsibilities of COE recreation sites at the locks and dams, Mr. Upton referred to the Project Cooperation Agreement For Pools 3, 4 & 5, which states:

*"The Government shall operate, maintain, repair, replace, or rehabilitate the Lock and Dam reservations. In the event that Federal funds are ever insufficient to cover the Government's share of the costs of OMRR&R of the recreation facilities at the Lock and Dam Reservations, the Government shall notify the State in writing and afford the State the opportunity to take over OMRR&R of the Lock and Dam reservation recreation facilities. If the State elects to take over OMRR&R of the Lock and Dam reservation facilities, thereafter the Government shall not be responsible for OMRR&R of the Lock and Dam reservation facilities."*

- 10. CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPORT** - None

- 11. RED RIVER VALLEY ASSOCIATION** - Mr. Rich Brontoli gave a brief update regarding the following issues:

- Current river conditions
- Activities regarding the BASSMASTER Classic tournament scheduled for February 23-26, 2012 in the Shreveport/Bossier City area
- COE funding issues
- 2010 river tonnage figures due out this month
- Congressional visitation trip scheduled for March 26-30, 2012
- Finalizing guest speaker arrangements for the RRVA Annual Conference, February 22-24, 2012

- 12. OTHER BUSINESS** - None

- 13. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC** - None

- 14. RECESS**

There being no further business to conduct at this time, by motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Owens, and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned.

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JAMES F. MAXEY  
SECRETARY/TREASURER

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LARRY ARDOIN  
INTERIM ACTING CHAIR