

**MINUTES  
OF THE  
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING  
March 20, 2019  
10:00 AM  
COMMISSION HEADQUARTERS  
NATCHITOCHEs, LOUISIANA**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Red River Waterway Commission was called to order by Chair Designee, Thomas M. Clark, in the Board Room of the Red River Waterway Commission Office located at 5941 Highway 1 Bypass in Natchitoches, Louisiana.

**2. ROLL CALL**

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:** Chair Designee, Thomas M. Clark, Commissioner Roy A. Burrell, Commissioner David L. Crutchfield, II, Commissioner Michael P. Deville, Commissioner Paul Fleming, Commissioner Randell Fletcher, Commissioner Ronald Lattier, Commissioner James F. Maxey, Commissioner Larry K. Sayes, Commissioner Michael Simpson.

**Absent:** Commissioner Charles R. Greer and Commissioner David Jones,

**RRWC Staff Members Present:** Mr. Colin Brown - Executive Director, Mr. Mike Boydston - Operations & Maintenance Director, Ms. Stephanie Bonnette - Executive Assistant, Mr. Luke Pearson - Real Estate Manager, Mr. Ryan Ingles - Engineering Supervisor, Mr. Eric Gilmore - Marketing Director, Mr. Greg Upton - Legal Counsel.

**3. INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS AND PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD PURSUANT TO LRS 42:14**

**Others Present:** Jessica Broadway of Thomas, Cunningham, Broadway & Todtenbier CPAs

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

By motion of Commissioner Burrell, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, the amended agenda was unanimously approved. Amended agenda to include a sixth item in the Contracts committee, to read as follows: Consideration of Approval to Purchase Backup Camera for Skid Steer Loader. Comments from the public were called for, however, none were offered.

**5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

By motion of Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the minutes of the February 20, 2019 meeting were unanimously approved.

**6. TREASURER'S REPORT**

By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Burrell the Expenditures, Financial Statements, Investment Reports, & Fund Balance Report for the month of February 2019 were unanimously approved.

**7. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a) Contracts**

**Consideration of Proposals/Project No. 19-04/Contract No. RRW-763/Colfax RV Park-Pavilion**

**Replacement:** By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Deville, the Commission unanimously approved award of contract to Martin Metal Construction in the amount of \$109,898.00 for the replacement of two 40 foot hexagon pavilions at the Colfax RV Park.

**Consideration of Authority to Advertise for Construction Bids/RRWC Project No.19-02/Contract No.**

**RRW-751/Poland Recreation Area Access Road Rehabilitation:** By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Burrell, the Commission unanimously approved granting authority to the staff to advertise for construction bids for the Poland Recreation Area access road project.

**Consideration of Proposals for the Ben Routh Comfort Station Rehabilitation/Project No. 19-03/Proposal**

**Opening March 19, 2019:** By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Commission unanimously approved award of contract to Bayou Rapides Corporation in the amount of \$32,485.00 for the rehabilitation of the interior of the two comfort stations and the corresponding budget amendment increase of \$12,485.00.

**Consideration of Approval of Proposals for the Colfax RV Park Entrance Station Repairs/Project No.**

**19-05:** By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Burrell, the Commission unanimously approved award of contract to Skip Converse, Inc. in the amount of \$9,893.00 for painting and flooring work at the Colfax RV Park entrance station.

**Consideration of Approval of Insurance Requirements for Chemical Spraying Contracts for Aquatic Vegetation:** No action was taken. Item deferred to the April 17, 2019 Commission meeting.

**Consideration of Approval to Purchase Backup Camera for Skid Steer Loader:** By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Deville, the Commission unanimously approved the purchase from Bobcat of a backup camera in the amount of \$1,691.03 for the skid steer loader and the corresponding amended budget increase of \$1,700.00.

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

**Consideration of Award of Leaseback Renewal/Hadden Ft. DeRussy Cutoff/Tract E/5.4 Acres:** By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher and one abstention by Commissioner Sayes, the Commission approved award of 5-year leaseback renewal agreement with Doyle Lofton for \$486.00 (\$18.00 per acre) for the 5-year term.

**Consideration of Award of Land Lease Extension/Hadden Ft. DeRussy Cutoff/Tracts A, B, C & D/77.8 Acres:** By motion of Commissioner Maxey, seconded by Commissioner Lattier and one abstention by Commissioner Sayes, the Commission approved award of the 5-year lease extension to Joe Smetak, Jr. with a ten percent (10%) increase in the current lease premium for a total lease amount of \$5,348.75 for the 5-year lease term.

**Consideration of Award of Land Lease Extension/Wilson Point Realignment/117 Acres:** By motion of Commissioner Sayes, seconded by Commissioner Deville, the Commission unanimously approved the 5-year lease extension to John Todd Lowry with a ten percent (10%) increase in the current lease premium, for a total lease amount of \$7,722.00 for the 5-year lease term.

