

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

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

June 19, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT DURING ROLL CALL: Ben Babin, Jerry Thibeau, David Hoover, Lionel Bailey, Willie George Lee, James Little, Matt Milazzo, Larry Thomas, Don Thompson, Tamiara Wade, Kenneth "Wade" Welborn

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

Vacancy: East Feliciana Parish, 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 Babin.
2. Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Public Comments on Agenda Items:
4. Minutes

The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thompson, second by Lee to approve the May regular meeting minutes, as presented.

5. Financial Statement Report:

- Hoover presented to the Board the May 2018 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thomas, second by Thibeau to approve the May 2018 General Fund and CRDC Fund financial statements.
- The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thompson, second by Thibeau to approve the 2017-2018 Budget – Amendment #1, as presented.

6. Executive Director Report

- DOTD and ARBC are working on the utility relocations at the crossing of the future canal and LA Hwy. 61. ARBC is required to provide the permitting and Right of Entry for all property owned by ARBC.
- Federal funding for the CRDC is being discussed by the USACE at this time. The final determination can be expected in June or July 2018.
- Discussed the AssetTracker IQ Program to update files with recent land acquisitions. This is a GIS based program that centralized all information regarding land acquisition by tract numbers.
- Rietschier reported that he went into the field to assess the conditions of the five structures located on ARBC acquired properties. Bids will be advertised soon over a three-week period to demolish the five structures.
- The Board discussed the upcoming off-site quarterly ARBC meetings that are required per SB 539 by Senator Eddie Lambert. SB 539, a bill to require ARBC to hold quarterly ARBC meetings in alternate parishes of Ascension, EBR, and Livingston.
- DOTD Report by William Delmar: DOTD continues to work with utilities on design and compensability questions. The first utility to relocate will be CenturyLink in DOTD R/W anticipated to begin construction by the beginning of August.

7. ARBC Legal Counsel.

First, any property owned by the ARBC, requires permitting from ARBC prior to utility relocations. ARBC has been working with DOTD and using their form format. ARBC has to issue some of these permits to the pipelines because the moving of the pipelines are within our right-of-way. In some cases, they have gone outside of our right-of-way, and may be disturbing some areas that need to be mitigated. The Corps is being asked to expedite this because this could delay some of the work being done with the concern about moving the pipelines. Secondly, there is \$14 million coming from the Corps. Legislation has been passed in congress to allow Hazard Mitigation money to be spent on the Comite River Diversion Canal Project. The governor's office controls Hazard Mitigation money and the Corps controls their own money. According to Graves and Cassidy there is money there to do the project but someone has to coordinate it.

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8. Old Business

- OPEB Fund: The Board unanimously approved a motion by Hoover, second by Thompson to approve Resolution 1139, to open the OPEB Trust Fund, a trust agreement for funded retiree health benefits for the employees of the ARBC. This was approved by Attorney General opinion 17-0176, on March 8, 2018. This trust agreement would protect employees, in the future, if the ARBC were ever to be dissolved. The trust would protect the funds to pay the agency's portion.

9. New Business

- Nominating Committee – Election of ARBC Officers. The nominating committee recommended that the same officers sit for additional two years. They are as follows: Ben Babin as President, Jerry Thibeau as Vice President, David Hoover as Finance Chairman and Toni Gujtrau to remain as Secretary. There were no other nominations offered. The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thompson, second by Lee to approve said recommendations.
- ARBC Office Lease Agreement Renewal Amendment #4, with Hebert Interests, L.L.C. – The Board unanimously approved a motion by Lee, second by Wade to approve the lease amendment for an additional three years (January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2021) with no cost increase.
- The Board unanimously approved a motion by Thompson, second by Thomas to approve the following hunting leases for an additional two years: Mt. Pleasant, Hickory Landing, L.L.C, and Pat Theophilus.

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

APPROVED:

/s/ Ben Babin, ARBC President

Date: July 17, 2018

/s/ Toni B. Guitrau, Executive Secretary