

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OF THE  
AMITE RIVER BASIN DRAINAGE & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

3535 S. Sherwood Forest Boulevard, Suite 120, Baton Rouge, LA

**February 18, 2020**

MEMBERS PRESENT DURING ROLL CALL: Ben Babin, Jerry Thibeau, David Hoover, Lionel Bailey, Mark Harrell, James Little, Edwin Parker, Richard St. Pierre, Larry Thomas, Don Thompson, Kenneth Welborn

MEMBERS ABSENT: Willie George Lee, Tamiara Wade

ALSO, PRESENT: ARBC Executive Director Dietmar Rietschier, ARBC Executive Secretary Toni Guitrau, ARBC Legal Counsel Larry S. Bankston

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Babin.
2. Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Public Comments on Agenda Items: Teresa Cop, property owner in Zachary, Louisiana, explained her situation in dealing with LADOTD Real Estate Division and the ongoing failed negotiations with purchasing her property, including structures. She stated the LA DOTD is not offering adequate compensation for what her property and structures are worth. Negotiations to acquire her property from the USACE and DOTD have been going on for 10 years. Pat Landry, with LA DOTD said that he is not in the Real Estate Division but would arrange for her to speak directly with Charles McBride, the Chief of the DOTD Real Estate Division. Ms. Cop thanked the ARBC Commissioners for allowing her to speak.
4. Minutes  
The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thompson, second by Hoover to approve the January 2020 regular meeting minutes.
5. Financial Statement Report  
Hoover presented to the Board the January 2020 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thompson, second by Lee to approve the January 2020 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements.
6. Executive Director Report
  - Hunting Leases: It was agreed for Larry Bankston to prepare a letter and to provide a pro-rated amount to the current leasees so that they can decide if they want to continue the leases. This is due to the hunting leases losing hunting acreage due to the CRDC right-of-way cutting through the middle of the leased.
  - Floodplain Management Plan on Phase 1 update by Bob Jacobsen:  
Jacobsen said that the report by Dr. Barry Keim, State Climatologist, has been completed. Review/adjust Aug 2016 NOAA Stage IV data for entire ARB (with Blind River). Comparison of Peak Profiles by Bob Jacobsen is complete. Compare Peak Profiles for August 2016 Flood from recent models vs ARBC Preliminary Report (inferred from HWMs). GIS Refinement is 50% complete. Terrain-LIDAR is complete. Over 300 streams are being digitized. May have a map for the ARBC to view by the summer.
  - Rietschier reported that Representative Hodges' Task Force Meeting is on March 4, 2020. The next Quarterly ARBC public meeting is to be held on Thursday, March 19, 2020 at 5 pm at the Galvez Library in Ascension Parish.
  - Rietschier said that ARBC has to sign off on several documents including an Environmental Assessment #576. He is interested in reviewing the documents to make sure that ARBC is properly credited for what ARBC has already acquired.
  - DOTD Report by Pat Landry: There are 64 total parcels they are acquiring for the CRDC Project. They have acquired 17 and have 22 in negotiations, and 22 others needing appraisals. Real estate is working on priority acquisitions at this time for the entire project. On the west side of US61, CenturyLink continues to work on finalizing their relocation. On the east side of US61, Demco, AT&T, and Cox are coordinating the design to incorporate construction features requested by USACE. Orx has completed the removal of their pipeline from the DOTD right of way, and ExxonMobil plans to tie in for the new pipeline by the middle of March. LA 964 continues in design with an anticipated bid date in early 2020. A designer has been selected for LA19 and LA67 and contractor selection is underway. They are working with and talking to Florida Gas. Florida Gas will have to do some relocation. The Corps has asked DOTD to do the bridge-work for the 964 bridge. They have a contract with an engineering firm and they are close to being complete with that. They should go to bid in the Spring on the 964 bridge. The Corps is

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doing the bridges on 61 and they should be bidding those out soon. The bridges at 19 and 67 are being done through a Construction Management at Risk process. This will deliver the product quicker by selecting an engineering firm to start with to get about 30% of the design done and then get a contractor to work with the engineering firm. This process should expedite those two bridges.

7. ARBC Legal Counsel: Bankston explained under "New Business" why the COOP policy is required by the Legislative Auditor.
8. Old Business – None
9. New Business
  - Continuity of Operations Plan "COOP" Policy – The Legislative Auditor requires ARBC to adopt a COOP Policy. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thompson, second by Hoover to approve the COOP Policy, as presented.
  - Proclaim March 2020 as Flood Awareness Month – The Board unanimously approved a motion by St. Pierre, second by Lee to proclaim March 2020 as Flood Awareness Month. Governor Edwards also proclaimed March 2020 as Flood Awareness Month at the request of ARBC.
10. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thompson, seconded by Hoover to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED:

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/s/ Ben Babin, ARBC President  
Date: May 19, 2020

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/s/ Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary