

1 **MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE**
2 **SABINE RIVER AUTHORITY**
3 **STATE OF LOUISIANA**
4 **BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**
5 **CYPRESS BEND RESORT BALLROOM**
6 **2000 CYPRESS BEND PARKWAY**
7 **MANY, LA 71449**
8 **1:00PM THURSDAY, JUNE 27, 2024**
9

- 10
11 **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. Kenneth Ebarb, Vice-Chairman
12 Mr. Shane Jeane, Secretary
13 Mrs. Rhonda Cupit
14 Mr. Jimmy Foret, Jr
15 Mr. Byron Gibbs
16 Mr. Ned Goodeaux
17 Mr. Mike McCormic
18 Mr. Kevin Mitchell
19 Mr. Therman Nash
20 Mrs. Estella Scott
21 Mr. Stanley Vidrine
22

23 **MEMBERS ABSENT:** None.

- 24
25 **OTHERS PRESENT:** Warren Founds, Executive Director-SRA, Many, LA
26 Becky Anderson, Adm Asst 5-SRA, Many, LA
27 Mike Carr, Fac. Maint. Mgr-SRA, Many, LA
28 Kellie Ferguson, Adm Prog Dir 3-SRA, Many, LA
29 Kim Ford, Adm Prog Mgr 3-SRA, Many, LA
30 Alan Fulton, Eng. Tech 2-SRA, Many, LA
31 Joey Remedies, Fac. Maint. Mgr C-SRA, Many, LA
32 Chad Strother, Land Specialist 3-SRA, Many, LA
33

34 **There were twenty-one (21) visitors.**
35

36
37 Mr. Ebarb called the meeting to order. Mr. Ebarb stated the Mr. Evans and Mrs.
38 Savell had both resigned since the last meeting due to personal obligations. Mr. Nash
39 offered the Prayer and Mr. Jeane led the Pledge. The roll was called and it was noted that
40 all were present; therefore, a quorum was established. **Motion carried unanimously.**

41 Mr. Ebarb asked for a motion to adopt the agenda if there were no additions and
42 deletions. **Mr. Foret moved, seconded by Mr. Gibbs to adopt the circulated agenda.**
43 **Motion carried unanimously.**

44 Mr. Ebarb stated that the minutes of the April 25, 2024 meeting were in the packet
45 and asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting, if there were no
46 corrections. **Mr. Foret moved, seconded by Mr. Mitchell to approve the circulated**
47 **minutes of the Board meeting of April 25, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.**

48 **STAFF REPORTS: Item #1-TBPJO- Power House Operations:** Mr. Fulton
49 stated that year-to-date thru May 15th, run hours were Unit #1-2,345 hrs. and Unit #2-

