

1 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE**
2 **SABINE RIVER AUTHORITY**
3 **STATE OF LOUISIANA**
4 **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**
5 **PENDLETON BRIDGE OFFICE**
6 **15091 TEXAS HIGHWAY**
7 **MANY, LA 71449**
8 **1:00PM THURSDAY, JANUARY 26TH, 2012**
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11 **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. Stanley Vidrine, Chairman
12 Mr. Daniel Cupit, Vice-Chairman
13 Mr. Bobby Williams, Secretary
14 Mr. Carlton Gibson
15 Mr. Ned Goodeaux
16 Mr. Larry Kelly
17 Mr. Therman Nash
18 Mrs. Estella Scott
19 Mr. Kermie Valentine
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22 **MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mr. Norman Arbuckle
23 Mr. C. A. Burgess
24 Mr. Byron Gibbs
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27 **OTHERS PRESENT:** Jim Pratt, Executive Director-SRA, Many, LA
28 Becky Anderson, Adm Asst 5-SRA, Many, LA
29 Mike Carr, Fac Maint Mgr 3-SRA, Many, LA
30 Carl Chance, IT Mgmt Consultant 1-SRA, Many, LA
31 Kellie Ferguson, Adm Prog Dir3-SRA, Many, LA
32

33 **There were fifteen (15) visitors.**
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36 Mr. Vidrine called the meeting to order. Mr. Nash offered the Prayer and Mr.
37 Vidrine led the Pledge of Allegiance. The roll was called and it was noted that Mr.
38 Arbuckle, and Mr. Gibb were absent; however a quorum was established. For the record,
39 Mr. Robert Conyer, Chairman resigned his position on the Board of Commissioners
40 effective January 12th, 2012 at midnight.

41 Due to the vacancy left by Chairman Conyer, it was necessary to hold an election.
42 Vice-Chairman Vidrine opened the floor for nominations. Mr. Nash nominated Mr.
43 Vidrine for Chairman, seconded by Mr. Kelly and to cease nominations. Mr. Vidrine
44 elected by acclamation. Mr. Vidrine asked for nominations for Vice-Chairman. Mr.
45 Nash nominated Mr. Cupit seconded by Mrs. Scott and nominations cease. Mr. Cupit
46 elected by acclamation.

47 Mr. Vidrine asked to approve the minutes of the December 8th, 2011 meeting &
48 the minutes of the Special Call meeting on January 12th, 2012. **Mr. Valentine moved,**
49 **seconded by Mrs. Scott to approve the minutes of the December 8th, 2011 meeting**

1 **those of the Special Call meeting on January 12th, 2012 as circulated. Motion**
2 **carried unanimously.**

3 Mr. Vidrine asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda. Hearing
4 none, he asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. **Mr. Goodeaux moved, seconded by**
5 **Mr. Williams to adopt the agenda as circulated. Motion carried unanimously.**

6 STAFF REPORTS: Public Comments: Mr. John Toliver asked to address the
7 Board. He stated that he would like to thank the Board for suspending the out-of-state
8 water sales as well as allowing the public to make comments; however, he continued that
9 he had several questions that he would like to have answered by SRA and would like to
10 see another public forum held to discuss the specific answers to the questions. He stated
11 that he felt that there was a need to keep the public informed and that the minutes were
12 not up-to-date on the website. He understood that SRA was doing another upgrade to the
13 system and hoped the minutes would be reflected on the website soon as he felt that
14 public relations was a major factor in miscommunication throughout the public
15 concerning the SRA. He stated that all stakeholders are willing to work with the SRA for
16 the betterment of the entire area. Mr. Kelly stated that he felt sure that the SRA staff
17 would work on getting the questions together and to hold another public hearing to
18 discuss the questions and concerns.

