

MINUTES  
OF THE  
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING  
DECEMBER 16, 2015  
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, Jonathan Lachney, 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, Jr., Commissioner Doug Brown, Commissioner David L. Crutchfield, II, Commissioner Paul Fleming, Commissioner Randell Fletcher, Commissioner Andrew J. Hodges, III, Commissioner David Jones, Commissioner James F. Maxey, Commissioner Rogers M. Prestridge, Commissioner Larry K. Sayes, Commissioner Michael Simpson.

**Absent:** Commissioner Alvin Owens

**RRWC Staff Members Present:** Mr. Ken Guidry - Executive Director, Ms. Cathy Rushing - Executive Assistant, Mr. Colin Brown - Assistant Executive Director, Mr. Luke Pearson - Real Estate Manager, Mr. Robert Vinet - Marketing Director, Mr. Ryan Ingles - Staff Engineer, Mr. Warren Byrd - Assistant Operations & Maintenance Director, Mr. Greg Upton - Legal Counsel.

**Others Present:** Mr. Rich Brontoli, Ms. Jennifer Hawkins, Ms. Arlena Acree, Ms. Liz McCain

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

By motion of Commissioner Fleming, seconded by Commissioner Prestridge, the agenda was unanimously approved. Comments from the public were called for, however, none were offered.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

By motion of Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Jones, the minutes of the November 18, 2015 meeting were unanimously approved.

**5. TREASURER'S REPORT**

By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Hodges, the Expenditures, Financial Statements, Investment Reports, & Fund Balance Report for the month of November, 2015 were unanimously approved.

**6. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a) Contracts**

**Consideration of Janitorial Proposals** - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Jones, the Commission unanimously approved the following janitorial contracts:

**Teague & Stoner Recreation Areas** - Green's Park Service for \$6,720.00 annually.

**Coushatta Recreation Area** - Green's Park Service for \$2,100 annually.

**Office & Grand Ecore Recreation Area** - Mark Hamilton at \$9,480 annually.

**Consideration of Funding Agreement/GOHSEP/2015 Flood** - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, and unanimously approved, the Executive Director was authorized and instructed to sign the GOHSEP Funding Assistance document for damages due to the 2015 flood event.

**Consideration of Project Worksheet/FEMA/Permanent Works** - By motion of Commissioner Prestridge, seconded by Commissioner Jones, the Commission unanimously approved the FEMA Project Worksheet for Permanent Works and authorized the Executive Director to sign the same. Further, staff was authorized to process and execute all subsequent FEMA Project Worksheets relative to the 2015 flood event, without bringing them back before the Commission for further approval.

**Consideration of Change Order No. 10/Shreveport Riverview Phase II/Trent Structure Footings** - There was no action taken on this matter at this time.

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

**Consideration of Request to Sublease Land/Grand Ecore Recreation Area** - By motion of Commissioner Sayes, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, the Commission unanimously approved the request by Mr. Winston Birdwell to sublease to his son, Mr. Wesley Birdwell, 332 acres of Section 17 of the Grand Ecore Recreation Area with no further changes to the original lease agreement until that lease expires July 31, 2019.

**Authority to Cut and Remove Infested Trees/Ft. Buhlow Recreation Area** - By motion of Commissioner Sayes, seconded by Commissioner Jones, the Commission unanimously approved authority to cut and remove damaged, beetle infested trees at the Ft. Buhlow Recreation Area at a cost not to exceed \$10,000.

**c) Recreation**

**Recreation Area Status Report** - Mr. Warren Byrd highlighted the prepared report provided in the meeting packet, noting that there had been 76,000 visitors to the District recreation areas during the month of November, 2015.

At this time, Mr. Warren Byrd also reported on the following items:

- There was a recent release of Florida Strain Bass fingerlings into Pools 1, 2, & 3. A similar release for Pools 4 & 5 is scheduled for early January, 2016, weather permitting.
- All active construction projects are proceeding as scheduled, pending weather conditions.
- The staff is currently continuing with various maintenance and repair projects in the aftermath of the 2015 flood event.
- The staff is still investigating various options for dock replacements at the various recreation

- facilities/boat ramp locations for those structures damaged by the 2015 flood event.
- All RRWC boat ramps are presently closed due to current high river levels.
- d) **Ports** - No report
- e) **Public Awareness & Marketing**  
Consideration of 2016 Calendar of Events - By motion of Commissioner Fletcher, seconded by Commissioner Fleming, the Commission unanimously approved the 2016 Calendar of Events and authorized the reimbursement of all related out-of-state travel expenses for the events listed.  
Consideration of Funding Request/Red River Clean-Up - There was no action taken on this matter at this time, pending additional information to be provided by the staff.  
Marketing Update - A prepared report was provided in the meeting packet.
- f) **Personnel** - No report
- g) **Revenue, Banking & Budget**  
Authority to Un-reserve/Undesignate Remaining Project Funds - by motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, and unanimously approved, staff was instructed to unreserve and un-designate a total of \$10,885.41 in remaining funds for the following completed projects:
- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Alexandria Levee Park Levee Re-Certification | \$ 9,058.52 |
| Teague Trail Extension North                 | \$ 726.89   |
| Ft. Buhlow Playground Surfacing              | \$ 1,100.00 |
- Consideration of 2015 Surplus Equipment List & Authority to Dispose of Items - By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Hodges, the Commission unanimously approved the surplus equipment list as provided and authorized staff to dispose of the items in accordance with RRWC policy regarding same.  
Consideration of 2016 Proposed Budget - By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Fleming, the Commission unanimously approved the revised 2016 Budget as presented.  
Authority to Execute Audit Letter of Engagement - By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, the Commission unanimously approved the Audit Letter of Engagement for Audit Years 2016, 2017, & 2018 with the accounting firm of Carr, Riggs & Ingram and authorized the Secretary/Treasurer to sign same.
- h) **Legislative** - No report
7. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT** - At this time, Mr. Ken Guidry expressed his condolences for the family of the recently deceased, Robert "Bob" J. Munson, of the Munson Group, currently under contract with the RRWC for public awareness & marketing matters.
8. **STATUS OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY/ENGINEERING REPORT** - Prepared reports were provided in the meeting packets. Mr. Colin Brown reported that active construction projects are continuing, as weather permits.
9. **GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT** - No report
10. **CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPORT** - No report
11. **RED RIVER VALLEY ASSOCIATION** - Mr. Rich Brontoli gave a brief update regarding federal funding issues for the COE relative to the J. Bennett Johnston Waterway, as well as, various river related issues. He also noted that his next congressional visitation trip to Washington, D.C., is scheduled for February 29, through March 4, 2016.
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 Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned.

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JAMES F. MAXEY  
 SECRETARY/TREASURER

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JONATHAN LACHNEY  
 ACTING CHAIR