

MINUTES
OF THE
RED RIVER WATERWAY COMMISSION MEETING
APRIL 21, 2021
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 Charles Greer, Commissioner Ronald Lattier, Commissioner James Maxey, Commissioner Michael Simpson. In accordance with Louisiana R.S.42.17.1 (Act 302) Commissioner Jacques Goudeau and Commissioner David Jones 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; Ms. Molly Bourgoyne, Director/Ports-Office of Multimodal Commerce and Mr. Rich Brontoli of the Red River Valley Association, both participating virtually.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Clark the Commission unanimously approved by roll call vote, amending the agenda to reflect the following addition to the Contracts Committee: Consideration of Approval of Memorandum of Agreement for Contributed Funds for Dredging/Corps of Engineers and Consideration of Approval of Audio Upgrades/Headquarters Meeting Room. Comments from the public were called for, however, none were offered.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

By motion of Commissioner Fletcher, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the minutes of the March 17, 2021 meeting were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the Expenditures, Financial Statements, Investment Reports, & Fund Balance Report for the month of March 2021 were unanimously approved by roll call vote.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a) **Contracts**

1. **Consideration of Approval of Proposals to Remove the North Caddo Boat Dock Structure:** By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Greer, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, award of contract to Blount Brothers, LLC in the amount of \$29,000.00 and a corresponding budget amendment of \$9,000.00.
2. **Consideration of Change Order No. 1/RRWC Project No. 20-05/Contract No. RW-787/Colfax Recreation Area – Activity Building Porch Addition:** By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, Change Order No. 1 which provides for an increase in contract cost in the amount of \$989.63 establishing the final contract price of \$60,749.63 and for the increase in contract time by 61 days due to adverse weather and coordination of scheduled events.
3. **Consideration of Approval of Memorandum of Agreement for Contributed Funds for Dredging/Corps of Engineers:** By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Clark, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, approval of the Memorandum of Agreement with the Corps of Engineers in the amount of \$3,000,000.00 for channel dredging and corresponding budget increase of \$3,000,000.00.
4. **Consideration of Approval of Audio Upgrades/Headquarters Meeting Room:** By motion of Commissioner Lattier, seconded by Commissioner Crutchfield, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, audio upgrades for Commission headquarters meeting room to Claiborne Sharp Professional Audio, Inc. and corresponding budget amendment of \$25,000.00.

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

1. **Consideration of Renewal of Leaseback Agreement/Pool 4/Part of Tract 1/44 Acres:** By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, award of 5-year leaseback renewal agreement with Mr. Ronald Wicker for \$1,980.00 (\$9.00 per acre) for the 5-year term.
2. **Consideration of Renewal of Vehicular Right-of-Way Agreement/Lock & Dam 3/0.80 Acres:** By motion of Commissioner Deville, seconded by Commissioner Fletcher, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, award of 20-year Vehicular Right-of-Way agreement with Mr. Richard Crain for \$1,440.00 paid in annual installments of \$72.00.

c) **Recreation**

1. **Consideration of Development Options/Grand Ecore RV Park**: By motion of Commissioner Greer, seconded by Commissioner Maxey, the Commission unanimously authorized, by roll call vote, staff to proceed with the following development options at Grand Ecore RV Park: A 2.5 mile walking trail with parking lot; community area/patio; pool/splash pad; and landscaping design improvements and \$2,500,000.00 budget amendment. Staff will provide to the Commission at the May 2021 meeting: proposed design consultant contract; an estimation of operation and maintenance costs for all of the above referenced development options as well as ancillary costs.

2. **Recreation Area Status Report**

Mr. Mike Boydston highlighted the prepared report provided in the meeting packet, noting that there had been 54,000 visitors to the District recreation areas during the month of February 2021 and 121,000 visitors to the District recreation areas during the month of March 2021. Updated maintenance items include, but not limited to:

