

**RED RIVER, ATCHAFALAYA & BAYOU BOEUF LEVEE DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

*Christopher Dausat, Vice President
Avoyelles*

*Andrew C. Leon, President
St. Landry*

*Chris Roy, Jr, Commissioner
Rapides*



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**OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS
RED RIVER, ATCHAFALAYA & BAYOU BOEUF LEVEE DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
August 8, 2023**

The Board of Commissioners of the Red River, Atchafalaya & Bayou Boeuf Levee District met at its regular meeting place, 10 Calvert Drive, Alexandria, Louisiana on Tuesday, August 8, 2023 at 9:00 o'clock a.m. The following were present: Mr. Andrew C. Leon, President and St. Landry Parish Commissioner; Mr. Christopher Dausat, Vice President and Avoyelles Parish Commissioner; Ryan Ingles, Executive Director; Trey Gist, Board Attorney; Ellen Burke, Administrative Coordinator; Jarmarquis Torrence (DOTD) and Guests. Absent: Mr. Chris Roy, Jr., Rapides Parish Commissioner.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Leon. The roll call of the meeting was performed by Mr. Ingles; Mr. Andrew C. Leon and Mr. Christopher Dausat were present. Mr. Chris Roy, Jr. was absent. Others in attendance were asked to identify themselves and offer any public comments they may have regarding the agenda. No public comments were made.

Motion by Mr. Andrew Leon and seconded by Mr. Christopher Dausat to add an item, Permit Request from John Chauffepied (Avoyelles Parish), to the agenda.

Others in attendance were asked to identify themselves and offer any public comments they may have regarding the addition of this agenda item. No public comments were made.

The roll call vote was performed by Mr. Ryan Ingles for this agenda item;

YEAS: Mr. Christopher Dausat and Mr. Andrew C. Leon
NAYS: NONE
ABSTAINED: NONE
ABSENT: Chris Roy, Jr.

Agenda Item No. 13b, Permit Request from John Chauffepied (Avoyelles Parish) was added to the agenda without opposition.

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RESOLUTION 36-2023

Motion by Mr. Christopher Dauzat
Seconded by Mr. Andrew C. Leon

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Red River, Atchafalaya & Bayou Boeuf Levee District discussed and considered Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire required to be submitted for annual audit; and,

WHEREAS, RRABB currently has an Audit engagement with Michael K. Glover, APAC to perform annual audit services for fiscal years ending June 30,2022; June 30, 2023; and June 30, 2024; and,

WHEREAS, part of the audit requirements is to complete the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Red River, Atchafalaya, and Bayou Boeuf Levee District in legal session assembled this 8th day of August 2023 does hereby agree to approve the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire as presented.

A roll call vote was requested by Mr. Leon and performed by Mr. Ingles for this agenda item;

YEAS: Mr. Christopher Dauzat and Mr. Andrew C. Leon
NAYS: NONE
ABSTAINED: NONE
ABSENT: Chris Roy, Jr.

RESOLUTION 37-2023

Motion by Mr. Christopher Dauzat
Seconded by Mr. Andrew C. Leon

**Resolution Requesting the US Corp of Engineers,
Teche-Vermilion Fresh Water District, St. Martin
Parish Government to Accommodate Drainage and
Retention in Preparation for Excessive Rainfall in the
Teche-Vermilion Watershed**

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WHEREAS, the Teche-Vermilion Watershed is occasionally threatened by significant rain events caused by tropical weather systems, stalled frontal passages, and other weather systems that may be impacted by inadequate drainage and retention that could result in potential flooding impacts to a significant part of the Teche-Vermilion Watershed; and

WHEREAS, the negative impact of these weather systems may be increased by inadequate drainage and retention issues that result in flooding events that are detrimental to the public affecting residential, businesses, agriculture, and governmental entities, and even may threaten the lives of our citizens; and,

WHEREAS, the National Weather Service (NWS) usually issues an accurate forecast for these sorts of events usually at a minimum of 72 hours or greater in advance; and,

WHEREAS, the drainage out of Bayou Courtableau is limited by the following issues:

