



TENSAS BASIN LEVEE DISTRICT REGULAR MEETING

Board of Commissioners
Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 9:30 AM
505 District Drive Monroe, LA

MINUTES

In compliance with the Americans With Disabilities Act, individuals needing special accommodations / during this meeting should notify the Tensas Basin Levee District Board of Commissioners at 318-323-1130 at least three working days before the meeting.

NOTICE POSTED: April 8, 2021 at Tensas Basin Levee District Office, 708 Julia Street, Suite 101B, Rayville, La. and Tensas Basin Levee District, 505 District Drive, Monroe, La.

Naomi Eppinette, Secretary

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

A public meeting will be held: April 13, 2021, 9:30 A. M., Tensas Basin Levee District, 505 District Drive, Monroe, Louisiana 71202

Call to Order

The Board of Commissioners of the Tensas Basin Levee District met for its regular meeting Tuesday, April 13, 2021 at 9:30 A. M. in its office located at 505 District Drive Monroe, Louisiana.

Roll Call

Mr. Drew Keahey, President, called the meeting to order and requested the Secretary call roll with the following present and answering:

PRESENT

Commissioner Mike Calloway
Commissioner Johnny Turner
Commissioner Dustin Morris
President Drew Keahey
Vice President Rodney Hutchins
Commissioner Kenneth Wilson
Commissioner Dick Zeagler
Commissioner Robert Neal Harwell
Commissioner Michelle Collum

ABSENT

Commissioner Ashley Peters
Commissioner Antwain Downs

Others in attendance were: Mr. Donald Baker, Alexandria, LA; Ms. Susan Douglas, DOTD; Mr. Dylan McIntosh, DOTD; Mr. Michael Street, Attorney, Tensas Basin Levee District; Mr. John Stringer, Executive Director, Tensas Basin Levee District; Mr. Brandon Waggoner, Assistant Director, Tensas Basin Levee District; Mr. Matt Varnell, Maintenance Supervisor, Tensas Basin Levee District; Mr. Jason McMillan, Levee District Police.

Prayer

President Drew Keahey opened the meeting with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Pledge of Allegiance

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Action

The following resolution was introduced by Commissioner Mike Calloway, seconded by Commissioner Kenneth Wilson, and passed unanimously by the Board of Commissioners of the Tensas Basin Levee District, Commissioner Dick Zeagler abstained from voting, after President Drew Keahey called for public comments and there were none, to-wit:

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Tensas Basin Levee District advertised for surface leasing for three year period for farming purposes the following:

Catahoula Parish: Section 24, Township 17 North, Range 5 East containing 40.40 acres +/-

WHEREAS, the time having arrived for the opening of bids, the following bids were received, opened and read aloud:

Mr. Todd Fannin, Jonesville, LA bid \$80.00 per acre per year for a three year period

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the Tensas Basin Levee District does hereby accept that certain bid of Mr. Todd Fannin, Jonesville, LA bid \$80.00 per acre per year for a three year period.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Tensas Basin Levee District advertised for surface leasing for five year period for hunting purposes the following:

Catahoula Parish: Section 17 & 21, Township 4 North, Range 6 East containing 120 acres +/-

WHEREAS, the time having arrived for the opening of bids, the following bids were received, opened and read aloud:

Mr. Dean Sikes, Deville, LA bid \$18.02 per acre per year for a five year period

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the Tensas Basin Levee District does hereby accept that certain bid of Mr. Dean Sikes, Deville, LA bid \$18.02 per acre per year for a five year period.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Tensas Basin Levee District advertised for surface leasing for five year period for hunting purposes the following:

Catahoula Parish: Section 2 & 3, Township 5 North, Range 7 East containing 392.34 acres +/-

WHEREAS, the time having arrived for the opening of bids, the following bids were received, opened and read aloud:

Mr. Donald Baker, Alexandria, LA bid \$47.60 per acre per year for a five year period

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the Tensas Basin Levee District does hereby accept that certain bid of Mr. Donald Baker, Alexandria, LA bid \$47.60 per acre per year for a five year period.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Tensas Basin Levee District advertised for surface leasing for five year period for hunting purposes the following:

Catahoula Parish: Section 23 & 26, Township 11 North, Range 8 East containing 238.28 acres +/-

WHEREAS, the time having arrived for the opening of bids, the following bids were received, opened and read aloud:

Mr. Will Chappell, Winnsboro, LA bid \$25.43 per acre per year for a five year period

Mr. Steve Fontenot, Alexandria, LA bid \$24.50 per acre per year for a five year period