1 2,153 hrs. He stated that total generation year-to-date thru June 19th is 230,419 MWH.
2 He stated that an update on the Power House Set Up Transformer Replacement Project no
3 new update. He continued that March through June we are obligated to run a minimum
4 of one unit for 3 hrs. starting at Noon every Saturday & Sunday. **Reservoir**
5 **Levels/Status:** He stated that the Toledo Bend Project Spillway Electrical
6 Improvements-Phase #1 No update. He stated that the average reservoir level for as for
7 May was 172.44'MSL and the date to June 20th was 172.58'MSL. **RELEASES:** He
8 stated that during May the total releases through the Power House and the Spillway was
9 1,576,109 AC FT and up to June 19th total release have been 1,222,661 AC FT.
10 **FERC/NERC/SERC:** He stated that Certrec Corporation continues to provide support
11 to SRA-TX and SRA-LA for NERC/SERC/FERC compliance issues for Power House.
12 He stated that the annual FERC inspection has been rescheduled for July 31st and August
13 1st. **ADVISORIES:** He stated that as of June 19th, the last issued advisory was #11
14 released on June 15, 2024 when the reservoir reached 172.20'MSL and the Spillway
15 releases changed from 11,000cfs to 5,000cfs.
16 **Item #2-Shoreline: Permitting Activity:** Mr. Strother stated that from April
17 18th, 2024 thru June 20th, 2024, there were (11 new structure permits, (34) transferred
18 structure permits, (3) new water withdrawal(s), (6) transferred water withdrawals, (3)
19 cancelled water withdrawal, (1) shoreline improvement (erosion control/dredge), (7)
20 approved final inspections and (0) failed final inspection. **NORTH-Converse area:** 0-
21 new structures; 0-transferred structures; 0-transferred water withdrawals and 0-cancelled
22 water withdrawal. **NORTH-Noble area:** 0 new structures; 3-transferred structures; 0-
23 new water withdrawal; 0-transferred water withdrawal and 0-cancelled water withdrawal;
24 **NORTH-Zwolle area:** 4-new structures; 5-transferred structure; 0-new water
25 withdrawal; 0-transferred water withdrawal; 1- cancelled water withdrawal. **MID**
26 **LAKE-Many area:** 5-new structures; 21-transferred structures; 3-new water
27 withdrawal; 6-transferred water withdrawal; 2-cancelled water withdrawals; 0-shoreline
28 improvements. **SOUTH-Florien:** 2-new structures; 5-transferred structures; 0-new water
29 withdrawal; 0-transferred water withdrawal and 0-cancelled water withdrawal.
30 **FLOWAGE EASEMENTS:** He stated that there was none to report at this time.
31 **ENCROACHMENT PROGRAM:** He stated that there was one encroachment

1 correction that was cleared by leaseback exception permit. **OTHER:** He stated that
2 there were none to report at this time.

3 **Item #3-Operational: TOLEDO BEND:** Mr. Remedies stated that the
4 drainage issue at Cypress Bend Resort has been addressed with some other repairs that
5 need to be completed. He stated that the lighting at Pendleton Bridge has not been
6 repaired. He stated that it is felt there is a short within the line and it has to be traced in
7 order to repair which staff anticipates doing in the near future. **SRD:** He stated that The
8 bid for the fourth pump and motor for Pump Station #1 has been accepted, Meyer &
9 Associates are working to get this project moving forward. Staff has sent out a purchase
10 order number for the repair of Motor #1 at Pump Station #3, to Dynamic Drive Source
11 International, Inc. (bearing failure). The fencing contractor is working to complete the
12 remainder of our hurricane Laura damages to our fences at the main office and Pump
13 Station #1. SRA crew has removed 4 leaking irrigation gates and one levee leak, and will
14 continue levee repairs next month due to beaver damage. He stated that he wanted to
15 commend Mr. Billy Nixon who is actually the mechanic for the agency, built the parts
16 needed to do the repairs at home in his shop with materials that SRA purchased and the
17 parts worked really well. He continued that Mr. Joey Cartinez and the other crew that
18 worked on the Resort project did a great job too.

19 **Financial Report:** Mrs. Ferguson stated that the total revenues for the Toledo
20 Bend Division for the month of April were \$1,053,489.09, expenses were \$1,062,007.27
21 leaving a loss of \$8,518.18. She stated that for the month of May revenues were
22 \$1,437,108.71, expenses were \$979,259.80 leaving a profit of \$457,848.91. She stated
23 that the year-to-day total revenues were \$10,207,558.58; expenses were \$9,610,712.46
24 showing a profit of \$593,846.12. She stated that revenues for the month of April for the
25 Diversion Canal Division were \$596,715.47, expenses were \$307,458.63 leaving a profit
26 of \$289,256.84. She stated that for the month of May, revenues were \$677,446.66,
27 expenses were \$336,640.11 leaving a profit of \$340,806.55. She continued that the year-
28 to-date totals were revenues \$6,585,196.99; expenses were \$3,676,086.14 leaving a profit
29 of \$2,909,110.85. She stated that included in the meeting packet was a copy of the
30 Capital Improvement Program reports for both divisions. She stated that staff would like
31 to request to closeout Projects 7A-200, 11-7100, 204-700, and 204-800 and allocate the

1 remaining funds to add picnic shelters at San Miguel for a total of \$14,073.89 to be added
2 to Project #7A-2500. She also stated that staff would like approval to demolish the old
3 enclosed pavilion at 7A. **Mr. Goodeaux moved, seconded by Mr. Mitchell to approve**
4 **the closeout of Projects #7A-200, 11-7100, 204-700 and 204-800 and to reallocate the**
5 **remaining funds from these projects to Project #7A-2500 which the total funds to be**
6 **moved is \$14,073.89. Motion carried unanimously.** Mrs. Ferguson stated that the
7 agency purchased six vehicles from TBPIO for \$68,000. She stated the office would be
8 closed Wednesday (July 3rd) and Thursday (July 4th) since the Governor gave us an extra
9 day. She stated that instead of participating with the life jacket give away this year
10 through KTBS Channel 3 in Shreveport instead the funds purchased spots to advertise the
11 Christmas Lights and there will be a 30-minute segment to showcase the lights as well.
12 She stated that the annual audit will take place the first of August and information
13 requests are already being prepared by the staff. **Mr. Foret moved, seconded by Mr.**
14 **Vidrine to approve staff reports as circulated and presented. Motion carried**
15 **unanimously.**

16 **SPECIAL REPORTS:** None.

17 **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Mr. Harry Henry addressed the Board concerning the
18 amount of erosion on the southwest side of Lanau Creek bridge and asked for direction as
19 to who to have the area checked for a possible solution for the issue. Mr. Ebarb thanked
20 Mr. Henry for notifying the Board of the current issue.

21 **OLD BUSINESS: Item #1: Final Acceptance of Budget FY'24-'25:** Mrs.
22 Ferguson stated that a copy of the final budget for fiscal year '24-'25 was included in the
23 meeting packet for review. She continued this budget included all expenses including
24 those from the Toledo Bend Project Joint Operations. **Mr. Foret moved, seconded by**
25 **Mr. Vidrine to accept the final Budget for FY'24-'25 as circulated and presented.**
26 **Motion carried unanimously.**

27 **NEW BUSINESS: Item #1-Selection of Official Journal-The Sabine Index:**
28 Mr. Ebarb stated that each year, it was necessary to select an official journal for the
29 agency. He stated that it must be domiciled within the parish and The Sabine Index is the
30 only newspaper that could serve in this capacity. He asked for a motion to approve the
31 selection for the official journal. **Mrs. Cupit moved, seconded by Mr. Gibbs to**

1 **approve the selection of The Sabine Index as the Official Journal for the agency.**

2 **Motion carried unanimously.**

3 **Item #2-Election of Chairman, Vice-Chairman, & Secretary:** Mr. Ebarb
4 opened the floor for nominations for Chairman. **Mr. Goodeaux nominated Mr. Ebarb,**
5 **seconded by Mrs. Cupit for Chairman and nominations cease. Mr. Ebarb elected**
6 **by acclamation.** Mr. Ebarb opened the floor for nominations for Vice-Chairman. **Mr.**
7 **Foret nominated Mr. Gibbs seconded by Mr. Vidrine and nominations cease. Mr.**
8 **Gibbs elected by acclamation.** Mr. Ebarb opened the floor for nominations for
9 Secretary. **Mr. Vidrine nominated Mr. Jeane seconded by Mr. Foret and**
10 **nominations cease. Mr. Jeane elected by acclamation.**

11 **Item #3-Adopt Resolution Delegation of Appointing Authority:** Mrs. Ferguson
12 stated that a copy of the resolution was enclosed in the packet and asked if there were no
13 questions, staff requested this to be adopted. **Mr. Gibbs moved, seconded by Mr.**
14 **Vidrine to adopt the resolution for Delegation of Appointing Authority as**
15 **circulated. Motion carried unanimously.**

16 **Item #4-Adopt Resolution Purchasing Authority:** Mrs. Ferguson stated that a
17 copy of this resolution was included in the meeting packet and it gives the Executive
18 Director authority to spend up to \$25,000 for purchases for the agency. **Mr. Jeane**
19 **moved, seconded by Mr. Vidrine to adopt the resolution for Purchasing Authority**
20 **as circulated allowing the Executive Director to make purchases up \$25,000.**
21 **Motion carried unanimously.**

