

MINUTES  
OF THE  
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING  
JULY 17, 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 Acting Chair, 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, none were offered. At this time, Alexandria Mayor Jacques Roy introduced himself and members of his administration. Following those introductions, those individuals (noted below with an asterisk (\*) following their names, exited the meeting room.

**Present:** Acting Chair Murphy J. LeDoux, Jr., Commissioner Doug Brown, Commissioner David L. Crutchfield, II, 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:** None

**RRWC Staff Members Present:** Mr. Mike Boydston - Operations & Maintenance Director, Ms. Cathy Rushing - Executive Assistant, Mr. Colin Brown- Assistant Executive Director, Mr. Luke Pearson - Real Estate Manager, Mr. Roy Holleman - Marketing Director, Mr. Greg Upton - Legal Counsel.

**Others Present:** Mr. Nick Verrett, Mr. Ellzey Simmons, Ms. Allie Cozad, Mr. Vernon Roberson, Mr. Greg Sanchez, Ms. Brooke Teddlie, Alexandria Mayor Jaques Roy\*, Mr. Daniel Williams\*, Mr. James Branch\*, Ms. Alaina Mire\*, Mr. Stephen Peychard\*, Mr. Joe Page\*, Corp. Darrell Bradley\* (\*exited meeting following introductions).

3. **APPROVAL OF REVISED AGENDA**

By motion of Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Hodges, 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 Fleming, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher, the minutes of the June 19, 2013 meeting were unanimously approved.

5. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

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

6. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) **Contracts**

**Authority to Award Construction Contract/Ft. Buhlow & Montgomery Boat Dock Facilities** - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Brown, the Commission unanimously approved award of the construction contract for the Ft. Buhlow & Montgomery Boat Dock Facilities project to Regional Construction at a bid amount of \$462,244.00.

**Authority to Award Design Contract/Shreveport Riverview, Phase II** - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Fleming, and unanimously approved, staff was instructed to award the design contract to Sutton Mitchell Beebe & Babin Architects, LLC, with the contract language, as revised by legal counsel. Staff was further instructed that if SMB&B, LLC refuses to accept the terms of the contract, as revised, to then proceed to offer that same contract to, Aillet, Fenner, Jolly & McClelland.

**Request for Amendment to Cooperative Agreement/SciPort** - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Commission unanimously approved the request from SciPort to amend that Cooperative Agreement to allow for the following:

- Extension of grant period to October 31, 2013
- Option for the schools to either visit Sci-Port to see the Center's exhibits and participate in the accompanying program, *What's My Watershed*, or for Sci-Port to take their traveling science carnival outreach exhibits to the schools, along with the *What's My Watershed* Program. (Note: the outreach option potentially allows for more students in other grades to be seen, as the science outreach exhibits can serve up to 300 students in a day. Plus, the teachers at the school are offered a teacher workshop prior to their students' participation in the program. This also potentially saves on transportation for the students as just Sci-Port has to travel, and can do so at a cheaper rate than the cost of busses.)
- Submission of an interim grant report by June 25, 2013 (in lieu of the final report)
- Extension of due date for the final report to the Red River Waterway Commission to November 30, 2013.

**Consideration of Addendum #1/Ft. Buhlow Mowing Contract** - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Owens, the Commission unanimously approved an additional \$175 per mowing cycle to the contract held by Green's Park Service for the Ft. Buhlow Recreation Facility mowing contract to accommodate additional mowing requirements in the cross country and disc golf areas in the lower park.

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

**Authority to Award Bid Lease/Pool 3, Tract 79** - By motion of Commissioner Dupuy, seconded by Commissioner Hodges, the Commission unanimously approved award of the bid lease of a six acre tract at Pool 3, Tract 79 to Ms. Darla Dunn for a bid amount of \$25.00 per acre, which is \$750 for a five-year term.

**Approval of Cooperative Agreement with Landowners/Giant Salvinia** - By motion of Commissioner Dupuy, seconded by Commissioner Hodges, the Commission unanimously approved the Cooperative Agreement with landowners for Giant Salvinia control, with the revisions as instructed of legal counsel, and instructed staff to proceed with the execution of this document with landowners on an as-needed basis. It is so noted that execution of this document shall be a staff function with no further approval required of the Commission.