- Dock repair projects for Grand Ecore and St. Maurice recreation areas completed. Contractor has moved to the Colfax and Natchitoches recreation areas to commence dock repairs
- Lighting and light fixtures upgrades for the Colfax and Montgomery recreation areas have been completed

d) **Ports**

1. **Consideration of Approval of Cooperative Endeavor Agreement/Central Louisiana Regional Port/Specialty Chemical Facility**: By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Lattier, the Commission unanimously approved, by roll call vote, approval of the cooperative endeavor agreement with the Central Louisiana Regional Port and coordinating budget amendment of \$387,903.00 of which \$193,951.13 for 10% of construction costs and \$193,951.87 in engineering and soft costs.

e) **Public Awareness & Marketing**

1. **Marketing Update**

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

- Staff will proceed with the Grand Ecore RV Park upgrades approved in today's meeting
- Mississippi River Commission High Water Inspection was held in Vicksburg. RRWC Marketing Director, Eric Gilmore, and RRVA Executive Director, Rich Brontoli were in attendance
- The city of Natchitoches has approved the cooperative endeavor agreement for the 2021 King Kat Tournament. A site visit will be performed by tournament staff.
- BassMaster Classic is scheduled for June 09 – June 13 in Fort Worth, Texas
- Bass Federation National Tournament and other large events are showing interest in using the Red River

f) **Personnel – None**

g) **Revenue, Banking & Budget**

1. **Adoption of 2021 Tax Millage by Resolution**: By motion of Commissioner Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Greer, and by roll call vote, the Commission adopted its 2021 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 2021 Tax Millage Resolution read aloud by Commissioner Crutchfield:

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following millage(s) are hereby levied on the 2021 tax roll on all property subject to taxation by the Red River Waterway Commission:

	<u>MILLAGE</u>
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 Parishes 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 2021, 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.

h) **Legislative - None**

8. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

- Anticipated Commission travel: RRVA June 02 – June 03 and BassMaster Classic June 09 – June 13. Additionally, as the COVID restrictions improve, RRWC staff will return to necessary travel to conferences and other events.
- Staff has forwarded all information requested by the audit firm. Anticipate presenting 2020 Audit to Commission at the May or June Commission meeting

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

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

- Colfax porch addition project completed
- Teague Trails Extension project – surveys completed and preliminary plan should be submitted by week’s end. Memorandum of Understanding has been received and permit applications performed for levee crossings
- Comfort Stations project – surveys are completed. Building design and layout underway.
- Alexandria Riverfront – Bid opening scheduled for June 01, 2021. However, per agreement, plans are to be submitted to the RRWC prior to bid process. This has not occurred and the June 1st projection may be difficult to attain

10. GENERAL COUNSEL REPORT - None

11. CORPS OF ENGINEERS REPORT - None

12. RED RIVER VALLEY ASSOCIATION

Mr. Rich Brontoli, Executive Director, provided the following update:

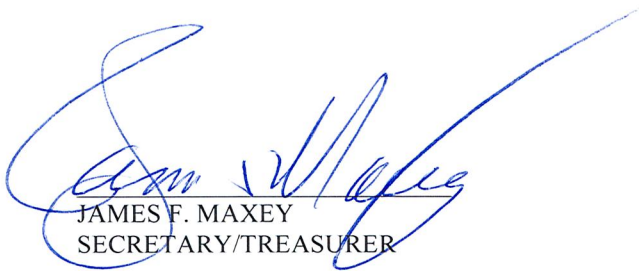
- River levels this Spring have been fine for navigation, staying 2 feet above pool
- Mississippi River is dropping quickly which impacts area below Lock 1
- 2021 President’s Budget for the Corps of \$6,800,000.00 effective October 1st
- Mississippi River Commission High Water Inspection – Comments made regarding disappointment in there being no increase in dredging funds for 2021 and budgetary issues
- RRVA Conference June 02 – June 03 at the Horseshoe Riverdome. Navigation meeting will be held the afternoon of June 02.
- Old River Lock and Lock 1 are up for inspection. Stressing the need to coordinate them simultaneously to minimize any adverse impact to navigation
- Explanation of Community Project Funding/”earmark” – this is equivalent to 1% of the discretionary budget Nationwide and will have very little to no impact to the Red River

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 Crutchfield, seconded by Commissioner Greer, and unanimously approved by roll call vote, the meeting was adjourned.



JAMES F. MAXEY
SECRETARY/TREASURER



TROY ROUSSELL
CHAIR DESIGNEE