

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
SABINE RIVER AUTHORITY
STATE OF LOUISIANA
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
CYPRESS BEND RESORT
2000 CYPRESS BEND PARKWAY
MANY, LA 71449
11:00AM THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2023

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Kenneth Ebarb, Vice-Chairman
Mr. Shane Jeane, Secretary
Mrs. Rhonda Cupit
Mr. Byron Gibbs
Mr. Ned Goodeaux
Mr. Kevin Mitchell
Mr. Therman Nash
Mrs. Hannah Savell
Mrs. Estella Scott
Mr. Stanley Vidrine

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mr. Jeremy Evans, Chairman
Mr. Jimmy Foret, Jr
Mr. Mike McCormic

OTHERS PRESENT: Warren Found, Executive Director-SRA, Many, LA
Becky Anderson, Adm Asst 5-SRA, Many, LA
Kellie Ferguson, Adm Prog Dir 3-SRA, Many, LA
Alan Fulton, Eng. Tech 2-SRA, Many, LA
Joey Remedies, Fac. Maint Mgr 3-SRA, Many, LA
Chad Strother, Land Specialist 3-SRA, Many, LA

There were eleven (10) visitors.

Mr. Ebarb called the meeting to order in the absence of Mr. Evans who had a family emergency. Mr. Nash offered the Prayer and Mrs. Cupit led the Pledge. The roll was called and it was noted that Mr. Evans, Mr. Foret, and Mr. McCormic were absent; however, a quorum was established.

Mr. Ebarb asked if there were any additions or deletions to the circulated agenda? Hearing none, he asked for a motion to adopt the circulated agenda. Mr. Gibbs moved, seconded by Mr. Vidrine to adopt the circulated agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ebarb stated that the minutes of the September 28, 2023 meeting were in the packet and asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting, if there were no corrections. Mr. Goodeaux moved, seconded by Mr. Mitchell to approve the minutes of the Board meeting of September 28, 2023 as circulated. Motion carried unanimously.

1 **STAFF REPORTS: Item #1-TBPJO- Power House Operations:** Mr. Fulton
2 stated that as of December 7th, total generation for the year was 210,619 MWH; however
3 no generation since . He stated that the only update on the Power House Step Up
4 Transformer Replacement Project is that the Switch Gear is to be delivered February 15,
5 2024. **Reservoir Levels/Status:** The average reservoir level through September was
6 168.31' msl, October 167.81' msl, and November as of the 29th 167.66 'msl. He stated that
7 through the months of October, November, and December attempts will be made to keep
8 the reservoir near a level of 168.0' msl in anticipation of 168.5' msl for January.
9 **FERC/NERC/SERC:** Certrec Corporation continues to provide support to SRA-TX and
10 SRA-LA for NERC/SERC/FERC compliance issues for Power House.
11 **Item #2-Shoreline: Permitting Activity:** Mr. Strother stated that from
12 September 21, 2023, thru November 30, 2023, there were (11) new structure permits,
13 (10) transferred structure permits, (3) new water withdrawal(s), (1) transferred water
14 withdrawals, (1) cancelled water withdrawals, (12) shoreline improvements
15 (dredge/erosion control), (5) approved final inspections and (0) failed final inspection.
16 **NORTH-Converse area:** 0-new structures; 0-transferred structures; 0-transferred water
17 withdrawals and 0-cancelled water withdrawal. **NORTH-Noble area:** 0 new structures;
18 0-transferred structures; 0-new water withdrawal; 0-transferred water withdrawal and 0-
19 cancelled water withdrawal; **NORTH-Zwolle area:** 2-new structures; 2-transferred
20 structure; 0-new water withdrawal; 0-transferred water withdrawal; 0- cancelled water
21 withdrawal. **MID LAKE-Many area:** 6-new structures; 7-transferred structures; 2-new
22 water withdrawal; 1-transferred water withdrawal; 1-cancelled water withdrawals; 0-
23 shoreline improvements. **SOUTH-Florien:** 3-new structures; 1-transferred structures; 1-
24 new water withdrawal; 0-transferred water withdrawal and 0-cancelled water withdrawal.
25 **FLOWAGE EASEMENTS:** He stated that Jason Gauthier's .685-acre lot on Woodland
26 Drive off of Carter Ferry was approved for a flowage permit. **OTHER:** He stated that
27 the pipeline repair has begun in the Tennessee Bay Road area and there are three pipes at
28 various points to be repaired. He stated that staff had had a meeting with the owner of
29 Shadows' Landing to discuss him applying for a commercial permit and the need to clean
30 up some of the mobile home issues. He continued that two were to be moved this week

1 and there are four more to be moved at a later date so he understands and has agreed to
2 move forward with the clean-up of his property.

3 **Item #3-Operational: TOLEDO BEND:** Mr. Remedies stated that the crew has
4 been busy with Christmas lights and there was nothing else to report. **SRD:** Mr.
5 Remedies stated that no issues to report.

6 **Financial Report:** Mrs. Ferguson stated that she would like to report that the
7 Christmas Lighting Project for the first week had 3,400 visitors and the total amount of
8 fees collected for that time period was \$8,080.00. She stated that this has more than
9 offset any expenses for the project and it's only the first week. She stated that the Annual
10 Employee Recognition Luncheon would be held on Thursday, December 14th at Cypress
11 Bend Resort. She stated that the financial report was mailed in the meeting packet. She
12 stated that reviewing the report for the Diversion Canal Division year-to-date through
13 October 2023, revenues were \$2,660,030.09; expenses were \$1,350,636.26 leaving a
14 profit of \$1,309,393.83. She stated that reviewing the report for the Toledo Bend
15 Division year-to-date through October 2023, revenues were \$2,824,540.95; expenses
16 were \$2,968,674.06 showing a loss of \$144,133.11. **Mr. Goodeaux moved, seconded**
17 **by Mr. Mitchell to approve the Staff Reports as circulated and presented. Motion**
18 **carried unanimously.**

19 **SPECIAL REPORTS: None.**

20 **PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.**

21 **OLD BUSINESS: Item #1-Discuss Emergency Pump Station #1 Repair:**

22 Mr. Remedies stated that Pump #2 at Pump Station #1 needed to be repaired. He stated
23 that a new pump would cost approximately \$704,000 and take up to a year to receive. He
24 continued that to rebuild the existing pump would cost approximately half of the cost of a
25 new pump. He stated that staff is recommending that the pump be repaired. **Mr.**
26 **Goodeaux moved, seconded by Mr. Mitchell to approve an additional \$200,000 to**
27 **major repairs at SRD to fund the Emergency Pump Station #1 Repair not to exceed**
28 **\$400,000 total for the repairs. Motion carried unanimously.**

29 **Item #2-Approve SRD Project #18-Substantially Complete: Mr. Remedies**
30 stated that this project was the bridge(s) repair at the Canal. He continued that Meyer &
31 Associate had inspected the repairs as well as the SRD Staff and the repairs were
32 considered satisfactorily completed. He stated that staff is recommending that this

1 project be considered substantially complete and authorized the Executive Director to
2 execute the necessary documents. **Mr. Jeane moved, seconded by Mr. Gibbs to**
3 **approve the SRD Project #18 as substantially complete and authorize the Executive**
4 **Director to execute the necessary documents. Motion carried unanimously.**

5 **Item #3-Adopt Resolution for Executive Director's Purchase Approval:** Mrs.
6 Ferguson stated that a draft of the resolution was circulated within the meeting packet.
7 She stated that staff felt this was a necessary item to satisfy any future questions by the
8 Auditor. She stated that staff has always paid utilities, insurance, and Toledo Bend Joint
9 Operations invoices even if they were over the spending authority of the Executive
10 Director. **Mr. Gibbs moved, seconded by Mr. Nash to adopt the Resolution**
11 **circulated within the meeting packet, and presented. Yeas: 9 Nays: 1 Motion**
12 **carried.**

13 **Item #4-Update from ALH, No.5 on Renovation-Mr. Randy Rolland,**
14 **General Manager:** Mr. Rolland stated that ALH has spent in the excess of \$400,040.00
15 "for capital expenditures renovating, maintaining and upgrading the ALH owned guest
16 rooms and facilities". He stated that an additional \$206,000 bids have been approved for
17 a new roof for the hotel, and continued renovations within the hotel. He stated that there
18 was an issue with the Wi-Fi but hopefully within the next few days, that issue will be
19 repaired. He stated that Mr. Nick Massad thank you to the SRA for everything that has
20 been done and look forward to the future.

