

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

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

**July 21, 2020**

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Willie George Lee, James Little, Larry Thomas, Tamiara Wade

VACANCY: St. Helena Parish

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Parker.

2. Roll Call (see above).

3. Public Comments on Agenda Items:

- Bob Jacobsen told the Board that he would like to email each ARBC Commissioner a PowerPoint presentation to help them better understand the terminology that will be used in upcoming years in regard to flooding.
- Pat Theophilus offered to bring any of the ARBC Commissioners out to the CRDC Project site to see what is currently taking place.
- Col. Ben Babin stated that it was a pleasure to work with the ARBC Board of Commissioners, Executive Director Dietmar Rietschier, Executive Secretary Toni Guitrau, and Bankston for the past four years as ARBC President.

4. Minutes

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

5. Financial Statement Report

Bailey presented to the Board the June 2020 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Hoover, second by Thompson to approve the June 2020 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements.

6. Executive Director Report

- In the absence of the Executive Director, Parker read the report as provided by Dietmar Rietschier, ARBC Executive Director as follows:
  - Comite River Diversion Canal Project: The utility relocation with the construction of the Highway 16 bridge and the KCS RR bridge has been virtually completed. The USACE has issued a contract for the construction of these bridges and presently mobilizing to begin construction. All real estate for the construction has been acquired. Clearing and grubbing Canal right of way between La. Hwy. 19 and White Bayou Drop Structure: The contractor has completed the clearing and grubbing of approximately 4,500 ft. of the canal right of way between La. Hwy. 19, McHugh Rd. and La Hwy. 67 bridges are at different stages of completion. These bridges will be built by LA DOTD.
  - Port Vincent Bridge, La. Hwy. 42: Recently, there has been a lot of talk by citizens in the lower Amite River Basin regarding the condition and flood impact of the Port Vincent Bridge. He provided an email to the Board from Mr. Curtis Sutherland regarding the matter. He would like the Board to discuss this matter and contact legislators about replacing this bridge with a wide span bridge. The condition of the bridge is not good and is scouring under the bridge.
  - Rietschier has been working with the Louisiana Watershed Initiative in Region 7, which is the Lake Pontchartrain Watershed. A committee has been formed with representatives from 13 parishes, state agencies and private sector. A map of Regional Watershed 7 was provided. The Amite River Basin comprises a large portion of this region. We are trying to maintain the integrity of the Amite River Basin Commission and minimize the creation of additional unnecessary bureaucracies.
- Bankston read a report as provided by the LA DOTD:

Real estate is working on priority acquisitions at this time for the entire project.

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

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

US 61 utility relocations will be complete with the completion of the Demco/AT&T relocation currently underway. 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. For LA19 and LA67, the agreements for the consulting engineer and contractor are being signed, and the initial Construction Management at Risk (CMAR) workshop for this effort is anticipated prior to the end of the month.

7. ARBC Legal Counsel:
  - Bankston suggested posting the DOTD monthly reports on the CRDC Project to the ARBC website.
  - Copies of all contracts requested: In reference to ARBC's email request to DOTD and the Corps, there has been no response from DOTD. The Corps asked that ARBC request it as a Freedom of Information Public Records Request, even though ARBC is a partner in the Comite River Diversion Canal Project.
  - Virtual meetings are being held with DOTD. DOTD is not finished with acquisitions of properties. They have been asked to provide ARBC with copies of the properties not acquired. They have also been asked again to provide ARBC with copies of the contracts. Bankston said that even though the federal government says the Comite River Diversion Canal Project is fully funded, it does not mean that at the end of the project, funds will not still be needed. In his opinion, this means they may be looking at ARBC for payments on the balance at the end of the project.
8. Old Business: None.
9. New Business
  - Hancock/Whitney Bank Resolution- Signature Forms: The Board unanimously approved a motion by Hoover, second by St. Pierre to accept the Bank Resolution Forms to add the new ARBC President and the new Finance Chairman, and to remove former Finance Chairman Rouchon.
  - Extension of Tractor Services Maintenance Contract: The Board unanimously approved a motion by Hoover, second by Babin to extend said contract for one additional year at the same "cost-to-cut" per acre price. Bankston said that with all the clearing and grubbing being done, the cost should go down due to there being less property to maintain.
  - Extension of 3 Expiring Hunting Leases: The Board unanimously approved a motion by Hoover, second by Bailey to extend these hunting leases for one additional year as follows: Hickory Landing, Mt. Pleasant, and Theophilus Oil, Gas and Land Services. Mt. Pleasant and Theophilus Oil, Gas and Land Services will have reduced acreage to hunt because of the Canal right-of-way.
10. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thompson, seconded by Hoover to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED:

---

/s/ Edwin Parker, ARBC President

Date: August 18, 2020

---

/s/ Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary