

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

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

May 17, 2016

MEMBERS PRESENT DURING ROLL CALL: Don Thompson, Ben Babin, Anthony “Tony” Rouchon, Jerry Thibeau, Lionel Bailey, Sr., David Hoover, Willie George Lee, Terry Louque, Kenneth Wade Welborn

MEMBERS ABSENT: William “Carey” Jenkins, James Little, Larry Thomas

NOTE: Vacant Seat(s) St. Helena Parish

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 Thompson.
2. Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance
3. Public Comments on Agenda Items: Jessica Miles, with Volkert, updated the Board on the status of the Amite River Weir. The estimated \$8.5 million project is currently on hold. A meeting was held between Ascension Parish, PLD, and ARBC. Ascension Parish is hiring GEC to do an additional hydrological study.
4. Minutes
The Board unanimously approved a motion by Rouchon, second by Hoover to approve the April 2016 regular meeting minutes as presented.
5. Financial Statement Report
 - Rouchon presented to the Board the April 2016 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Babin, second by Lee to approve the April 2016 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements.
 - Public Hearing – Proposed Administrative Budget of 2016/17. The floor was open to Public Comments. As there were no public comments the floor was closed to public comments. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Rouchon, second by Babin to adopt the Administrative Budget of 2016/17, as presented.
 - If required, an Amendment to Administrative Budget 2015/16 will be discussed and approved at the next regular meeting of the ARBC on 6/21/16.
 - Babin announced and welcomed new ARBC Board commissioner, Lionel Bailey, Sr.
6. Nominating Committee Report:
The Nominating Committee nominated Babin as President, Thibeau as Vice President and Hoover as Finance Chairman. The Executive Secretary is Secretary by default. At the June 21, 2016 ARBC meeting other nominees may be suggested prior to the official vote for officers.
7. Report by Executive Director - Discussed the following items:
 - The Comite River Diversion Canal Project is not yet in Capital Outlay HB 2. Discussed the need for HB 2 to be amended to include the project.
 - Funds spent as of March/April 2016 on the CRDC Project for Federal and non-federal expenditures are approximately \$100,000 million. This may not include all the current expenditures.
 - Discussed utility relocations. Rietschier hired Stantec to provide estimates of the utility relocations since DOTD estimates were from \$20-\$40 million. Stantec completed 2 reports. Dennis Passman, with Stantec, explained to the Board the Summary of Cost Estimates of Utility Relocations. They looked at the 10 pipelines around Hwy. 61. Overhead transmission lines and fiber optics were included in the estimate. Phase 1 estimate is \$7.8 million. They also were asked to provide an estimate for Phase 3 which came to \$6.9 million for a total of \$14.7 million. Rietschier said that ARBC could pay for utility relocations but would need assurance that the federal government will do construction.
 - DOTD Report: DOTD Real Estate is currently working on relocations on the recently acquired Tract 46 – Troyland. They noted that there were three relocations on Tract 41 & M3-80; Real Estate is awaiting the new property survey and description. The sale documents and property description for Tract M3-115 were sent to ARBC for review. DOTD Real Estate is also progressing on ADV-18, the Bourque property in Functional Element I, with approval. All other real estate activities are winding down at logical stopping points. This includes Tract No. 39, Beech Grove Farms, as it was on hold due to environmental issues. An engineering authorization letter for utility relocations had been drafted and sent to ARBC for review. It will go out once all comments have been received and incorporated. A map showing the mitigation properties was provided to USACE and ARBC. The map shows the area that DOTD will have USACE come and determine the actual mitigation value.
8. Report by ARBC Legal Counsel: Tractor Services Contract:
 - Until survey(s) of certain properties are completed the Board will allow Tractor Services Contract, a Professional Services contract, to continue. Lilly Bayou will be treated separately, and ARBC should wait on McHugh. Some of the properties may be leased in the future for cattle and/or hunting and may not require that ARBC hire someone to maintain them.
 - The Board unanimously approved a motion by Hoover, second by Babin for Bankston to contact real estate brokers familiar with the Zachary area to handle advertising see if any of the vacant houses owned by the ARBC are capable of being rented

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in order to generate income until they are later demolished. Discussed the need for 3 gates to be placed on property mentioned.

9. Old Business – Tractor Services Contract: See above under Legal Counsel report.
10. New Business- None
11. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Rouchon, second by Hoover to adjourn the meeting.

APPROVED:

/s/ Don Thompson
Don Thompson, ARBC President
Date: June 21, 2016

/s/ Toni B. Guitrau
Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary