

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
SABINE RIVER AUTHORITY  
STATE OF LOUISIANA  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
PENDLETON BRIDGE OFFICE  
15091 TEXAS HWY  
MANY, LA 71449  
1:00PM THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2024

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mr. Jeremy Evans, Chairman  
Mr. Kenneth Ebarb, Vice-Chairman  
Mr. Shane Jeane, Secretary (late)  
Mrs. Rhonda Cupit  
Mr. Jimmy Foret, Jr  
Mr. Ned Goodeaux  
Mr. Mike McCormic  
Mr. Stanley Vidrine

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Mr. Byron Gibbs  
Mr. Kevin Mitchell  
Mr. Therman Nash  
Mrs. Hannah Savell  
Mrs. Estella Scott

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Warren Founds, 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  
Chevy Medlock, Purchasing Agent-SRA, Many, LA  
Chad Strother, Land Specialist 3-SRA, Many, LA  
Susie Wright, Human Resources-SRA, Many, LA

There were four (4) visitors.

Mr. Evans called the meeting to order. Mr. Vidrine offered the Prayer and Mr.

Ebarb led the Pledge. The roll was called and it was noted that Mr. Gibbs, Mr. Mitchell,

Mr. Nash, Mrs. Savell, and Mrs. Scott were absent; however, a quorum was established.

**Motion carried unanimously.**

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

**Motion carried unanimously.**

Mr. Evans stated that the minutes of the January 25, 2025 meeting were in the packet and asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the meeting, if there were no

corrections. **Mr. McCormic moved, seconded by Mr. Ebarb to approve the**

**circulated minutes of the Board meeting of January 25, 2024 as circulated. Motion**

**carried unanimously.**

1       **STAFF REPORTS: Item #1-TBPJO- Power House Operations:** Mr. Fulton  
2       stated that year-to-date thru January 18th run hours were Unit #1-.33 hrs. and Unit #2-.33  
3       hrs. He stated that unit run hours through March 13, 2024 is Unit #1-1,120 hrs. and Unit  
4       #2-1,072 hrs. He stated that total generation year-to-date thru March 13<sup>th</sup> is 2,306 MWH.  
5       He stated that an update on the Power House Set Up Transformer Replacement Project is  
6       switch gear was delivered February 16<sup>th</sup>. He stated that the outage to complete the  
7       installation of the new transformers was postponed and Kiewit has demobilized until later  
8       this year. He stated that the operating guide allows generation above 169.5’MSL, then  
9       170’MSL the first half of April and then to 171’MSL the second half of the month. He  
10       continued that March through June we are obligated to run a minimum of one unit for 3  
11       hrs. starting at Noon every Saturday & Sunday.   **Reservoir Levels/Status:** He stated  
12       that the average reservoir level for January was 168.66’MSL, February 171.17’MSL and  
13       as of March 13<sup>th</sup>-169.95’MSL”msl.   **FERC/NERC/SERC:** He stated that Certrec  
14       Corporation continues to provide support to SRA-TX and SRA-LA for  
15       NERC/SERC/FERC compliance issues for Power House. He stated that FERC will  
16       perform their annual inspection on April 23<sup>rd</sup> & April 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024. He stated that HDR  
17       Engineering, Inc. has been selected to be our engineering consultant for FERC Part 12D-  
18       Comprehensive Assessment. He stated that a scope of work has been drafted and a  
19       Master Service Agreement has been signed.  
20       **Item #2-Shoreline: Permitting Activity:** Mr. Strother stated that from  
21       January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024 thru March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024, there were (11) new structure permits, (12)  
22       transferred structure permits, (0) new water withdrawal(s), (2) transferred water  
23       withdrawals, (8) approved final inspections and (0) failed final inspection. **NORTH-**  
24       **Converse area:** 0-new structures; 2-transferred structures; 0-transferred water  
25       withdrawals and 0-cancelled water withdrawal. **NORTH-Noble area:** 0 new structures;  
26       0-transferred structures; 0-new water withdrawal; 0-transferred water withdrawal and 0-  
27       cancelled water withdrawal; **NORTH-Zwolle area:** 1-new structures; 5-transferred  
28       structure; 0-new water withdrawal; 1-transferred water withdrawal; 0- cancelled water  
29       withdrawal. **MID LAKE-Many area:** 8-new structures; 2-transferred structures; 0-new  
30       water withdrawal; 1-transferred water withdrawal; 0-cancelled water withdrawals; 0-  
31       shoreline improvements. **SOUTH-Florien:** 2-new structures; 3-transferred structures; 0-

1 new water withdrawal; 0-transferred water withdrawal and 0-cancelled water withdrawal.