- (a) The West Atchafalaya West Guide levee flood gates for Bayou Courtableau that have insufficient flow capabilities as identified by a report to the Mississippi River Commission by the US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) in 2007 and operation of these gates are dependent on Lake Pelba water levels; and
- (b) The undersized and obsolete flood gate south of Butte La Rose Bridge on the inside of Borrow Pit Canal; and,
- (c) Two five-hundred-foot overflow weirs with an elevation set at 18.0 feet, which empty into Bayou-Amy, Lake Catahoula, and the Lake Fausee Point System; and,
- (d) Levels in Lake Pelba occasionally prohibit use of the Bayou Courtableau floodgates on the West Atchafalaya West Guide levee for drainage of the Bayou and the Northern and Central Areas of the watershed; and,
- (e) The Bayou Teche's drainage capability is restricted by a dam at Keystone in St. Martin Parish; and,
- (f) The Vermilion River as shown by May 2017 and August 2019 USACE

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depth surveys indicating severe shoaling that inhibits drainage for the river for most of Lafayette Parish and portions of Vermilion Parish; and,

WHEREAS, the flood of August 2016 brought great loss of homes, businesses, and agricultural crops, equipment, and structures in the entire Teche-Vermilion Watershed; and

WHEREAS, active management of drainage control structures and systems as stated herein prior to a significant weather system as defined herein will accommodate additional drainage and retention resulting therefrom; and,

WHEREAS, all actions proposed herein would occur while all water levels in the Teche-Vermilion Watershed are at or below their defined flood stages; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Red River, Atchafalaya and Bayou Boeuf Levee District requests that the US Army Corp of Engineers, Tech-Vermilion Fresh Water District (TVFWD), and St. Martin Parish Government proactively and immediately address a threat of a forecast by the National Weather Service of 5 inches or greater rain event across any significant area of the Teche-Vermilion Watershed by lowering the pool stage of Bayou Courtableau at the West Atchafalaya West Guide levee flood gates to 15.65 through the following actions:

- (a) Ceasing any pumping operation by TVFD when pool stages exceed 15.65
- (b) Open gates that drain Bayou Courtableau into the West Atchafalaya Floodway by the USACE if basin levels allow
- (c) Open gates that drain Lake Henderson by the St. Martin Parish Government
- (d) Open gates that drain Bayou Teche into Lake Fausse Pointe By TVFD if lake levels allow

The objective of lowering pool stages in Bayou Courtableau to 15.65', which is the operational pool stage during the month of December, would allow the Bayou Courtableau watershed to store some of the anticipated rainfall accommodating anticipated drainage needs from the weather event and potentially reducing flooding threats. We request that these drainage accommodation operations begin at a minimum of 72 hours or

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immediately after the forecast by the National Weather Service has been issued or if river flooding causes the level in Lake Pelba to exceed 17.5 feet.

A similar pool stage lowering operation was undertaken when Hurricane Barry struck the area in July 2019 which resulted in success in minimizing flood impacts.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Red River, Atchafalaya and Bayou Boeuf Levee District requests the US Army Corp of Engineers, the Tech-Vermilion Fresh Water District, and St. Martin Parish immediately adopt these drainage accommodation operations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution be sent to each parish government that will be affected by this request for their consideration and support and that this resolution be sent to the Louisiana Congressional Delegation seeking their support and their intervention with the US Army Corp of Engineers, Teche-Vermilion Fresh Water District, and St. Martin Parish in causing these operational guidelines to be adopted promptly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be forwarded to the Executive Director of the Police Jury Association, Governor John Bel Edwards, CPRA, and any other persons, firms or entities as deemed fit and proper.

A roll call vote was requested by Mr. Leon and performed by Mr. Ingles for this agenda item;

YEAS: Mr. Christopher Dauzat and Mr. Andrew C. Leon
NAYS: NONE
ABSTAINED: NONE
ABSENT: Chris Roy, Jr.

RESOLUTION 38-2023

Motion by Mr. Andrew C. Leon
Seconded by Mr. Christopher Dauzat

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WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Red River, Atchafalaya & Bayou Boeuf Levee District discussed and considered a cost-of-living adjustment to the salary of the Executive Director; and,

WHEREAS, on June 7, 2022, the Board of Commissioners of RRABB entered into an employment contract with Ryan Ingles by Resolution 39-2022; and,

WHEREAS, within the contract, the Board of Commissioners may perform annual performance evaluations concerning the performance of the Executive Director; and,

WHEREAS, an annual performance evaluation was performed on June 6, 2023; and,

WHEREAS, all classified employees received a 4% market adjustment mandated by Civil Service on July 15, 2023; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners shall consider any and all pay increases for unclassified positions; and,

WHEREAS, at the request of Commissioner Leon, an item to consider a cost-of-living adjustment for the Executive Director is being placed on the agenda; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Red River, Atchafalaya, and Bayou Boeuf Levee District in legal session assembled this 8th day of August 2023 does hereby agree to approve a 4% increase to the salary of the Executive Director effective August 14, 2023.