**c) Recreation**

**Recreation Area Status Report** - Commissioner Crutchfield highlighted the prepared Recreation Area Status Report, as provided in the meeting packet, noting that there had been 230,000 visitors to the District parks in June, 2013.

**Approval of Disc Golf Proposal/Ft. Buhlow** - By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Owens, the Commission unanimously approved the addition of 18 holes to the existing disc golf course at the Ft. Buhlow Recreation facility, and to amend the budget to include \$20,000 for this project.

**City of Natchitoches Bike Trails Signage Funding Request** - By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher, and unanimously approved, staff and legal counsel were instructed to work with the City of Natchitoches in the development of a cooperative agreement with a cost estimate for installing bike trail signs and markings on Tauzin Island Road from where it intersects Highway 6 at Grand Ecore, all the way to the Grand Ecore Recreation Area.

**Approval of Revisions to Park Banning Policy** - By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Fleming, and unanimously approved, the Park Rangers were authorized to ban certain individuals who are found participating in inappropriate activities as outlined in the existing banning policy for a period of 90 days, as opposed to 30 days, and to extend the ban of the current individual for an additional 60 days. Further, general counsel was instructed to review and revise the current banning policy to include the change from a 30-day ban to a 90-day ban.

**d) Ports** - No report

**e) Public Awareness & Marketing**

**Ratification of Reduced Lock Service Resolution** - By motion of Commissioner Owens, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Commission unanimously approved ratification of the Reduced Lock Service Resolution (SEE ATTACHED).

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

**f) Personnel** - No report

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

**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 packets.

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

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

**11. RED RIVER VALLEY ASSOCIATION** - No report

**12. OTHER BUSINESS**

**Approval of Travel Expenses/National Waterways Conference/Savannah, Georgia** -By motion of Commissioner Fleming, seconded by Commissioner Dupuy, the Commission unanimously approved travel expenses for any Commissioner and staff to attend the National Waterways Conference in Savannah, Georgia, September 25-27, 2013.

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

**14. ADJOURNMENT**

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

---

JAMES F. MAXEY  
SECRETARY/TREASURER

---

MURPHY J. LeDOUX, JR.  
ACTING CHAIR

# RESOLUTION

All the Commissioners of the Red River Waterway District unanimously approved the following resolutions:

WHEREAS, on August 13, 1968, the United States Congress in Public Law 90-483 authorized the construction, operation and maintenance of the Red River Waterway Project (the "**Project**," subsequently named the J. Bennett Johnston Waterway), subject to the State of Louisiana providing a local sponsor;

WHEREAS, Public Law 90-483 mandated that the Army Corps of Engineers ("**Corps**") prosecute the Project "in accordance with the plans and subject to the conditions recommended by the Chief of Engineers" in House Document 304;

WHEREAS, William F. Cassidy, Lieutenant General, USA, Chief of Engineers, in his Report to the Secretary of Army, dated May 11, 1967, recommended the construction of the Project because "I believe the improvements recommended for construction *will promote the economic development* of the Red River basin in the States of Louisiana, Arkansas . . . . Since the tributary area is endowed with abundant natural resources, the recommended waterway will provide an artery for low cost bulk transportation with is expect to *stimulate the economic growth of the basin*" (Emphasis added);

WHEREAS, from the early 1970's to present, the Corps spent approximately \$2 billion to construct the Project by making the Red River navigable by realigning parts of the river, stabilizing its banks, and building five locks and dams;

WHEREAS, in regards to the operation of the Project, House Document 304 describes in specific detail how *each* lock and dam is to be operated, as follows:

The yearly *operation of each lock and dam* would be accomplished with a crew of 14 men, consisting of a lockmaster, an assistant lockmaster, and a clerk on a yearly basis and 11 lockmen **working 40 hours per week**. The lockmaster and assistant lockmaster will reside in houses provided at the lock sites.

WHEREAS in regards to the maintenance of the Project, House Document 304 describes in specific detail how *each* lock and dam is to be maintained, as follows:

*Ordinary maintenance of all lock and dam* equipment would be performed by a crew consisting of a foreman-electrician, two electricians, and three mechanics.

