

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

*Christopher Dautzat, 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 November 7, 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, November 7, 2023 at 9:00 o'clock a.m. The following were present: Mr. Andrew C. Leon, President and St. Landry Parish Commissioner; Mr. Christopher Dautzat, Vice President and Avoyelles Parish Commissioner; Ryan Ingles, Executive Director; Trey Gist, Board Attorney; Ellen Burke, Administrative Coordinator; Jonathan Lachney (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 Dautzat 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.

### RESOLUTION 60-2023

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

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners of the Red River, Atchafalaya & Bayou Boeuf Levee District discussed and considered bids and associated budget amendment for the Rigolette Electric Actuators Project; and,

**WHEREAS**, included in the RRABB 2023-2024 annual budget was the Rigolette Electric Actuators Project; and,

**WHEREAS**, the proposed project includes replacing the existing manual gate actuators with electric actuators; and,

**WHEREAS**, the original anticipated and budgeted amount was \$125,000.00 for the entire project which includes design, contract administration, and construction; and,



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**WHEREAS**, engineering consultants, MMLH requested bids from three contractors that were received on October 10, 2023 as follows;

<u>Contractor</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Progressive Construction Company, LLC	\$147,200.00
Clark Land Development, LLC	\$148,037.50
T.L. Construction, LLC	\$151,000.00

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the Red River, Atchafalaya, and Bayou Boeuf Levee District in legal session assembled this 7<sup>th</sup> day of November 2023 does hereby agree to award the Rigolette Electric Actuators Project to Progressive Construction Company, LLC for the amount of \$147,200.00.

### RESOLUTION 61-2023

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 amending the RRABB 2023-2024 annual budget for the Rigolette Electric Actuators Project; and,

**WHEREAS**, currently, RRABB has budgeted in the Drainage Structure Rehabilitation category under capital outlay \$125,000.00 for the Rigolette Electric Actuators Project; and,

**WHEREAS**, as all bids were higher than the original budgeted amount, a budget amendment of \$30,000.00 to be added to the Drainage Structure Rehabilitation category under capital outlay will be required to award the Rigolette Electric Actuators Project; 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 7<sup>th</sup> day of November 2023 does hereby agree to amending the RRABB 2023-2024 Annual Budget to include an additional \$30,000.00 to the Drainage Structure Rehabilitation category under capital outlay for the Rigolette Electric Actuators Project.



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### REVENUES

Taxes	\$3,100,000
State Revenue Sharing	\$50,000
Fees & Self-Generated Funds	\$781,900
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$3,931,900</b>

### EXPENDITURES

Salaries	\$982,000
Fringe Benefits	\$845,800
Operating Services	\$996,600
Travel	\$12,000
Professional Services	\$79,500
Capital Outlay	\$1,016,000
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$3,931,900</b>

### RESOLUTION 62-2023

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 Tract A9 Grazing Lease: 198-acre land lease in Avoyelles Parish; and,

**WHEREAS**, the current lease agreement for Tract A9 Grazing Lease expires on December 31, 2023; and,

**WHEREAS**, the current lessee is Nicholas Gerace at a rate of \$69.35 per acre; and,

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Gerace has advised that he does not intend to renew the current lease upon expiration; and,

**WHEREAS**, the staff has publicly advertised the tract for three consecutive weeks and the bid tabulations are as follows; and,



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<u>Name</u>	<u>\$ per Acre</u>	<u>Yearly \$</u>
Douglas Gerace	\$60.60	\$11,998.80
CN Farms	\$53.00	\$10,494.00
Ciro Canal	\$56.50	\$11,187.00

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the Red River, Atchafalaya, and Bayou Boeuf Levee District in legal session assembled this 7th day of November 2023 does hereby agree to accept the highest bid of \$11,998.80 per year from Mr. Douglas Gerace for RRABB Tract A9 in Avoyelles Parish.