2 **FLOWAGE EASEMENTS:** He stated that there were none to report.

3 **ENCROACHMENT PROGRAM:** He stated that there were eight encroachments

4 approved; Six were done by Leaseback Exception Permits and Two were cleared by field

5 work and a survey.

6 **Item #3-Operational: TOLEDO BEND:** Mr. Remedies stated that the new

7 bathroom facility at San Miguel is completed and open for public use. He stated that the

8 Compactor Head has been delivered and staff has to have a hose to be connected so that it

9 can be mounted and ready for use. He stated that the crew has started the preparation for

10 the Pleasure Point Overlay Project. He stated that the new culverts have been installed

11 and the crew is currently removing trees and debris. He stated that he had several

12 complaints about the buoys and what staff has found that some of the buoys were sinking

13 due to the tops coming off the new shipment of pipe that was received. He stated that

14 SRA was able to return the pipe and received a new replacement shipment. He stated

15 that staff has received several requests for “No Wake Buoys” up in the River around

16 Garrett Park. After some discussion, staff will follow-up with LA Department of

17 Wildlife and Fisheries for recommendations. **SRD:** He stated that Pump #2 at Pump

18 Station #1 which needs repairs, there has been a Purchase Order prepared for the rebuild

19 and is in progress. He stated that it would take about 27-28 days for the rebuild of the

20 pump. He stated that there will be a Bid Opening on April 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Pendleton Office the

21 purchase of the 4<sup>th</sup> Motor to be installed at Pump Station #1. He stated that Motor #1 at

22 Pump Station # had a bearing failure and this is at no cost to SRA to be repaired within a

23 couple of weeks. He stated that the Fence Project at Pump Station #1 and the Main

24 Office which need repairs due to storm damages and that staff is preparing bid work

25 scope for these repairs.

26 **Financial Report:** Mrs. Ferguson stated that before she gives the financial

27 report, she wanted to call attention to the notice that was placed at your seats which

28 commends the SRA and two other agencies who received an Excellent Rating (90% or

29 higher in all categories and there were no major rule violations) for their Compliance

30 Audit 2023. She stated that she would like to recognize Ms. Susie Wright who heads the

31 Human Resource Department is responsible for this great accomplishment. She stated

1 that financial report was not included in the meeting packet because staff had been  
2 waiting on the Financial Report from TBPJO in order to make the journal entries. She  
3 stated that the total revenues for the Toledo Bend Division for the months of December,  
4 January and February were \$2,533,130.71, expenses were \$3,303,566.20 leaving a loss of  
5 \$770,435.49. She stated that the year-to-day total revenues were \$6,187,196.00;  
6 expenses were \$6,754,707.15 showing a loss of \$567,511.15. She stated that revenues  
7 for the months of December, January, and February for the Diversion Canal Division  
8 were \$1,597,518.94, expenses were \$1,028,608.21 leaving a profit of \$568,880.73. She  
9 continued that the year-to-date totals were revenues \$4,823,503.97; expenses were  
10 \$2,665,419.63 leaving a profit of \$2,158,084.34. **Mr. Goodeaux moved, seconded by**  
11 **Mr. Foret to approve staff reports as circulated and presented. Motion carried**  
12 **unanimously.**  
13 **SPECIAL REPORTS:** None.

14 **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Mr. Jim Mifflin asked about movement on the  
15 possible Water Sales. Mr. Founds stated that he would discuss this at the time of his  
16 report.

17 **OLD BUSINESS:** None.