22 **Item #5-Approve Legislative Compliance Questionnaire:** Mrs. Ferguson
23 stated that a copy of the questionnaire was enclosed in the meeting packet. She stated
24 that she completes the form on behalf of the Board and asked that if there were no
25 necessary corrections, that the Board approve the document. **Mr. Mitchell moved,**
26 **seconded by Mr. McCormic to approve the Legislative Compliance Questionnaire**
27 **as circulated. Motion carried unanimously.**

28 **Item #6-Approve Taylor, Porter, Brooks, & Phillips Contract:** Mrs. Ferguson
29 stated that the staff is requesting approval of the contract for legal counsel in the amount
30 of \$50,000 for Taylor, Porter, Brooks, & Phillips, LLC. **Mr. Foret moved, seconded by**
31 **Mrs. Cupit to approve the Taylor, Porter, Brooks, & Phillips, LLC contract in the**

1 **amount of \$50,000 and authorize the Executive Director to execute the necessary**
2 **documents. Motion carried unanimously.**

3 **Item #7-Recommendation for Deputy Director:** Mr. Founds stated that after
4 some consideration, he would like to recommend that the Deputy Director Position be
5 granted to Mrs. Kellie Ferguson who's been with the agency almost thirty years. She
6 knows and completely understands the operations of the agency. He stated that a copy of
7 her contract was included in the meeting packet and if there was no need for further
8 discussion, I ask the Board to approve my recommendation. **Mr. Goodeaux moved,**
9 **seconded by Mr. Gibbs to approve the recommendation of Mrs. Kellie Ferguson to**
10 **the contractual position of Deputy Director for three years. Motion carried**
11 **unanimously.**

12 **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

13 **1) Diversion Canal:** No meeting.

14 **2) Toledo Bend Division:** No meeting.

15 **3) Parks:** No Meeting.

16 **4) Finance:** **Mr. Goodeaux moved, seconded by Mrs. Scott to approve the**
17 **minutes of the Finance Meeting of April 24, 2024 as circulated. Motion**
18 **carried unanimously.**

19 **5) Cypress Bend Golf Resort:** No meeting.

20 **6) Toledo Bend Project Operations:** Mr. McCormic stated that a meeting had
21 been held on May 30th. He stated that the Audit for FY'23 along with the auditor-
22 Broussard-Poche' for FY'24 was approved. He stated that several items were
23 approved as surplus and are to be disposed. He stated that the Dam Safety
24 Program was approved. He stated that approved amending the Budget FY'24 for
25 legal fees. He continued that the Budget for FY'25 was approved.

26 **LEGAL REPORT:** Mr. Founds stated that the 2016 Suit had been rescheduled
27 for February of 2025; however, the attorneys will continue to work on preparation for the
28 trial.

29 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Mr. Founds stated that he wanted to
30 share a few facts about the amount of inflow and releases of the reservoir thus far. He
31 stated that year-to-date inflow has been 6,500,000 acre feet and 3,500,000 acre feet has

1 gone through the generators and 3,000,000 acre feet has been release through the
2 spillway gates. He continued to say that the reservoir has received 3,200,000 acre feet
3 more than what was received during the same time last year. **Mr. Gibbs moved,**
4 **seconded by Mr. Jeane to approve the legal and Executive Director’s report as**
5 **presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

6 Mr. Ebarb stated that the next meeting would be Thursday, July 25, 2024, at 1PM
7 at Cypress Bend Resort Ballroom.

8 With no further business to discuss, Mr. Ebarb asked for a motion to adjourn.
9 **Mr. McCormic moved, seconded by Mrs. Cupit to adjourn. Motion carried**
10 **unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 1:59p.m.**

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KENNETH EBARB, ACTING CHAIRMAN

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ATTEST: _____
SHANE JEANE, SECRETARY

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