21 **NEW BUSINESS: Item #1-Approve Purchase of Vibratory Hammer for**
22 **Excavator:** Mr. Remedies stated that with this additional piece of equipment that
23 attaches to the excavator would allow the SRA crew to perform work on the seawalls
24 instead of having to contract a job. He stated that the approximate cost would be
25 \$30,000. **Mr. Vidrine moved, seconded by Mr. Jeane to approve the purchase of a**
26 **vibratory hammer attachment for the excavator (compactor head) not to exceed the**
27 **cost of \$40,000. Motion carried unanimously.**

28 **Item #2-Ratify Purchase of Three Boat Motors:** Mrs. Ferguson stated that staff
29 had received an email from State Surplus that showed there were three boat motors
30 available for \$10,000 each. She continued that SRA owns two buoy boats and was in
31 need to a spare motor. She stated that when staff priced a new motor and found that

1 delivery could take up to one year, it was felt that it was a “win-win” situation for SRA to
2 purchase the motors. She stated that a call was made and SRA only had five days to go
3 to Baton Rouge and pick up the motors; so staff chose to purchase these motors and are
4 asking the Board to approve the expenditure since it was over the Executive Director’s
5 spending authority by \$5,000. She stated that when staff arrived, all three motors were
6 brand new. **Mr. Jeane moved, seconded by Mr. Vidrine to approve ratification of the**
7 **expenditure of \$30,000 for three board motors for the Toledo Bend Division.**
8 **Motion carried unanimously.**

9 **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- 10 1) **Diversion Canal: No meeting.**
11 2) **Toledo Bend Division: No meeting.**
12 3) **Parks: No meeting.**
13 4) **Finance: No meeting.**
14 5) **Cypress Bend Golf Resort: No meeting.**
15 6) **Toledo Bend Project Operations: No meeting.**

16 Mrs. Anderson stated that in January, each committee would be convened in order
17 to elect a chairman.

18 **LEGAL REPORT:** Mr. Founds stated that there were no updates.

19 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:** Mr. Founds stated that he wanted to
20 share how things have gone with the first six months of the new power contract. He
21 stated that six years ago we entered a five-year contract at the price of \$54 MWH. He
22 stated then the new contract with Nextera began which was based on \$60.48 MWH;
23 however, he continued that to-date SRA has been paid approximately \$85 MWH based
24 on the contract and actual generation thus far. He stated that the other item is the out-of-
25 state water sale. He stated that it was discussed to table any action until after the new
26 administration took office. He stated that at the Sabine River Compact meeting, in
27 general conversation and not as an agenda item, the question arose whether the Compact
28 had any authority relative to an out-of-state. He stated that he had contacted Michelle
29 Hall, who works in the Attorney General’s Office and represents Louisiana at the
30 Compact meetings, to see about what is the necessary process would be to possibly move
31 forward on a water sale. He stated that it was suggested to reach out to the new

1 Governor-elect and Attorney General along with Michelle to discuss the issue. **Mr.**
2 **Goodeaux moved, seconded by Mr. Gibbs to approve the Executive Director's**
3 **report as presented. Motion carried unanimously.**
4 Mr. Ebarb stated that the next meeting would be Thursday, January 25, 2024 at
5 1PM at Cypress Bend Resort Ballroom, 2000 Cypress Bend Parkway, Many, LA.
6 With no further business to discuss, Mr. Ebarb asked for a motion to adjourn.
7 **Mrs. Cupit moved, seconded by Mrs. Savell to adjourn. Motion carried**
8 **unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 12:02p.m.**

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KENNETH EBARB, VICE-CHAIRMAN

15 **ATTEST:** Shane Jeane
16 **SHANE JEANE, SECRETARY**