WHEREAS, since the beginning of the Project becoming operational, the Corps has kept the locks open to river traffic 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year ("**24/7/365**");

WHEREAS, the locks are currently open 24/7/365 with a crew of approximately 7 people working at each lock;

WHEREAS, given the Congressional mandate that each lock be staffed with 14 people, 2 of whom must reside at the lock site, it is clear that Congress intended each lock to be open and operational 24/7/365;

WHEREAS, on March 9, 1967, the Red River Waterway Commission executed Acts of Assurances in favor of the United States and became the local sponsor of the Project;

WHEREAS, as a result of the Red River Waterway Commission executing the Acts of Assurances, the Red River Waterway Commission and the United States Government each became contractually bound to perform certain contractual obligations;

WHEREAS, as agreed to in the Acts of Assurances, and based on the assurances of the Corps that the river would remain navigable 24/7/365, the Red River Waterway Commission has spent the following at the request of the Corps:

Land Acquisition:	\$19,635,814.00
Servitude Acquisition:	\$11,633,585.00
Recreation:	\$51,305,725.00

WHEREAS, based on the assurances of the Corps that the river would remain navigable 24/7/365, the State of Louisiana spent \$51,000,000.00 through its Port Priority Program to develop ports on the Red River;

WHEREAS, based on the assurances of the Corps that the river would remain navigable 24/7/365, the five ports within the boundaries of the Red River Waterway District collectively spent \$61,667,277.00 on port development;

WHEREAS, based on the assurances of the Corps that the river would remain navigable 24/7/365, private industry has spend billions of dollars on the Red River, including the \$1billion CLECO power plant near Boyce, Louisiana;

WHEREAS, as a result of the Red River being navigable, active ports have developed in Avoyelles, Rapides, Natchitoches, Red River, and Caddo Parishes;

WHEREAS, the primary Congressional purpose of the Project (to make the Red River navigable to stimulate economic growth in the Red River basin) is being realized as a result of the cooperative efforts of the State of Louisiana, the Red River Waterway Commission, the cities and parishes on the Red River, the five ports in the Red River Waterway District's boundary and private industry;

WHEREAS, the Project is having a significant and positive economic impact on Central and Northwest Louisiana;

WHEREAS, in 2007 an economic impact study concluded that the economic benefit of the Project to the seven-parish region included attracting four billion six hundred million dollars in new monies, increasing new business sales by eight billion four hundred million dollars, increasing household earnings by two billion seven hundred million dollars and creating an average of two thousand one hundred seven new jobs per year.

WHEREAS, in CY 2009, a time of general economic decline, 9,900,000 barge tons were transported on the Red River, a 34.4% increase from CY 2008;

WHEREAS, growth in barge tonnage from CY 2008 to CY 2009 (a 34.4% increase) exceeds the growth of any other waterway in the nation;

WHEREAS, CY 2009 barge tons of 9,900,000 exceeds by 54% project forecast tonnage for CY 2011 of 5,426,000 barge tons;

WHEREAS, as a result of the Red River being navigable, numerous recreational facilities have been constructed along the river and the waters of the river are enjoyed by hundreds of thousands of visitors each year;

WHEREAS, if the economic growth that Congress desired is to continue, it is essential that the Red River continue to be maintained and operated by the Corps in accordance with project specifications - 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Red River Waterway District demands that the Corps continue to operate and maintain the 5 locks on the Red River in accordance with Project specifications set forth in House Document 304 - 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Red River Waterway District demands that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers continue to operate and maintain the 5 locks on the Red River 24 hours per day, 7 days per week, 365 days per year in accordance its contractual commitments to the local sponsor of the Project, the Red River Waterway District; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Red River Waterway District opposes any effort by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to (i) operate the Locks and Dams less than 24 hours a day, 365 days per year or (ii) reduce dredging of the navigable channel to less than project specifications.

CERTIFICATE

I, James F. Maxey, Secretary/Treasurer of the Red River Waterway Commission, do hereby declare that the above Resolution was adopted and approved by all the Commissioners of the Red River Waterway District on the \_\_ day of July, 2013.

Natchitoches, Louisiana, this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2013.

\_\_\_\_\_  
JAMES F. MAXEY  
SECRETARY/TREASURER