

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

3535 S. Sherwood Forest Boulevard, Suite 135, Baton Rouge, LA

November 15, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT DURING ROLL CALL: Ben Babin, Jerry Thibeau, David Hoover, Lionel Bailey, Willie George Lee, James "Jimmy" Little, Terry Louque, Anthony "Tony" Rouchon, Don Thompson, Kenneth "Wade" Welborn

MEMBERS ABSENT: Burrell Carter, Larry Thomas, Tamiara Wade

MEMBER ARRIVED AT 6:18 pm: Lionel Bailey

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Babin.
2. Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance
3. Public Comments on Agenda Items: None
4. Minutes
The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thompson, second by Lee to approve the October 2016 regular meeting minutes as presented.
5. Financial Statement Report: Bailey entered the meeting at 6:18 p.m.
 - Hoover presented to the Board the October 2016 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Rouchon, second by Thompson to approve the October 2016 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements.
 - Overhead Rate: The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thompson, seconded by Lee to lower the adjusted overhead rate to 1.29%.
6. Report by Executive Director
 - Status of Comite River Diversion Canal - Real Estate: Reported on a meeting today at DOTD in regard to discrepancies on description of properties. ARBC surveyors, Stantec, will finalize drawings with a good description so that the properties can be acquired.
 - Utility Relocations: ARBC wants utility relocations on Hwy. 61 ready to proceed the moment federal funds are available for the construction of the bridges.
 - Report by USACE Bobby Duplantier: Duplantier reported on the progress and intent of a recent Value Engineering Study. The study is in draft form and is being done to possibly provide significant cost savings to the CRDC Project.
 - Watermarks: Bob Jacobsen said that the ARBC in coordination with the US Geological Survey (who is surveyed HWMs on behalf of FEMA) and the US Corps of Engineers (who collected HWM data) to ensure comprehensive surveying of HWMs throughout the Amite River Basin, has completed the high water mark surveys from St. James up into Mississippi. This is in draft form and is not a survey for design purposes but may be used as a guide for Floodplain Management purposes.
 - DOTD Report by William Delmar: DOTD is working with its contractor to obtain engineering plans and cost estimates from relocations. All of the utility companies are either designing in-house or have a contractor. DOTD's contractor is also collecting information from the utility companies on the west side of US 61 which USACE will use to make compensability determinations. DOTD has also tasked its contractor to look for utilities in the proposed area for the Bayou Baton Rouge Drop Structure. This area is the next design, and DOTD does not want to face the same issues found at US 61. One issue facing DOTD was the view that the project would not be constructed. With ARBC's completion of their agreement and permit form, the utility companies can see that both Non-Federal partners are working to move the project forward.
 - During the meeting, Thompson asked what DOTD's numbers were for the original cost estimate at US 61. DOTD had not generated any cost estimates. Delmar stated that through its contractors, DOTD requested costs from the utility companies. The response from the utilities was a rough estimate that totaled \$40 million. The DOTD Project Management Team felt this was too high and has continued to push for the engineering and a more accurate cost estimate.
7. ARBC Legal Counsel: None
8. Old Business: None
9. New Business:
 - Resolution 1127 – Parcel 46- Purchase of declared immovable property: It was agreed that this agenda item will not be placed on the next agenda without more information.
 - The Board unanimously approved a motion by Hoover, seconded by Little to set the next ARBC regular meeting on Tuesday, December 13, 2016 at 6 pm.
 - It was mentioned that there are 3 parishes that pay taxes toward the CRDC Project. Two ARBC Commissioners represent each of the 3 parishes. Out of the members present, six commissioners pay taxes toward the CRDC Project.
10. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Hoover, second by Babin to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED:

/s/ Ben Babin

Ben Babin, ARBC President

Date: December 13, 2016

/s/ Toni B. Guitrau

Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary