

MINUTES
OF THE
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING
APRIL 17, 2013
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, Mr. Murphy J. LeDoux, Jr., 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 offer any comments they may have regarding the agenda. However, no comments were offered.

Present: Acting Chair, Mr. Murphy J. LeDoux, Jr., Commissioner Doug Brown, Commissioner Wayne Davis, Commissioner Marc Dupuy, Jr., Commissioner Paul Fleming, Commissioner Randell Fletcher, Commissioner Andrew J. Hodges, III, Commissioner Alvin Owens, Commissioner Rogers M. Prestridge, Commissioner Michael Simpson.

Absent: Commissioner David L. Crutchfield, II, Commissioner James F. Maxey

RRWC Staff Members Present: Mr. Ken Guidry - Executive Director, Mr. Mike Boydston - Operations & Maintenance Director, Ms. Cathy Rushing - Executive Assistant, Mr. Colin Brown - Engineer Supervisor, Mr. Luke Pearson - Real Estate Manager, Mr. Greg Upton - Legal Counsel.

Others Present: Mr. Roy Holleman, Mr. Bob Munson, Ms. Jessica Broadway

3. **APPROVAL OF REVISED AGENDA**

By motion of Commissioner Fleming, seconded by Commissioner Brown, 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 Brown, the minutes of the March 20, 2013 meeting were unanimously approved.

5. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

By motion of Commissioner Hodges, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, the Expenditures, Financial Statements, Investment Reports, & Fund Balance Report for the month of March, 2013 were unanimously approved.

6. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) **Contracts**

Consideration of Amendment No. 1 to Contract No. RRW-611 - By motion of Commissioner Davis, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher, the Commission unanimously approved the amendment to the mowing contract No. RRW-611 for the Ben Routh Recreation Area to include mowing maintenance to an area previously planted in trees which subsequently died due to drought conditions, thereby, increasing the contract amount from \$500 per mowing cycle to \$600 per mowing cycle.

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

Authority to Award Bid Lease/Pool 3, Tract 11, Segment B/Socot Cap-Out, Phase II - By motion of Commissioner Dupuy, seconded by Commissioner Hodges, the Commission approved award of the 47.5 acre bid lease located at Pool 3, Tract 11, Segment B of the Socot Cap-Out, Phase II to Mr. Kevin Thompson for \$15.00 per acre or \$6,825.00 for a five year term. Commissioners Fleming, Davis and Prestridge opposed the motion. Commissioner Fleming stated that he was opposed to removing this area from public access through the lease process.

Authority to Advertise for Bid Lease Agreement/Pool 3, Tracts 78 & 79 - By motion of Commissioner Dupuy, seconded by Commissioner Brown, and unanimously approved, staff was authorized to advertise for bid lease of six acres located at Pool 3, Tract 79.

Request to Waive Minimum Bid Requirement & Advertise for Public Bid Lease/Pool 1, Tracts 3, 4, & 5 /Wilson Point - By motion of Commissioner Dupuy, seconded by Commissioner Prestridge, the Commission denied the request by Mr. Todd Lowry to waive the minimum bid requirement of \$15 per acre for the 117 acres located at Pool 1, Tracts 3, 4, & 5 at Wilson Point Realignment.

c) **Recreation**

Recreation Area Status Report - Mr. Mike Boydston highlighted the prepared report provided in the meeting packet, noting that there had been 172,000 visitors to the District recreational facilities. He noted the following:

- The annual Dragon Boat Festival is scheduled for May 11, 2013 in the Alexandria/Pineville river front area.
- The staff now has the capabilities to maintain digital records of the areas of the river that are affected by Giant Salvinia which will be a tremendous help in treatment of those areas.

d) **Ports**

Approval of Cooperative Agreement/Alexandria Regional Port Authority/Site Certification Match - By motion of Commissioner Fleming, seconded by Commissioner Owens, the Commission unanimously approved the Cooperative Agreement document with the Alexandria Regional Port Authority regarding Site Certification funding assistance.