19 Item#1-TBPJO: Mr. Pratt stated that the gates were closed on January 9th due to
20 sufficient rainfall downstream with adequate inflow. He stated that the lake level was
21 162.92' msl and the USGS gauge recorded 162.95' msl so probably in the morning the
22 lake will probably reach 163.0' msl or above. He stated that the reservoir should see
23 continued inflow for approximately 5-7 days. He stated that within the engineer's report
24 he has the calendar year of 2011 in one of the charts. January 26, 2011 we were at
25 164.27' msl so the level is still behind. He continued that the good news is that we have
26 received more rainfall than we did last during December-January. He stated that the
27 scheduled outages were completed at the powerhouse and waiting to perform some tests,
28 but due to lake level these have not been done. He stated that in the event that supplement
29 releases have to be done through the powerhouse as was done last year. He stated that
30 last year, the releases were done every other day for a few hours-very minimal. Item #2-
31 Re-licensing: Mr. Chance stated that the settlement negotiations began again last week.

1 He stated that public hearings were held for the Recreation Management Plan with the
2 Development & Parks Committee and had seven (7) participants with a discussion held.
3 He stated that at the public hearing in Hemphill there were ten (10) participants with
4 good discussions. He stated that met at the SRATX office in Orange to review
5 downstream issues but seem to have settled with National Marine Fisheries and US
6 Wildlife concerning downstream flows, temperature, and powerhouse releases. He stated
7 that there is an issue with upstream passage for fish requiring gates for eels and other fish
8 to pass through. He stated that the attorneys and lobbyists has started to work on this
9 issue from a different angle. He stated that the eel fish issue moved from the Atlanta
10 region to the Albuquerque region because of the Livingston Project. He stated that the
11 decision was “reservation to the Authority” and that’s what we hope the outcome of our
12 decision would be that if in the future the eel stack up at the dam, then a procedure would
13 be implemented to allow passage. He stated that a meeting was held with the US Forest
14 Service with SRA managing their six recreation areas. He stated that discussions are
15 being held on erosion and cultural resources and Chinese Tallow. He presented each
16 member with a copy of information concerning the land exchange written by local
17 Senators. He stated that there are still several meetings to be held to continue the process.

18 Item #3-Operational: Mr. Carr stated that four (4) SRA boat launches were open: Oak
19 Ridge, San Miguel, Cypress Bend, and Pleasure Point. He stated that at Cypress Bend
20 Park both floating piers have been completed. He stated that at Clyde’s Crossing the
21 project is complete and was financed by Rivers Builders Supply along with the TBLA
22 and SRA provided the construction crew. He continued that at San Miguel roofing and
23 siding was complete on eight (8) of the A-frame cabins and the crew is working on
24 remodeling the inside of one of the cabins. He stated that the site prep work is
25 approximately 90% complete for the RV pad layout. He stated that instillation of the
26 utilities should began in February, but wet weather has shut down the project for now.
27 He stated that the stump removal contract with Kays Construction was complete and
28 approximately 47 miles of the main North/South lanes were cleared. He stated that these
29 47 miles could be declared safe at 163’ msl. He stated that the Sabine Parish Tourist
30 Commission was given the information and they are distributing maps for the public. He
31 stated that at the Diversion Canal, Pump #2 at Station #3 was repaired, installed and

1 running well and the rental pumps have been removed which eliminates that expense.

2 **Mr. Goodeaux moved, seconded by Mr. Nash to approve the Staff Reports as**
3 **presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

4 OLD BUSINESS: Public Comments:

5 NEW BUSINESS: Public Comments: None

6 **Item #1-Approve November and December 2011 Financial reports: Mrs.**

7 Ferguson stated that the reports were circulated within the Board packet. She stated that
8 year-to-date for Toledo Bend Division showed revenues of \$2,020,094.40; expenditures
9 of \$4,068,761.05 leaving a deficit of \$2,048,666.65. She stated that the year-to-date for
10 the Sabine River Diversion Canal showed revenues of \$2,303,607.29; expenditures of
11 \$1,225,609.58 leaving a profit of \$1,077,997.71. She stated that the power is at a
12 “negative” due to the electrical utilities that is normally deducted from the power that has
13 been generated. **Mrs. Scott moved, seconded by Mr. Cupit to approve the November**
14 **and December 2011 Financial Reports as circulated and presented. Motion carried**
15 **unanimously.**

16 Item #2-Consider Executive Director’s Contract: Mr. Pratt stated that a copy of
17 the contract had been provided within the Board packet. He asked if there were questions.