RESOLUTION 39-2023

Motion by Mr. Christopher Dauzat
Seconded by Mr. Andrew C. Leon

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Red River, Atchafalaya & Bayou Boeuf Levee District discussed and considered purchase of repair parts needed at the Bayou Rapides Pump Station; and,

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WHEREAS, currently, RRABB has budgeted in the operating category for Bayou Rapides Pump House \$45,000.00, which includes required routine inspections, operation, and maintenance; and,

WHEREAS, during routine inspections, it has been noted that two of the motor starter contacts exhibit excessive wear and need to be replaced; and,

WHEREAS, in order to have this repaired, contact kits for each of the size motor starters needs to be ordered; and,

WHEREAS, the quotes for the starter contact kits are as follows; and,

<u>Company</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Electric Control Systems	\$14,386.20
Elliott Electric Supply	\$21,221.31
Brian Electric	\$23,500.00

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Red River, Atchafalaya, and Bayou Boeuf Levee District in legal session assembled this 8th day of August 2023 does hereby agree to approve the purchase of the motor starter contact kits from Electric Control Systems in the amount of \$14,386.20.

RESOLUTION 40-2023

Motion by Mr. Christopher Dauzat
Seconded by Mr. Andrew C. Leon

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Red River, Atchafalaya & Bayou Boeuf Levee District discussed a Permit Request from Mike and Karen Murphy for the installation of water and gas lines within levee ramp fill to serve their residence located just downstream of Lock and Dam No. 2 along the Red River South Bank Levee; and,

WHEREAS, the applicant is requesting to install residential water and gas service within their levee access ramp; and,

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WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Red River, Atchafalaya & Bayou Boeuf Levee District in legal session assembled this 8th day of August 2023 does hereby agree to grant permission for the project as described, provided before the project begins, the applicant is hereby required to receive written approval from the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development Public Works and Water Resources Division and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Operations Division for the project as described in the documentation provided with the permit request to the levee board; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that upon written approval from the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, an appointee from the Red River, Atchafalaya & Bayou Boeuf Levee District will make an on-site inspection throughout the project period to ensure that all is in accordance with standards set forth by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Red River, Atchafalaya & Bayou Boeuf Levee District.

RESOLUTION 41-2023

Motion by Mr. Christopher Dauzat
Seconded by Mr. Andrew C. Leon

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Red River, Atchafalaya & Bayou Boeuf Levee District discussed a Permit Request from Cleco Power, LLC for the installation of aerial electric service to Mike and Leann Murphy residence located just downstream of Lock and Dam No. 2 along the Red River South Bank Levee; and,

WHEREAS, the applicant is requesting to install two power poles with aerial span electric service across the levee; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Red River, Atchafalaya & Bayou Boeuf Levee District in legal session assembled this 8th day of August 2023 does hereby agree to grant permission for the project as described, provided before the project begins, the applicant is hereby required to receive written approval from the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development Public Works and Water Resources Division and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Operations Division for the project as described in the documentation provided with the permit request to the levee board; and,

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THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that upon written approval from the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, an appointee from the Red River, Atchafalaya & Bayou Boeuf Levee District will make an on-site inspection throughout the project period to ensure that all is in accordance with standards set forth by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Red River, Atchafalaya & Bayou Boeuf Levee District.

RESOLUTION 42-2023

Motion by Mr. Christopher Dauzat
Seconded by Mr. Andrew C. Leon

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Red River, Atchafalaya & Bayou Boeuf Levee District discussed a Permit Request from Bayou Current Farms, LLC for the installation of a levee ramp on the West Atchafalaya River Levee in St. Landry Parish; and,

WHEREAS, the applicant is requesting to construct a levee ramp across the West Atchafalaya River Levee in St. Landry Parish near Krotz Springs; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Red River, Atchafalaya & Bayou Boeuf Levee District in legal session assembled this 8th day of August 2023 does hereby agree to grant permission for the project as described, provided before the project begins, the applicant is hereby required to receive written approval from the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development Public Works and Water Resources Division and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Operations Division for the project as described in the documentation provided with the permit request to the levee board; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that upon written approval from the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, an appointee from the Red River, Atchafalaya & Bayou Boeuf Levee District will make an on-site inspection throughout the project period to ensure that all is in accordance with standards set forth by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Red River, Atchafalaya & Bayou Boeuf Levee District.

