

1                                   **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE**  
2                                   **SABINE RIVER AUTHORITY**  
3                                   **STATE OF LOUISIANA**  
4                                   **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**  
5                                   **LEASEBACK & CUTTING/MARKING COMMITTEE**  
6                                   **PENDLETON BRIDGE OFFICE**  
7                                   **15091 TEXAS HIGHWAY**  
8                                   **MANY, LA 71449**  
9                                   **1:00PM THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22<sup>ND</sup>, 2011**

10  
11  
12  
13 **MEMBERS PRESENT:    Mr. Norman Arbuckle, Chairman**  
14                                   **Mr. Ned Goodeaux**  
15                                   **Mr. Larry Kelly**  
16                                   **Mr. Therman Nash**  
17                                   **Mr. Stanley Vidrine**  
18                                   **Mr. Bobby Williams**

19  
20 **MEMBERS ABSENT:     None.**

21  
22  
23 **OTHERS PRESENT:     Jim Pratt, Executive Director-SRA, Many, LA**  
24                                   **Becky Anderson, Adm Asst 5-SRA, Many, LA**  
25                                   **Mike Carr, Fac. Maint. Mgr. 3-SRA, Many, LA**  
26                                   **Carl Chance, IT Director Consult-SRA, Many, LA**  
27                                   **Kellie Ferguson, Adm Prog Director 3-SRA, Many, LA**  
28                                   **Daniel Jones, Fac Asst Mgr 1-SRA, Many, LA**  
29                                   **Robert Conyer, Board Chmn-SRA, Many, LA**

30  
31                                   **There were sixty-one visitors.**  
32

33  
34                    Mr. Arbuckle called the meeting to order. Mr. Nash offered the Prayer and Mr.  
35 Pratt led the Pledge of Allegiance. The roll was called and it was noted that all were  
36 present; therefore, a quorum was established.

37                    Mr. Arbuckle asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda.  
38 Hearing none, he asked for a motion to adopt the agenda as circulated. **Mr. Goodeaux**  
39 **moved, seconded by Mr. Nash to adopt the agenda as circulated. Motion carried**  
40 **unanimously.**

41                    PUBLIC COMMENTS: Mr. Joe Palermo addressed the Committee. He urged  
42 them to fulfill the mission statement and obligation to the citizens of the area to be the  
43 “premier agency” to promote Toledo Bend Reservoir through economic development,  
44 recreation, and power generation. He presented a copy of several documents to review to  
45 the committee members. (See attached.) Representative Frankie Howard addressed the  
46 Committee by saying that he along with Senator Gerald Long would be investigating  
47 possible funding through grants or emergency funds within the State to help solve the  
48 issue at hand. Mr. Pratt stated that Senator Long had called earlier in the day and is very

1 much aware of the issues being faced today and that he has made an appointment with the  
2 Governor's counsel Mr. Rainwater to discuss the concerns.

3 OLD BUSINESS: None.

4 NEW BUSINESS: Item#1-Dredging Proposal-SRA Parksites: Mr. Pratt stated  
5 that bids had been received and Mike Carr was going to discuss the bids. Mr. Carr stated  
6 that bids were to dredge the four SRA parksites keeping public access to the water for as  
7 long as feasible. He stated that all bids were rejected; the specs for new bids was written  
8 and have been sent out. He continued that it is hopeful that by next week, the new bids  
9 will be received and one can be selected. He stated that if the Board approves the new  
10 bid, the boat launches would be dredged out to 154' msl. He continued that staff would  
11 like to request that the Committee recommend to the Board to approve continuing our  
12 commitment to the dredging project in order to keep the boat launches at Oak Ridge, San  
13 Miguel, Cypress Bend and Pleasure Point Parksites open for public access once the  
14 Finance & Personnel Committee review the financial aspect of the project. **Mr. Kelly**  
15 **moved, seconded by Mr. Williams to recommend to the Board to approve**  
16 **continuing all efforts of dredging in the SRA Parks in order to keep public access to**  
17 **the lake once the Finance & Personnel Committee reviews the cost of the project.**  
18 **Motion carried unanimously.**

19 Item #2-Stump Cutting Proposal-Sabine Chamber of Commerce & Sabine Tourist  
20 Commission: Mr. Lewis McBryde, Mrs. Gloria Thompson, Mrs. Linda Curtis-Sparks  
21 and Mr. Clauriste Byles, Jr made a presentation to the Committee. Mr. Mc Bryde  
22 thanked the Committee for allowing the group to bring forth the concerns of the  
23 businesses around the lake area. Mrs. Thompson's presentation was an explanation of  
24 the impact the low lake level and the dangerous stumps within the reservoir has had on  
25 many of the marinas, campgrounds, and other businesses within the area. Within her  
26 presentation, she stated that approximately 45.51% was the average loss of revenue the  
27 businesses had felt due to the current lake conditions. She continued to explain that she  
28 and several others had done some research in order to find a new way to cut stumps at a  
29 quicker rate and it would open up the lake for recreational opportunities and hopefully  
30 visitors would return to the area. Mrs. Linda Curtis-Sparks stated that she would like to  
31 review the history of the Toledo Bend Project which was developed for power

1 generation, economic development and recreational opportunities. She pointed out that  
2 SRA built roads, developed the Cypress Bend Golf Resort and Conference Center,  
3 upgraded tournament facilities at two of the SRA Parksites and participated in tourism  
4 efforts to promote the area. She stated that the loss of visitors was equal to loss of retail  
5 sales in restaurants, grocery stores, fuel markets, real estate sales etc. She stated that the  
6 Committee should listen to the area businesses and help get the lake activity back on  
7 track to overcome the situation as it stands today. Mr. Byles explained to the Committee  
8 the “roller” type of cutter or mulcher system to be attached to a 20x40 ft barge to clear  
9 out the stumps. He stated that a company in New Brunswick, Canada built the cutter to  
10 be used for logging or clearing right-of-ways for pipeline, etc. He stated that the  
11 company had taken on to a lake near their facility to see if the machine would work  
12 underwater and it did. He stated that it could cut trees up to 15 ft underwater and be self  
13 contained with it’s own power supply and environmentally safe. He stated approximate  
14 cost of the machine was \$388,400 and the barge with engines to maneuver it was  
15 \$172,000 which would be a total cost of \$560,000. Mr. McBryde closed the presentation  
16 stating that the businesses being represented are asking that SRA cut the stumps and do  
17 whatever was necessary to make the lake safe and accessible for the public. Mr.  
18 Goodeaux and Mr. Kelly both expressed their concerns that SRA has suffered the loss of  
19 revenues as has the other businesses. Mr. Kelly stated that SRA “ could not dig a hole  
20 that the Agency could not get out of” due to lost revenues. Mr. Arbuckle stated that it  
21 would be best to discuss a new stump-cutting program with the full Board or options that  
22 may arise to resolve the situation. (See attached hard copies of the presentations.)

23 Mr. Arbuckle asked for a motion to adjourn since there was no other business to  
24 discuss. **Mr. Vidrine moved, seconded by Mr. Nash to adjourn. Motion carried**  
25 **unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 2:42PM.**

26  
27  
28

---

**NORMAN ARBUCKLE, CHAIRMAN**