

1 MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
2 SABINE RIVER AUTHORITY
3 STATE OF LOUISIANA
4 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
5 CYPRESS BEND RESORT LEARNING CENTER
6 2000 CYPRESS BEND PARKWAY
7 MANY, LA 71449
8 1:00PM THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2024
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11 **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

12 Mr. Kenneth Ebarb, Chairman
13 Mr. Byron Gibbs, Vice-Chairman
14 Mrs. Rhonda Cupit
15 Mr. Jimmy Foret, Jr
16 Mr. Ned Goodeaux
17 Mr. Mike McCormic
18 Mr. Kevin Mitchell
19 Mrs. Estella Scott
20 Mr. Stanley Vidrine

21 **MEMBERS ABSENT:**

22 Mr. Shane Jeane, Secretary
23 Mr. Therman Nash

24 **OTHERS PRESENT:**

25 Warren Foundas, Executive Director-SRA, Many, LA
26 Becky Anderson, Adm Asst 5-SRA, Many, LA
27 Kellie Ferguson, Adm Prog Dir 3-SRA, Many, LA
28 Kim Ford, Adm Prog Mgr 3-SRA, Many, LA
29 Alan Fulton, Eng. Tech 2-SRA, Many, LA
30 Joey Remedies, Fac. Maint. Mgr C-SRA, Many, LA
31 Chad Strother, Land Specialist 3-SRA, Many, LA

32 There were twenty-one (21) visitors.
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35 Mr. Ebarb called the meeting to order. Mr. Joey Remedies offered the Prayer and
36 Mr. Mitchell led the Pledge. The roll was called and it was noted that Mr. Jeane and Mr.
37 Nash were absent; however, a quorum was established. **Motion carried unanimously.**

38 Mr. Ebarb asked for a motion to adopt the agenda if there were no additions and
39 deletions. **Mr. Gibbs moved, seconded by Mrs. Cupit to adopt the circulated agenda.**

40 **Motion carried unanimously.**

41 Mr. Ebarb stated that the minutes of the June 27,2024 meeting were in the packet
42 and asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting, if there were no
43 corrections. **Mr. Foret moved, seconded by Mr. Mitchell to approve the circulated**
44 **minutes of the Board meeting of June 27, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.**

45 **STAFF REPORTS: Item #1-TBPJO- Power House Operations:** Mr. Fulton
46 stated that year-to-date thru June 19th, run hours were Unit #1-3,151 hrs. and Unit #2-
47 2,983 hrs. He stated that run hours thru July 16th were Unit #1-3,799 hrs. and Unit #2-
48 3,361 hrs. He stated that total generation year-to-date thru July 16th was 279,019 MWH.

1 He stated that an update on the Power House Set Up Transformer Replacement Project is
2 tentatively planned to begin the outage on October 1st. He continued that March through
3 June we are obligated to run a minimum of one unit for 3 hrs. starting at Noon every
4 Saturday & Sunday. **Reservoir Levels/Status:** He stated that the average reservoir level
5 for as for June was 172.51'MSL and the to-date thru July 17th was 170.67'MSL.
6 **RELEASES:** He stated that during June the total releases through the Power House and
7 the Spillway was 1,665,394 AC FT and up to July 16th total releases have been 433,575
8 AC FT. He continued that year-to-date releases totaled 6,336,235 AC FT.
9 **FERC/NERC/SERC:** He stated that Certrec Corporation continues to provide support
10 to SRA-TX and SRA-LA for NERC/SERC/FERC compliance issues for Power House.
11 He stated that the annual FERC inspection has been rescheduled for July 31st and August
12 1st. **ADVISORIES:** He stated that as of June 29th, the last issued advisory #14 was
13 released when the reservoir level reached 171.94' msl and the event was over with
14 Operations returning to normal.
15 **Item #2-Shoreline: Permitting Activity:** Mr. Strother stated that from June 20th
16 thru July 18th, 2024, there were (12) new structure permits, (7) transferred structure
17 permits, (2) new water withdrawal(s), (3) transferred water withdrawals, (0) cancelled
18 water withdrawal, (1) shoreline improvement (erosion control/dredge), (4) approved final
19 inspections and (0) failed final inspection. **NORTH-Converse area:** 1-new structures; 0-
20 transferred structures; 0-transferred water withdrawals and 0-cancelled water withdrawal.
21 **NORTH-Noble area:** 0 new structures; 0-transferred structures; 0-new water
22 withdrawal; 0-transferred water withdrawal and 0-cancelled water withdrawal; **NORTH-**
23 **Zwolle area:** 5-new structures; 2-transferred structure; 1-new water withdrawal; 0-
24 transferred water withdrawal; 1- cancelled water withdrawal. **MID LAKE-Many area:**
25 5-new structures; 3-transferred structures; 2-new water withdrawal; 1-transferred water
26 withdrawal; 2-cancelled water withdrawals; 0-shoreline improvements. **SOUTH-**
27 **Florien:** 1-new structures; 2-transferred structures; 0-new water withdrawal; 1-
28 transferred water withdrawal and 0-cancelled water withdrawal. **FLOWAGE**
29 **EASEMENTS:** He stated that there was none to report at this time.
30 **ENCROACHMENT PROGRAM:** He stated that there was one encroachment
31 correction that was cleared by leaseback exception permit. **OTHER:** He stated that bids

1 have been received for the removal of the South Toledo Bend Water intake tower which
2 was awarded to D&K Marine Construction with the start of the project in early October.