18 **Mr. Cupit moved, seconded by Mr. Kelly to approve the Executive Director’s**
19 **contract as circulated. Mr. Vidrine called for questions..Mr. Goodeaux stated that**
20 **he would like to have inserted to the contract that under compensation the 4%**
21 **increase would not be applied in the event the SRA’s employees are not eligible for**
22 **annual increases due to directives from the State Civil Service Commission or an**
23 **Executive Order from the Governor. Mr. Cupit withdrew his initial motion. Mr.**
24 **Cupit moved, seconded by Mr. Goodeaux to approve the Executive Director’s four-**
25 **year contract and to include the statement: “Such annual increases will not be**
26 **applied in the event that SRA’s employees are not eligible for annual increases due**
27 **to directives from the State Civil Service Commission or an Executive Order from**
28 **the Governor. Motion carried unanimously.**

29 COMMITTEE REPORTS: #1-Diversion Canal- Mr. Pratt stated no meeting.

30 Item #2- Development & Parks: Mr. Goodeaux stated that the Committee had met on
31 January 17th to discuss the Recreation Management Plan for the Louisiana side of the

1 reservoir. He stated that this is part of the continuing re-licensing process and the public
2 could issue comments until February 6th and then a final draft would be sent to FERC in
3 March. He stated that there were no major changes to the current program except the
4 additions made to San Patricio and Clyde's Crossing. Item #3-Leaseback &
5 Cutting/Marking: Mr. Vidrine stated that the Committee had met prior to the Board
6 meeting. He stated that Mr. & Mrs. Troy Jackson had addressed the Committee
7 concerning their leaseback fees and asked that the SRA staff research why they were now
8 paying a yearly fee. He stated that Brent Templet with the Louisiana Contractor's
9 Licensing Board addressed the Committee and asked that the SRA shoreline department
10 provide the public with their information when they come to SRA for permits to build
11 docks, piers, etc., concerning the hiring of licensed contractors to perform work or if the
12 individual is going to do the work, ask them to sign an affidavit stating as such and their
13 office would pick these forms up at a later date and the Committee is recommending that
14 the Board approve this request. **Mr. Kelly moved, seconded by Mr. Cupit to approve**
15 **the SRA Shoreline Department distributing information on behalf of the LA**
16 **Contractors' Licensing Board concerning the building projects on the reservoir and**
17 **to keep signed affidavits for the licensing representative to pickup these forms.**
18 **Motion carried unanimously.** Mr. Vidrine stated that CCG Vertis had made a permit
19 request which all information was included in the Board packet except the insurance
20 information which was presented at the Committee and the Committee recommends that
21 the Board approve this permit. **Mr. Cupit moved, seconded by Mr. Nash to approve**
22 **the Permit Request by CCG Vertis as circulated and presented. Motion carried**
23 **unanimously.**

24 SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS: #1-Finance & Personnel: Mr. Williams
25 stated no meeting. Item #2- Water Sales- Mr. Kelly stated no meeting but he would get
26 with staff and set a date for a public forum to answer the questions received during the
27 comment period on the water sales. Item #3-Fishery & Lake Management: Mr. Vidrine
28 stated no meeting.

29 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Mr. Pratt stated that he had no more to
30 report. **Mr. Goodeaux moved, seconded by Mrs. Scott to approve the Executive**
31 **Director's report.**

1 LEGAL REPORT: Mr. Pratt presented each member with a “rebuttal” to the
2 Temple vs SRA Suit. He continued that there was no word on the Sanders’ suit;
3 however, the marina operators that have been contacted since the last meeting have
4 decided to cooperate with the SRA to correct their leaseback violations. He stated that
5 the downstream litigation of 2001 Class action suit has not had any movement.

6 Mr. Vidrine reminded the Board that the next regular meeting would be held on
7 Thursday, February 23rd, 2012 at 1:00pm at the Pendleton Bridge Office.

8 With no further business to discuss, Mr. Vidrine asked for a motion to adjourn.

9 **Mr. Cupit moved, seconded by Mrs. Scott to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting**
10 **adjourned at 1:54pm.**

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STANLEY VIDRINE, CHAIRMAN

DANIEL CUPIT, VICE-CHAIRMAN

BOBBY WILLIAMS, SECRETARY