RESOLUTION 43-2023

Motion by Mr. Christopher Dauzat
Seconded by Mr. Andrew C. Leon

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WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Red River, Atchafalaya & Bayou Boeuf Levee District discussed a Permit Request from Brian Thomson for the installation of a low water crossing of the Chatlin Lake Canal in the Latanier Community; and,

WHEREAS, the applicant is requesting to install a low water crossing of the Catlin Lake Canal to access owned property on each side of the canal; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed crossing will allow water flow under and over and be required to be maintained with inspection reports periodically; and,

WHEREAS, the Board is also requesting that the applicant get permission from the Louisiana State Land Office and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and require annual inspections to be performed; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Red River, Atchafalaya & Bayou Boeuf Levee District in legal session assembled this 8th day of August 2023 does hereby agree to grant permission for the project as described, provided before the project begins, the applicant is hereby required to receive written approval from the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development Public Works and Water Resources Division for the project as described in the documentation provided with the permit request to the levee board; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that upon written approval from the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, Louisiana State Land Office, and other regulatory entities; an appointee from the Red River, Atchafalaya & Bayou Boeuf Levee District will make an on-site inspection throughout the project period to ensure that all is in accordance with standards set forth by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development and the Red River, Atchafalaya & Bayou Boeuf Levee District.

RESOLUTION 44-2023

Motion by Mr. Christopher Dauzat
Seconded by Mr. Andrew C. Leon

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Red River, Atchafalaya & Bayou Boeuf Levee District discussed and considered the renewal of the 2023-2024 RRABB Insurance Policies; and,

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WHEREAS, Turrentine Insurance Agency, Inc. has provided policy renewals for RRABB coverage for August 1, 2023 through August 1, 2024; and,

WHEREAS, Workers Compensation and Employers Liability through Louisiana Workers' Compensation Corporation (\$34,825.00/yr.) (11% decrease from last year's premium); and,

WHEREAS, Commercial Property & System Breakdown, Inland Marine, General Liability, Wrongful Acts & Professional Liability, Employment Practices Liability, Commercial Crime, Business Automobile and Excess Liability through Tokio Marine Specialty Insurance Company (\$84,258.25) (14.6% increase from last year's premium). The increase is primarily attributed to inflationary induced replacement values of insured buildings and equipment; and,

WHEREAS, Land Lease Policy through Penn America Insurance Company is \$8,742.39; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Red River, Atchafalaya, and Bayou Boeuf Levee District in legal session assembled this 8th day of August 2023 does hereby agree to ratify the acceptance of the insurance renewals for August 1, 2023 through August 1, 2024 from Turrentine Insurance Agency.

RESOLUTION 45-2023

Motion by Mr. Christopher Dauzat
Seconded by Mr. Andrew C. Leon

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Red River, Atchafalaya & Bayou Boeuf Levee District discussed and considered bids for the purchase of (2) 150 HP 4WD Tractors; and,

WHEREAS, included in the RRABB 2023-2024 annual budget was the purchase of two new tractors; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed tractors (Approximately 150 hp – Agricultural Tractors), could not be purchased on Louisiana State Contract because the state contract is limited to items with an individual net price of less than \$100,000; and,

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WHEREAS, the anticipated and budgeted amount is \$137,500 per machine, therefore necessitating advertising for public bid; and,

WHEREAS, at the July 2023 board meeting, the commission authorized the advertisement of bids; and,

WHEREAS, the staff has publicly advertised the bids for three consecutive weeks and bids were opened on August 7, 2023 at 10 a.m. with the following results; and,

<u>Company</u>	<u>Bid Amount</u>
Goldman Equipment (6155m)	\$308,534.96
Goldman Equipment (6140m)	\$274,895.22
Progressive Tractor	\$274,017.44
Crawler Supply Company	\$280,000.00
MRP Contractors, LLC	\$430,000.00

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Red River, Atchafalaya, and Bayou Boeuf Levee District in legal session assembled this 8th day of August 2023 does hereby agree to accept the lowest bid from Progressive Tractor in the amount of \$274,017.44 for the purchase of two new tractors.