3 **Item #3-Operational: TOLEDO BEND:** Mr. Remedies stated that the lighting
4 at Pendleton Bridge has been repaired. He stated that the Pleasure Point Overlay was
5 underway. **SRD:** He stated that the fencing project at the office and at Pump Station #1 is
6 now complete. He stated that Capital Project #7-SCADA System upgrade is underway
7 with Sycon. He stated that the motor at Pump Station #3 that was down has been
8 repaired and installed.

9 **Financial Report:** Mrs. Ferguson stated that there was no report due to the end-
10 of-the year was just closed-out. She stated that the annual audit is scheduled for the first
11 week of August. She stated that a report should be available for the August meeting.

12 **Mr. Goodeaux moved, seconded by Mr. Mitchell to approve staff reports as**
13 **circulated and presented. Motion carried unanimously.**

14 **SPECIAL REPORTS:** None.

15 **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Mr. Ted Dove addressed the Board concerning a
16 water sales committee where an area resident could serve in an advisory position. He
17 stated that if the Board decides to choose someone, he would like to request the selection
18 be Mr. Jim Miffin who is very familiar with the previous proposed water sale and SRA's
19 operations. Mr. Miffin stated that he was very interested in serving in any capacity to
20 educate the public about the future of water sales from the reservoir.

21 **OLD BUSINESS: None.**

22 **NEW BUSINESS: Item #1-Approve a Vision Study to be performed by**
23 **“Center for Planning Excellence” for the future of the Agency:** Mr. Founds stated
24 that staff is requesting the Board to approve funding for a study to be conducted to see
25 what and how the local communities/civic groups/individuals feel that are needs to
26 improve the quality of life within the Toledo Bend Reservoir boundary of Louisiana and
27 how it would affect the Sabine River Authority. He continued that the study is to see if
28 the area needs more infrastructure, economic development, or even more recreational
29 opportunities. He stated that he had visited with the group called “Center for Planning
30 Excellence” (CPEX) about such a study. He stated that when visiting with other areas,
31 this particular group had performed studies for various areas such as our neighbor,
32 Vernon Parish and the study was very helpful to those looking to the future of the parish.
33 He stated that the cost of the study would be \$50,000 and would take approximately six

1 months to perform. After some discussion, Mr. Foret moved, seconded by Mr.
2 **McCormic to approve hiring “Center for Planning Excellence” to perform a future**
3 **vision study for the Agency at the cost of \$50,000. Motion carried unanimously.**
4 **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
5 1) **Diversion Canal:** No meeting.
6 2) **Toledo Bend Division:** No meeting.
7 3) **Parks:** No meeting.
8 4) **Finance:** No meeting.
9 5) **Cypress Bend Golf Resort:** No meeting.
10 6) **Toledo Bend Project Operations:** No meeting.
11 **LEGAL REPORT:** No updates.
12 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:** Mr. Founds stated that several
13 residents had asked about the possibility of establishing Osprey nesting platforms in the
14 reservoir. He stated that Mr. Gary Moore had contacted him about his concerns about the
15 Osprey were losing their nesting areas particularly since they liked the trees above the
16 water which are now rotting or blown over. He stated that a suggestion was to use an
17 area located around the Lanana area due to several of the birds have been seen trying to
18 return to a place to nest, but aren’t able to because most of the trees are gone. He stated
19 that this project would be handled between the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and
20 Fisheries and possibly the Toledo Bend Lake Association. He stated that the nest would
21 be a 3’by 3’ wood or steel flat framework similar to a pallet attached to a pole in the
22 water resembling an old standing tree trunk. He continued that staff thinks this would be
23 a good project and would ask the Board to approve allowing the group to move forward
24 with establishing a group to selecting three sites in the Lanana Area to install the
25 platforms. He stated that the SRA and LA WLF would help approve the sites based on
26 them not creating a problem for the boating public. Mr. Gibbs moved, seconded by Mr.
27 **Vidrine to approve establishing a pilot program group along with the LA Wildlife &**
28 **Fisheries and the SRA to select three sites in the Lanana Area to erect Osprey nesting**
29 **boxes with the sites to be pre-approved by both state agencies as to not create an**
30 **issue for the boating public. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Foret moved,**

1 seconded by Mr. Gibbs to approve the Legal and Executive Director's report as
2 presented. Motion carried unanimously.

3 Mr. Ebarb stated that the next meeting would be Thursday, August 22, 2024, at
4 1PM at Cypress Bend Resort Ballroom.

5 With no further business to discuss, Mr. Ebarb asked for a motion to adjourn.

6 Mrs. Cupit moved, seconded by Mrs. Gibbs to adjourn. Motion carried

7 unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 2:02p.m.

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11 KENNETH EBARB, CHAIRMAN

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13 BYRON GIBBS, VICE-CHAIRMAN

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17 ATTEST: 
18 SHANE JEANE, SECRETARY