**Consideration of Award of Land Lease Extension/Lock & Dam 2/Tract 3/11 Acres:** By motion of Commissioner Sayes, seconded by Commissioner Burrell, the Commission unanimously approved the 5-year lease extension to Big Lake Hunt Club, Inc. with a ten percent (10%) increase in the lease premium, for a total lease amount of \$1,270.50 for the 5-year lease term.

**Consideration of Request to Cancel Land Lease/Socot Cap-Out/Phase II/Tract 11/Segment B/91 Acres:** By motion of Commissioner Sayes, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher, the Commission unanimously approved the cancellation request of current lessee, Jeremy Heath Litton, charging the flat-rate fee of \$200 and authority to staff to re-advertise the property for Public Bid Lease with a \$15.00 per acre minimum bid.

**c) Recreation**

**Consideration of Exclusive Use Agreement/Grand Ecore Recreation Area:** By motion of Commissioner Fleming, seconded by Commissioner Burrell, the Commission unanimously approved the exclusive use permit agreement with the Governor's Office of Homeland Security & Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) for use of the Grand Ecore Recreation Area and Boat Launch on April 05, 2019 for full-scale exercises.

**Recreation Area Status Report** - Mr. Mike Boydston highlighted the prepared report provided in the meeting packet, noting that there had been 112,000 visitors to the District recreation areas during the month of February 2019. Updated maintenance items include, but not limited to:

- Pools 3 and 5 launches are closed
- Brouillette boat launch is closed due to construction

**d) Ports - None**

**e) Public Awareness & Marketing**

**Marketing Update** - A prepared report was provided in the meeting packet. In addition, Marketing Director, Eric Gilmore discussed:

- RRWC's participation in the Family Motor Coach Association's Convention and Expo held March 13-16 in Perry, Georgia as well as participation in the Bassmaster Classic of March 15-17 in Knoxville, Tennessee. Both events were successful in attendance and participation
- Kayak Bass Fishing National Championship on Red River March 28-30, 2019
- The current closure of launches is a necessity for safety reasons
- Old River Lock on the Mississippi River is closed to navigation until water recedes (potentially April 2<sup>nd</sup>)
- Continuation of discussion of bank fishing at Grand Ecore
- Economic Impact Study by Loren C. Scott is proceeding

**f) Personnel - None**

**g) Revenue, Banking & Budget**

**Announcement of Upcoming 2019 Tax Millage Adoption/April 17, 2019** – An announcement was made that the Commission would adopt the Tax Millage at the April 17, 2019 meeting.

**h) Legislative** – Mr. Tommy Clark related the following:

- Fiscal Session begins April 8<sup>th</sup> for 45 days. Discussions to include agenda items such as increase in teachers' salaries and proposal of a gas tax
- There is a desire for dredging of Mobile Bay to a depth of 55 feet in order to be a competitive waterway system for container/cargo ship industry.
- Mississippi River is authorized for a depth of 55 feet, currently at 45 feet and is to be dredged to a depth of 50 feet

**8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Working with the Corps for additional dredging funds
- Staff researching use of a Section 203 study on the 12 foot Channel issue
- 2018 Audit is still ongoing. Currently the process is suspended due to tax season
- Extension of the Red River into Arkansas may require looking at Section 203 in order to move forward in the study of this potential project

**9. STATUS OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY/ENGINEERING REPORT** - Prepared reports were provided in the meeting packets.

- Shreveport river gage must be at 18 feet in order to open launches and a need of 14 feet in order to finish the work at Teague Parkway.
- Boyce Recreation Area/Dock Construction project – Sectional barges have been brought in to move forward with setting pilings in place
- Brouillette Ramp Widening project – Project has been unable to proceed due to high water over the last 2 to 2 ½ months
- Advertising for construction bids for the rehabilitation of Poland Road will move forward with today's approval by the Commission
- Design plans for the Coushatta Recreation Area Dock Project are in progress

**10. GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT** – None

**11. CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPORT** - None

**12. RED RIVER VALLEY ASSOCIATION** – A supplemental document drafted by Rich Brontoli was provided to the Commission in lieu of his absence.

- The President's Fiscal Year 2020 Budget cut dredging funds by \$3,000,000.00
- Submission of request to fund the following projects in order of priority: mitigation; Alexandria front dike reinforcement construction and opposite Alexandria front, Pineville revetment/bank
- Old River Lock has been closed due to high water of the Mississippi River. The gage is tracked daily and hopeful for a April 2<sup>nd</sup> opening

- Dredging on the Red River has been suspended due to high water and swift currents. River levels are not high enough to impact navigation
- The Coast Guard, ANT Colfax, buoy tender will travel south to Lock 1 during the week of March 20<sup>th</sup>
- Meeting with ASA (CW) office and Corps Headquarters about the Section 203 process in regards to the 12 foot Channel study efforts

13. **OTHER BUSINESS** - None

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

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

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

---

JAMES F. MAXEY  
SECRETARY/TREASURER

---

THOMAS M. CLARK  
CHAIR DESIGNEE