Approval of Cooperative Agreement/Avoyelles Parish Port Commission/Site Certification Match - By motion

of Commissioner Fleming, seconded by Commissioner Prestridge, the Commission unanimously approved the Cooperative Agreement document with the Avoyelles Parish Port regarding Site Certification funding assistance.

Approval of Cooperative Endeavor Agreement/Caddo-Bossier Port Commission/Site Improvements - By motion of Commissioner Fleming, seconded by Commissioner Brown, the Commission unanimously approved the Cooperative Agreement document with the Caddo-Bossier Port Commission regarding funding assistance for the Slack-water Slip Site Improvement project.

e) Public Awareness & Marketing

Approval of Cooperative Endeavor Agreement/Bossier Sports Commission - By motion of Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Davis, the Commission unanimously approved the Cooperative Agreement document with the Shreveport-Bossier Sports Commission to support their efforts in promoting up-coming events on the Red River in that area.

Marketing Update - A prepared report was provided in the meeting packet. Mr. Roy Holleman also presented a brief update regarding the following:

- He has been attending meetings with various entities such as Inland, Rivers, Ports & Terminals, Southern Economic Development Council, Louisiana Economic Development, and others to update information about the J. Bennett Johnston Waterway and promote shipping on the river.
- He has been invited to serve on the board of Inland Rivers, Ports and Terminals.
- The annual International Trade Symposium hosted by the International Freight Forwarders & Customs Brokers Association is scheduled for May 30, 2013 through June 2, 2013 in Point Clear, Alabama. He urged any Commissioners to let him know if they wish to attend this event.

f) Personnel - No report

g) Revenue, Banking & Budget - Commissioner Davis noted that the 2012 Audit Exit Conference is scheduled for May 1, 2013 at 10:00 am at the Commission office.

h) Legislative - No report

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT - No report

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

9. GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT - Mr. Greg Upton reported that he had received the Attorney General Opinion regarding the authority of the Red River Waterway Commission to construct an RV park, noting that the response was that the Commission does have that authority under its enabling legislation. He also noted that the public hearing regarding the Shreveport Dog Park has been postponed until May 11, 2013.

10. CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPORT - No report

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

- The Red River Compact meets April 21-23, 2013 in New Orleans
- The FY 2014 federal funding for the J. Bennett Johnston Waterway project is currently \$8.8 million, however, he was uncertain as to whether that will be affected by the sequester.
- Federal funding for the Ouachita River is currently \$2 million for a remote operations project for the locks and dams on the Ouachita. He noted that if the federal government is going to totally fund the remote operations project on the Ouachita River system, however, before the Corps considers funding a similar project on the Red River, then the RRWC should stress that it wants to wait to see how the remote operations system works on the Ouachita River system to determine its reliability before embarking on a similar project on the J. Bennett Johnston Waterway lock and dam system.
- Federal funding of \$260 million for environmental projects, yet has eliminated funding for dredging on the Red River, which dramatically affects barge traffic.

There was some discussion regarding the dissemination of information to the general public and Congress regarding the seriousness of deficiencies in federal funding for channel dredging on Red River and how it dramatically affects economic development and sustain ability to the District and State of Louisiana.

12. OTHER BUSINESS - None

13. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC - None

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION

By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Hodges and unanimously approved, the Commission entered into Executive Session to discuss the following matters of litigation:

a) Hall Ponderosa v. State of Louisiana
Docket No. 35585 - 39th Judicial District Court
Red River Parish

Immediately following Executive Session, by motion of Commissioner Hodges, seconded by Commissioner Owens and unanimously approved, the Commission entered into Regular Session.

15. ADJOURNMENT

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

JAMES F. MAXEY
SECRETARY/TREASURER

MURPHY J. LeDOUX, JR.
ACTING CHAIR