### RESOLUTION 63-2023

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 Tract A13 Hunting Lease: 40-acre land lease in Avoyelles Parish; and,

**WHEREAS**, currently, Tract A13 is not being leased as it was part of a recent land exchange and subsequently reforested with seedling pines at the end of 2022; and,

**WHEREAS**, the staff has publicly advertised the tract for three consecutive weeks and the there was only one bid received from SCB, LLC in the amount of \$12.00 per acre; 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 7<sup>th</sup> day of November 2023 does hereby agree to accept the bid of \$480.00 per year from SCB, LLC for RRABB Tract A13 in Avoyelles Parish.

### RESOLUTION 64-2023

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 publicly advertising and soliciting bids for Hunting Tract A4 (80-acres) in Avoyelles Parish; and,



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**WHEREAS**, currently, Tract A4 is not being leased as it was adjacent to property involved in a potential land exchange with Cutoff Properties, LLC; 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 7<sup>th</sup> day of November 2023 does hereby agree to allow the Executive Director to advertise Tract A4 in Avoyelles Parish for public bid.

**RESOLUTION 65-2023**

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 publicly advertising and soliciting bids for Hunting Tract A10 (120-acres) in Avoyelles Parish; and,

**WHEREAS**, currently, Tract A10 is not being leased as it was involved in a potential land exchange with Cutoff Properties, LLC; 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 7<sup>th</sup> day of November 2023 does hereby agree to allow the Executive Director to advertise Tract A10 in Avoyelles Parish for public bid.

**RESOLUTION 66-2023**

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 Union Pacific Railroad to repair a railroad bridge crossing Bayou Boeuf within the limits of the Bayou Boeuf-Cocodrie Diversion Channel project in Rapides Parish; and,

**WHEREAS**, the applicant is requesting to replace each end segment of the railroad bridge with prestressed concrete beams; and,



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**WHEREAS**, access will be maintained within the railroad right of way by using a temporary bridge which will be removed after construction of the proposed bridge repair is completed; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Commissioners of the Red River, Atchafalaya & Bayou Boeuf Levee District in legal session assembled this 7<sup>th</sup> day of November 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. 2: Bayou Amie H&H Study (Final Report)

- RRABB entered into an Intergovernmental Agreement with DOTD to hire a consultant to perform a Hydrologic and Hydraulic study to recommend options for facilitating drainage near the Bayou Courtableau Structure into Bayou Amie. The H&H modeling has been completed. Mr. Paul Trimble with MMLH presented the board with the final results.

Discussed Agenda Item No. 8: ACT 393 of 2023 Legislative Session – Open Meetings Law

- Act 393 of the 2023 Legislative Session amends Louisiana revised statutes affecting the laws concerning public body meetings.
  - Task Force on Remote Operations of Public Entities was created by Senate Resolution 147 of the 2022 Louisiana Legislative Session.
  - After a year of gathering public input, the Task Force made recommendations requesting changes to the Louisiana Open Meetings Law for certain public bodies.
  - Senate Bill No. 201 was presented and debated during the 2023 Legislative Session, ultimately passing as Act 393.



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- After reviewing the video recordings of the presentations concerning Act 393, the intent was to focus on three areas:
  - o Public Participation - Allow remote participation for members of the public with a disability recognized by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) via teleconference or video conference.
  - o Board Participation - Allow remote participation for members of the public body with a disability recognized by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) via teleconference or video conference.
  - o Authorizes certain statewide public bodies to conduct up to 1/3 of their meetings entirely via electronic means outside of a gubernatorially declared state of disaster or emergency. (This part is not applicable to RRABB.)

After discussion, the RRABB Board directed the staff to draft a policy for compliance with the new laws.

Motion by Mr. Christopher Dautat 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 Dautat and seconded by Mr. Andrew C. 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 7<sup>th</sup> day of November 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 7<sup>th</sup> day of November 2023.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Secretary