

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

Location: Marriott: 5500 Hilton Drive, Baton Rouge, LA

May 19, 2020

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mark Harrell, Willie George Lee, Edwin Parker, 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 was offered.
3. Public Comments on Agenda Items: None.
4. Minutes

The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thompson, second by Hoover to approve the February 2020 regular meeting minutes.

5. Financial Statement Report

- Hoover presented to the Board the March and April 2020 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thomas, second by Thompson to approve the March and April 2020 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements.
- Public Hearing – Proposed Administrative Budget of 2020/2021. The floor was open to Public Comments. As there were no public comments the floor was closed to public comments. Hoover said that a few items were shifted from one category to another but the bottom line remains the same. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thompson, second by Thomas to adopt the Administrative Budget of 2020/2021, as presented.

6. Executive Director Report

- Rietschier presented the status of the Comite River Diversion Canal Project per the USACE Quarterly Report as follows: Progress on the Comite River Diversion Canal project is being made as MVN has awarded two construction contracts for the clearing and grubbing of COMs 7-11 during the month of May. This covers a geographical area that includes Channel Segments 3 and 4, and McHugh Rd Bridge, and White Bayou chute. Notice to proceed was issued to the contractors on 5 May 2020 and to date the contractors have cleared over 40 acres of land. In addition, MVN is in position to award the construction contract for Hwy 61 and KCS railroad bridges by the end of May 2020. This award will represent the first major project feature to begin construction. Finally, progress has been made to complete the much-needed repairs of the Lilly Bayou Control structure. In March 2020, the USACE hired labor unit dewatered the structure to perform inspections and much needed cleaning of the concrete. As part of the inspection, ground penetrating radar was used to check for voids beneath the surface of the concrete. Some void was discovered, and plans are being developed to address those areas. The remaining project features are continuing to be designed and are nearing completion. The designs of these features will be completed prior to the completion of the utility relocations and property acquisitions by LA DOTD. The next two project features that will be advertised are channel segment 4 and McHugh Rd Bridge. The project is still on schedule to be completed in 2021.
- DOTD Report by Pat Landry: Update on DOTD activities for the Comite Diversion Canal Project are as follows: Real estate is working on priority acquisitions at this time for the entire project. US 61 utility relocations are complete with the exception of Demco and AT&T which are being coordinated directly with USACE construction. All other utilities that have been identified as compensable are reviewing and negotiating their Construction Reimbursement Agreements. Currently there are some compensability determinations still in development at USACE. LA 964 design is complete with project award anticipated by the end of 2020. Contractor selection for the Construction Management at Risk (CMAR) process to be used for LA19 and LA67 continues, with contractor selection anticipated May 26, 2020.

7. ARBC Legal Counsel: CRDC Task Force/HCR by Representative Hodges Update:

Bankston attended the Natural Resources committee meeting today on the House side. He was able to get an amendment on the HCR to include an active member of the Amite River Basin Commission. The ARBC

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will be able to appoint a representative for the commission itself, as opposed to the member being appointed by whoever is President of the Task Force at the time. The amendment passed without further objection and will go to the full house soon.

8. Old Business – None

9. New Business

- The Board unanimously approved a motion by Hoover, second by Thompson to approve renewing the 3-year contract between ARBC and CPA David Shoptaugh. There were no changes made to the contract.
- Babin appointed Board members to a Nominating Committee so that new ARBC Officers can be elected at the June 16, 2020 meeting. The Nominating Committee members are as follows: Jerry Thibeau, Jimmy Little, Larry Thomas, Willie George Lee and Richard St. Pierre.

10. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thompson, seconded by Hoover to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED:

/s/ Ben Babin, ARBC President

Date: June 16, 2020

/s/ Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary