

MINUTES
OF THE
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING
MAY 15, 2013
10:00 AM
COMMISSION HEADQUARTERS
NATCHITOCHEs, LOUISIANA

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Red River Waterway Commission was called to order by Commission 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, Murphy J. LeDoux, 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 Doug Brown, Commissioner Marc Dupuy, Jr.

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. Roy Holleman - Marketing Director, Mr. Greg Upton - Legal Counsel.

Others Present: Mr. Rich Brontoli, Mr. Bob Munson, Ms. Robin Cosenza, Ms. Jessica Broadway

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 Owens, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, the minutes of the April 17, 2013 meeting were unanimously approved.

5. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

6. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) **Contracts**

Consideration of Ft. Buhlow Mowing Contract No. RRW-642 - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Commission unanimously approved cancellation of the Ft. Buhlow Recreation Facility Mowing Contract with J & J Lawn Care and awarded the contract to the next lowest bidder, Green's Lawn Care, at that bidder's bid amount. Also, Mr. Boydston was instructed to revise the contract to provide for an additional area of finish mowing as opposed to bushhog mowing.

Authority to Advertise/Ft. Buhlow-Montgomery Dock Facilities Project - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, and unanimously approved, staff was authorized to advertise for the Ft. Buhlow/Montgomery Dock Facilities project.

Authority to Advertise/Ben Routh Boat Dock Project - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Hodges, and unanimously approved, staff was authorized to advertise for the Ben Routh Dock Facilities project.

Consideration of Boyce Comfort Station/FEMA Compliance - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, and unanimously approved, the executive director was instructed to request that Ballard, CLC, respond within thirty days as to their course of action to insure that the recently constructed Boyce Comfort Station meets the FEMA compliance requirements.

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

Authority to Award Sale of Surplus Property/Pool 2, Meade Realignment, Tract 3 - By motion of Commissioner Hodges, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Commission unanimously approved the sale of Surplus property at Pool 2, Meade Realignment, Tract 3 to Sundrop Fuels, LLC.

c) **Recreation**

Recreation Area Status Report - Mr. Mike Boydston highlighted the prepared report provided in the meeting packet, noting the following:

- There had been 179,000 visitors at the district recreational facilities during the month of April, 2013.
- Spraying activities are continuing to address areas of Giant Salvinia infestation on the river. Weevils were release last week in certain areas with bi-weekly releases anticipated. The video of this project should be ready for viewing and approval by the Commission during the June 19, 2013 meeting.

d) **Ports**

Avoyelles Parish Port O & M Funding Match - By motion of Commissioner Fleming, seconded by Commissioner Prestridge, the Commission unanimously approved the \$40,000 O & M matching funds to the Avoyelles Parish Port

e) **Public Awareness & Marketing**

Economic Impact Study Update - By motion of Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Davis, the Commission unanimously approved authorization to instruct Dr. Loren C. Scott & Associates, Inc. to move forward with the Economic Impact Study Update, to include information on the area river boat casinos.

Grant Parish Safety Boat Program - By motion of Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher, and unanimously approved, the executive director was instructed to issue a non-monetary letter of support for the docking of the Grant Parish safety boat at the COE Central Maintenance facility at Colfax.

KTBS River Safety Tip Program - By motion of Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher, the Commission unanimously approved a three-year participation in the KTBS Safety Program at a cost to the Commission of \$15,500 annually which will include fifteen second mini commercials, identifying the Red River Waterway Commission as sponsors of the program. Ms. Robin Cosenza highlighted the many features of this participation affords the Red River Waterway Commission.

Marketing Update - A prepared report was provided in the meeting packet.

Commissioner Fletcher took this opportunity to note that Mr. Ken Guidry had testified before the legislature in Baton Rouge, regarding HR109 which addresses COE dredging and lock operations on Red River. Commissioner Fletcher pointed out that following Mr. Guidry's testimony, several of the legislators wanted to sign on as co-sponsors of HR109 requiring that the COE maintain adequate dredging of the river channel and lock operations, twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week, as is the charge of the COE by law.

f) **Personnel** - No report

g) **Revenue, Banking & Budget**

2013 Tax Millage Adoption - By motion of Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Fleming, with comments called for from the public and none offered, the Commission unanimously approved by roll call vote as noted below, the adoption of a 1.52 mill tax for capitol outlay and a .82 mill tax for operation and maintenance for a total of 2.34 mills for the 2013 tax year (SEE ATTACHED RESOLUTION):

YEAS:

Commissioner David L. Crutchfield, II
Commissioner Wayne T. Davis
Commissioner A. Paul Fleming
Commissioner Randell A. Fletcher
Commissioner Andrew J. Hodges, III
Commissioner James F. Maxey
Commissioner W. Alvin Owens
Commissioner Rogers M. Prestridge
Commissioner Michael Simpson

NAYS:

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MEMBERS ABSENT:

Commissioner James Douglas Brown
Commissioner Marc Dupuy, Jr.

MEMBERS ABSTAINED:

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Approval of 2012 Audit Report - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, and unanimously approved, the accounting firm of Johnson, Thomas & Cunningham was instructed to provide to the Commission, monthly CD's Securities Report, insuring that all investments are properly and adequately secured with the various banking institutions which hold CD investments for the Commission. By motion of Commissioner Fleming, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Commission unanimously approved the 2012 Audit Report.

h) **Legislative** - No report

7. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Authority of Assistant Executive Director - By motion of Commissioner Fletcher, seconded by Commissioner Fleming the Commission unanimously approved authorization for Mr. Colin Brown, the Assistant Executive Director, to sign documents in the absence of Mr. Kenneth P. Guidry, Executive Director.

Mr. Guidry also took this opportunity to report that, due to a recent computer crash, the office has had to purchase a new computer for the GIS mapping program as well as software updates.

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

9. **GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT** - Mr. Greg Upton reported that, in light of the USACE decision to reduce lock operation hours on the river, the Commission will offer an official protest to this decision, stating that, by law, the COE is charged with operation of the locks twenty-four hours per day, seven days per week.

10. **CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPORT** - No report

11. **RED RIVER VALLEY ASSOCIATION** Mr. Rich Brontoli offered the following comments:

- The Arkansas Legislature removed all funds from the Red River Waterway Commission of Arkansas and disbursed those funds to other areas with no prior warnings or discussions.
- A meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2013 in Monroe, Louisiana to discuss the COE contract for lock operators on the Red River.
- The Red River is currently in good shape with no major dredging issues in the past 8 months. The next report on that matter is due out next week.

12. **OTHER BUSINESS** - None

13. **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC** - None

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

JAMES F. MAXEY
SECRETARY/TREASURER

MURPHY J. LeDOUX, JR.
ACTING CHAIR