RESOLUTION 46-2023

Motion by Mr. Christopher Dauzat
Seconded by Mr. Andrew C. Leon

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Red River, Atchafalaya & Bayou Boeuf Levee District discussed and considered the purchase of Batwing Cutters under State Contract; and,

WHEREAS, included in the RRABB 2023-2024 annual budget was the purchase of two new cutters; and,

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WHEREAS, the proposed cutters, Rhino 4150, can be purchased on Louisiana State Contract; and,

WHEREAS, Progressive Tractor & Implement Co. has submitted a quote for the Rhino Batwing Cutters as provided on State Contract; and,

WHEREAS, the quoted price of each cutter is \$26,044.35 for a total of \$52,088.70; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Red River, Atchafalaya, and Bayou Boeuf Levee District in legal session assembled this 8th day of August 2023 does hereby agree to purchase two new Rhino Batwing Cutters under State Contract from Progressive Tractor and Implement Co. for a total of \$52,088.70.

RESOLUTION 47-2023

Motion by Mr. Christopher Dauzat
Seconded by Mr. Andrew C. Leon

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Red River, Atchafalaya & Bayou Boeuf Levee District discussed and considered the purchase of one new Hydraulic Blade under State Contract; and,

WHEREAS, included in the RRABB 2023-2024 annual budget was the purchase of one new hydraulic blade; and,

WHEREAS, the proposed blade, Rhino 2500, can be purchased on Louisiana State Contract; and,

WHEREAS, Progressive Tractor & Implement Co. has submitted a quote for the Rhino 10' Blade as provided on State Contract; and,

WHEREAS, the quoted price is \$13,426.60; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of the Red River, Atchafalaya, and Bayou Boeuf Levee District in legal session assembled this 8th day of August

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2023 does hereby agree to purchase a new Rhino 10' Blade under State Contract from Progressive Tractor and Implement Co. in the amount of \$13,426.60.

RESOLUTION 48-2023

Motion by Mr. Christopher Dauzat
Seconded by Mr. Andrew C. Leon

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Red River, Atchafalaya & Bayou Boeuf Levee District discussed a Permit Request from John Chauffepied for the installation of a water well in Avoyelles Parish along the Moncla to Lake Long Levee; and,

WHEREAS, the applicant is requesting to install a 2" water well (with 4" casing) at 150' depth approximately 800' from the toe of the levee on the protected side in Avoyelles Parish; and,

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Red River, Atchafalaya & Bayou Boeuf Levee District in legal session assembled this 8th day of August 2023 does hereby agree to grant permission for the project as described, provided before the project begins, the applicant is hereby required to receive written approval from the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development Public Works and Water Resources Division for the project as described in the documentation provided with the permit request to the levee board; and,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that upon written approval from the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, an appointee from the Red River, Atchafalaya & Bayou Boeuf Levee District will make an on-site inspection throughout the project period to ensure that all is in accordance with standards set forth by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development and the Red River, Atchafalaya & Bayou Boeuf Levee District.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Discussed Agenda Item No. 10: Authority to Hire Mobile Equipment Operator

- RRABB had an employee in St. Landry Parish retire effective July 31, 2023 (Levee Foreman C). Upon separation, Civil Service advised that this position should be changed to a Levee Foreman B due to the job requirements. In order to continue with current planned operations, it is proposed to hire a mobile equipment operator currently. The Board has decided to table this agenda item until a later date.

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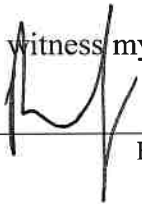
Motion by Mr. Christopher Dauzat and seconded by Mr. Andrew C. Leon to adopt the minutes/resolutions and approve payment of the bills.

Motion to Adjourn made by Mr. Christopher Dauzat and seconded by Mr. Andrew Leon.

CERTIFICATE

I, Ryan Ingles, Secretary of the Board of Commissioners of the Red River, Atchafalaya, and Bayou Boeuf Levee District, certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original resolutions adopted by said Board of the meeting duly convened on the 8th day of August 2023, at which meeting a quorum of members of said Board was represented.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, witness my official signature of said Board at Alexandria, Louisiana, on the 8th day of August 2023.



Board Secretary