

MINUTES
OF THE
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING
OCTOBER 21, 2020
10:00 AM
GRAND ECORE RV PARK ACTIVITY CENTER
1071 TAUZIN ISLAND ROAD
NATCHITOCHE, LOUISIANA 71457

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting of the Red River Waterway Commission was called to order by Chair Designee, Troy Roussel, in the Activity Center of the Red River Waterway Commission Grand Ecore RV Park located at 1071 Tauzin Island Road 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, Troy Roussel, Commissioner Versa Clark, Commissioner David Crutchfield, II, Commissioner Michael Deville, Commissioner Paul Fleming, Commissioner Randell Fletcher, Commissioner Jacques Goudeau, Commissioner David Jones, Commissioner Ronald Lattier, Commissioner Michael Simpson. In accordance with Louisiana R.S.42.17.1 (Act 302) Commissioner Charles Greer and Commissioner James Maxey participated virtually.

Absent:

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

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

Others Present: Mr. Ben Russo, Executive Director of the Central Louisiana Regional Port.

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, amending the agenda to reflect the following in the Recreation Committee Report: Consideration of Red River Levee Bicycle Trail. Comments from the public were called for, however, none were offered.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

By motion of Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Deville, the minutes of the September 16, 2020 meeting were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

6. **TREASURER'S REPORT**

By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Jones, the Expenditures, Financial Statements, Investment Reports, & Fund Balance Report for the month of September 2020 were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

7. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

a) **Contracts**

1. **Consideration of Approval of 2021 Contracts List:** By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Goudeau, the Commission unanimously approved the 2021 contracts list by roll call vote.

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

1. **Consideration of Award of Public Bid Lease/Kateland Realignment/Parts of Tracts 1, 3, 5 & 7/100 Acres:** By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the Commission unanimously approved by roll call vote award of bid to Mr. Andre Martin for \$10,000.00 (\$20.00 per acre annually) for the 5-year lease term.
2. **Consideration of Request to Advertise for Public Bid Lease/St. Maurice Cut-Off/Part of Tract 2/23.6 Acres:** By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Jones, the Commission unanimously approved by roll call vote authorizing staff to advertise the property for public bid lease with a minimum bid price of \$25.00 per acre and stipulation prohibiting rifle hunting.

c) **Recreation**

1. **Consideration of Approval of Red River Levee Bicycle Trail:** By motion of Commissioner Greer, seconded by Commissioner Fleming, the Commission unanimously approved by roll call vote directing interested parties to meet with Levee Boards and all other involved entities for approvals and then re-address the request with the Red River Waterway Commission. This action confirmed the direction provided by the Commission in April 2018.
2. **Recreation Area Status Report**
Mr. Mike Boydston highlighted the prepared report provided in the meeting packet, noting that there had been 149,000 visitors to the District recreation areas during the month of September 2020. Updated maintenance items include, but not limited to:
 - Stoner barge has been removed
 - Storm cleanup from Hurricane Laura has been completed
 - Grand Ecore RV Park reservations are increasing and will typically do so through the holiday season
 - Completed spraying 100 acres of Giant Salvinia in backwaters
 - Cross Country meet took place at the Ft. Buhlow Recreation area
 - Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries has begun releasing Florida Bass and Tiger Bass into specific pools of the Red River

d) **Ports** - Representatives of the Natchitoches, Red River, Caddo-Bossier, and Central Louisiana Regional Ports updated the Ports Committee on Port activities and development.

e) **Public Awareness & Marketing**

1. **Consideration of Approval of Cooperative Endeavor Agreement/City of Natchitoches and Natchitoches Convention Visitors Bureau/KingKat National Championship:** By motion of Commissioner Fletcher, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, the cooperative endeavor agreement with the City of Natchitoches and the Natchitoches Convention Visitors Bureau for the upcoming KingKat National Championship
2. **Consideration of Approval/Public Memorial Request:** By motion of Commissioner Fletcher, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, labeling the request and instructed staff to bring back options for a memorial policy.
3. **Marketing Update**
A prepared report was provided in the meeting packet. In addition, Marketing Director, Eric Gilmore discussed:
 - Two tournaments in October 2020: KingKat National Championship and Crappie Expo
 - 2021 is shaping up to be a busy year on the Red
 - Working with the Shreveport-Bossier Sports Commission on events for 2021

f) **Personnel** - None

g) **Revenue, Banking & Budget** - None

h) **Legislative** – Special session is underway

8. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Reminder to Commissioners that annual training requirements are due by December 31, 2020. Instructor led training on Preventing Sexual Harassment is scheduled for November 18, 2020.
- Navigation is open all the way along the Red River
- Corps of Engineers has a dust pan dredge at lock 1 lower
- Staff is working on the 2021 budget and will present the initial draft in November
- Due to COVID-19, there is no intent to attend the annual meetings of the Levee Boards and Mississippi Valley Flood Control if the meetings are held

9. **STATUS OF RIGHTS-OF-WAY/ENGINEERING REPORT**

Prepared reports were provided in the meeting packet. In addition, Engineering Supervisor, Ryan Ingles discussed the following:

- Coushatta dock project is nearing completion. Overlay of the parking lot is taking place
- Colfax Recreation Area porch addition should proceed in mid-November
- Oxbow dredging should be completed within the next 10 days
- 2021 recreation project list will be presented at the November 18, 2020 monthly Commission meeting

10. **GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT** - None

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

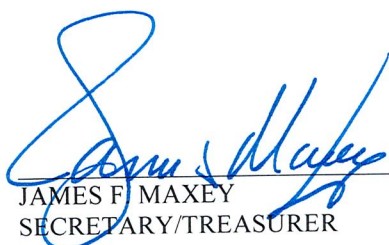
12. **RED RIVER VALLEY ASSOCIATION** - State of Arkansas is working on its funding for the project of extending navigation into Arkansas.

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 Cruchfield, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, and unanimously approved by roll call vote, the meeting was adjourned.


JAMES F. MAXEY
SECRETARY/TREASURER


TROY ROUSSELL
CHAIR DESIGNEE