18 **NEW BUSINESS: Item #1-Discuss & Approve Funding for Sewer Repair at**

19 **Cypress Bend Golf Resort Conference Center:** Mr. Founds stated that at the last  
20 meeting he had explained that there was an issue with the sewer system at the Conference  
21 Center. He stated that in locating the problem to some degree, it was found the issue was  
22 at the back side of the building coming from the bathrooms provided for the employees  
23 working the banquet and kitchen areas. He stated that a couple of companies had been  
24 onsite along with part of the SRA Maintenance Crew trying to decide exactly what was  
25 happening; however, the initial fix was to re-route the sewer waste until a more  
26 permanent repair plan could be developed and put into place. He stated that these  
27 companies had tried to get cameras into the drain to see exactly how far it was stopped up  
28 and if there were other issues. He stated that there was so much grime in the pipe that  
29 one of the cameras got stuck. He stated that it was hoped that a high pressure jet could  
30 help clean out the pipe in order to see where to begin digging up areas for the repairs. He  
31 said that Meyers & Associates' Engineering have an engineer that is going to help with  
32 the project. He stated that at this point, it is very difficult to say what the exact cost of the

1 project would be; however, staff is requesting that the Board approve funding to at least  
2 get this project underway. He stated that an estimated cost of \$375,000 had been  
3 suggested. He stated that After some discussion, **Mr. Goodeaux moved, seconded by**  
4 **Mr. Foret to approve up to \$250,000 to be funded through Capital Improvement**  
5 **Projects so that the project can move forward and authorize the Executive Director**  
6 **to execute any necessary documents for the project. Motion carried unanimously.**

7 **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

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

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

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

11 **4) Finance:** Mr. Goodeaux stated no meeting; however, there will be one in  
12 early April to discuss the Budget for '24-'25 Fiscal Year.

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

14 **6) Toledo Bend Project Operations:** No meeting.

15 **LEGAL REPORT:** Mr. Founds stated that the Islands on the Bend has been  
16 resolved. He stated that the in 2003 the SRA declared five tracts of land as surplus and  
17 selling those tracts through a "Request for Proposals" was completed with Jack Singleton  
18 this sale was completed this past week with Singleton purchasing those acres qualifying  
19 per the agreement. He stated that the property/project is located at the corner of Highway  
20 191 and 482 just north of Zwolle and adjacent to the Nantucket Cove Subdivision, which  
21 Mr. Singleton owns as well. He stated that the Bonin vs Sabine River Authority of Texas  
22 and Sabine River Authority, State of Louisiana which is a lawsuit as a result of the March  
23 2016 Flood is still pending. He stated that myself along with my counterpart from Texas  
24 answered a request for more information that would help in determining whether or not to  
25 proceed with a jury trial this June by the Judge with the Eastern District of the United  
26 States District Court-Texas Beaumont Division. He stated that the information provided  
27 by both agencies would help to determine if it is a Federal Taking of Land or not. Staff  
28 hopes that the judge decides in our favor and dismisses the case prior to time for the Jury  
29 Trial.

30 **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:** Mr. Founds stated that his report was  
31 included in the meeting packet. He stated that the Out-of-State Water Sale with

1 Aqueduct Werks was by tabled by a vote of the SRA Board of Commissioners at the  
2 September 2023 Board Meeting until after a new administration was in place. He stated  
3 that Aqueduct Werks is still actively pursuing the sale, involving a large pipeline  
4 company as a partner and soliciting input from political consultants and a public relations  
5 firm to help navigate through the political process for getting all the needed approvals.  
6 He continued that a meeting was held in February to discuss the issues relative to a water  
7 sale and steps needed to move forward. He stated that the current "Letter of Intent" to  
8 negotiate a water sale and steps needed to move forward runs through October 2024, and  
9 with the Board's approval, I would like to continue our efforts to establish the terms and  
10 conditions for a water that hopefully would get approved. After some discussion, Mr.  
11 Foret moved, seconded by Mrs. Cupit to approve the Executive Director moving  
12 forward with discussions/negotiations for a water sales agreement with Aqueduct  
13 Werks. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Foret moved, seconded by Mr. Jeane to  
14 approve the Legal and Executive Director's Report by circulation and presentation.

15 Motion carried unanimously.

16 Mr. Evans stated that the next meeting would be Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024, at  
17 1PM at Cypress Bend Resort Ballroom.

18 With no further business to discuss, Mr. Evans asked for a motion to adjourn.

19 Mrs. Cupit moved, seconded by Mr. Foret to adjourn. Motion carried

20 unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 2:12p.m.

21



JEREMY EVANS, CHAIRMAN



KENNETH EBARB, VICE-CHAIRMAN

28



ATTEST:

SHANE JEANE, SECRETARY

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