

**MINUTES
OF THE
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING
April 17, 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 David L. Crutchfield, II, Commissioner Michael P. Deville, Commissioner Paul Fleming, Commissioner Randell Fletcher, Commissioner Charles R. Greer, Commissioner David Jones, Commissioner James F. Maxey, Commissioner Larry K. Sayes, Commissioner Michael Simpson.

Absent: Commissioner Roy A. Burrell

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: Kendall Theunissen, Baton Rouge; Kathryn Haley, Bossier City; Gabe Firmont, District 22 State Representative candidate.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

6. 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 March 2019 were unanimously approved.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) **Contracts** - None

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

Consideration of Award of Public Bid Lease, Once More Realignment, 646 Acres: By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Jones, the Commission unanimously approved award of public bid lease to Mr. Benjamin Elkins for \$59,755.00 (\$18.50 per acre) for the 5-year lease term.

Consideration of Revision to Land Lease Acreage/Grand Ecore Recreation Area: By motion of Commissioner Sayes, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the Commission unanimously approved the revision to the 350 acre land lease at the Grand Ecore Recreation Area when re-advertised for public bid lease. The land lease revisions are as follows: removal of 50 acres of wooded property, being the 50 acres north of the natural gas pipeline, which traverses the property. The 300 acres lying south of the pipeline being the acreage for the new bid lease.

c) **Recreation**

Recreation Area Status Report - Mr. Mike Boydston highlighted the prepared report provided in the meeting packet, noting that there had been 118,000 visitors to the District recreation areas during the month of March 2019. Updated maintenance items include, but not limited to:

- Construction work for Colfax RV Park entry station and Ben Routh comfort stations beginning soon
- The Colfax and Grand Ecore RV Parks have been very busy
- Northern boat ramps (pool 5) are closed due to the high water

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:

- The Kayak Bass Fishing National Championship, held March 28-30, 2019, was a great success on the Red River. Approximately 4,000 fish were caught over the 3-day period. Tracking information and economic impact results to be forwarded to the Commission once available.
- Attendance of the Ports Association of Louisiana conference in Baton Rouge, April 09-11, 2019
- Economic Impact Study by Loren C. Scott is in its beginning stages
- RRWC mobile site application set for completion in a month to a month and a half
- RRWC website adjusted to include the addition of launch opening(s) and closure(s) under the sites "Recreation" tab and includes live river gauges.
- Cultivation for future events on the Red River such as: Catfish tournament in pools 2 & 3; conversation with CVE for tournament consisting of the top 80 fisherman
- Avoyelles Parish Port Commission crawfish boil May 03, 2019 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Commissioners asked to contact Eric Gilmore with interest prior to April 26th.

f) **Personnel** - None

g) Revenue, Banking & Budget – By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, and by roll-call vote, the Commission adopted its 2019 Tax Millage Rates of 1.52 mills for capital outlay and 0.82 mills for operations and maintenance for a total of 2.34 mills. Following is the 2019 Tax Millage Resolution read aloud by Commissioner Crutchfield:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following millage(s) are hereby levied on the 2019 tax roll on all property subject to taxation by THE Red River Waterway Commission:

MILLAGE

TAX FOR CAPITAL OUTLAY 1.52 mills
TAX FOR OPERATION & MAINTENANCE 0.82 mills

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper administrative officials of the Parish of Avoyelles, Bossier, Caddo, Grant, Natchitoches, Rapides, and Red River, State of Louisiana, be and they are hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to spread said taxes, as hereinabove set forth, upon the assessment roll of said Parish for the year 2019, and to make the collection of the taxes imposed for and on behalf of the taxing authority, according to law, and that the taxes herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject to taxation as herein set forth, and collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law.

<u>Yeas</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>Abstained</u>	<u>Absent</u>
Commissioner Crutchfield	-0-	-0-	Commissioner Burrell
Commissioner Deville			
Commissioner Fleming			
Commissioner Fletcher			
Commissioner Greer			
Commissioner Jones			
Commissioner Lattier			
Commissioner Maxey			
Commissioner Sayes			
Commissioner Simpson			

h) Legislative – The 2019 Legislative Session is underway

8. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Commissioners reminded of the annual Tier 2.1 Financial Disclosure due May 15th
- Reliant Investment Management update at the May 2019 meeting
- RRWC boat ramp closure policy under internal review – river level triggers and launch closure(s)
- Corps of Engineers may run out of dredging funding prior to the May Commission meeting. RRWC is working on a contractual agreement with the current, on-river, dredging company, in regards to future 2019 dredging needs

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

- River is on the rise. An additional 2'-3' of rain expected in the Shreveport area Thursday, April 18th
- Teague Parkway Dock Rehabilitation project – Ladders remain to be installed. However, the river is currently 2'-3' above the concrete dock, inhibiting that process
- Boyce Recreation Area Dock Construction project – Pilings for floating dock installed and playground equipment installed
- Brouillette Ramp Widening project – A section of the ramp still awaiting completion as the high water continues to cause delay to this project
- Coushatta Recreation Area Dock project for 2019
- Poland Access Road Rehabilitation project – Advertising for construction bids
- Hampton Road project is completed
- Colfax RV Park Pavilion Replacement project – Pavilion submissions
- Presentation on launch closure process and water level triggers

10. GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT – The Red River Waterway Commission has been dismissed from the Attorney General's suit as well as Carolyn Prator.

11. CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPORT – A dredge remains on the Red River though currently shut down due to high water. The Red River Waterway Commission will continue in its efforts to coordinate with the Corps and the dredging company in dredging efforts.

12. RED RIVER VALLEY ASSOCIATION - A handout prepared by Richard Brontoli was distributed.

13. OTHER BUSINESS – Statement made by Commissioner Jones as he returns from his absences; Easter on the Red, Saturday, April 20th from 10 a.m.-2p.m. at the Ben Routh Recreation facility; Avoyelles Parish Port Commission crawfish boil.

14. COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC – Mr. Gabe Firment, District 22 State Representative candidate, introduced himself to the Commission.

15. ADJOURNMENT

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

JAMES F. MAXEY
SECRETARY/TREASURER

THOMAS M. CLARK
CHAIR DESIGNEE