Mr. Caleb Gillespie, Sicily Island, LA bid \$25.00 per acre per year for a five year period

Mr. Andrew Sones, Harrisonburg, LA bid \$25.18 per acre per year for a five year period

Mr. Blaine Haygood, Deville, LA bid \$28.01 per acre per year for a five year period

Mr. Tim Ford, Sicily Island, LA bid \$29.38 per acre per year for a five year period

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the Tensas Basin Levee District does hereby accept that certain bid of Mr. Tim Ford, Sicily Island, LA bid \$29.38 per acre per year for a five year period.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Tensas Basin Levee District advertised for surface leasing for five year period for hunting purposes the following:

Franklin Parish: Section 27, Township 12 North, Range 6 East containing 79.36 acres +/-

WHEREAS, the time having arrived for the opening of bids, the following bids were received, opened and read aloud:

Mr. Tony Roberts, Wisner, LA bid \$12.51 per acre per year for a five year period

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the Tensas Basin Levee District does hereby accept that certain bid of Mr. Tony Roberts, Wisner, LA bid \$12.51 per acre per year for a five year period.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Tensas Basin Levee District advertised for surface leasing for five year period for hunting purposes the following:

Franklin Parish: Section 15, Township 12 North, Range 9 East containing 39.97 acres +/-

WHEREAS, the time having arrived for the opening of bids, the following bids were received, opened and read aloud:

Mr. John Owen, Rayville, LA bid \$11.26 per acre per year for a five year period

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the Tensas Basin Levee District does hereby accept that certain bid of Mr. John Owen, Rayville, LA bid \$11.26 per acre per year for a five year period.

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of the Tensas Basin Levee District advertised for surface leasing for five year period for hunting purposes the following:

Franklin Parish: Section 23, Township 14 North, Range 6 East containing 60 acres +/-

WHEREAS, the time having arrived for the opening of bids, the following bids were received, opened and read aloud:

Mr. Scott Neilsen, Winnsboro, LA bid \$20.02 per acre per year for a five year period

Mr. Blaine Haygood, Deville, LA bid \$17.15 per acre per year for a five year period

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the Tensas Basin Levee District does hereby accept that certain bid of Mr. Scott Neilsen, Winnsboro, LA bid \$20.02 per acre per year for a five year period.

The following resolution was introduced by Commissioner Dustin Morris, seconded by Commissioner Johnny Turner and passed unanimously by the Board of Commissioners of the Tensas Basin Levee District, after President Drew Keahey called for public comments and there were none, to-wit:

RESOLUTION

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the Tensas Basin Levee District does hereby declare that the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of March 9, 2021 is hereby dispensed with and declared approved as published in the official journal of this board, The Richland Beacon News.

Jennifer Chism
Acting Secretary

Drew Keahey
President

The following resolution was introduced by Commissioner Mike Calloway, seconded by Commissioner Johnny Turner and passed unanimously by the Board of Commissioners of the Tensas Basin Levee District, after President Drew Keahey called for public comments and there were none, to-wit:

RESOLUTION

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the Tensas Basin Levee District does hereby approve all bills approved by the claims committee for March 2021.

Jennifer Chism
Acting Secretary

Drew Keahey
President

Requests

The following resolution was introduced by Commissioner Dick Zeagler, seconded by Commissioner Mike Calloway, and passed unanimously by the Board of Commissioners of the Tensas Basin Levee District, after President Drew Keahey called for public comments and there were none, to-wit:

RESOLUTION

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the Tensas Basin Levee District authorizes the Secretary and President to advertise for bids for repairs: Ouachita River East Bank Levee System, Columbia, LA.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that bids shall be received by 2:00 P. M., May 10, 2021 at the office of the Tensas Basin Levee District, 505 District Drive, Monroe, La. 71202-6862, at which time bids shall be opened and read aloud.

Jennifer Chism
Acting Secretary

Drew Keahey
President

The following resolution was introduced by Commissioner Kenneth Wilson, seconded by Commissioner Rodney Hutchins, and passed unanimously by the Board of Commissioners of the Tensas Basin Levee District, after President Drew Keahey called for public comments and there were none, to-wit:

RESOLUTION

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the Tensas Basin Levee District does hereby waive the seven day rule which will enable same to discuss the following:

Right of way for the Corps of Engineers PL-8499 levee projects

Jennifer Chism
Acting Secretary

Drew Keahey
President

The following resolution was introduced by Commissioner Mike Calloway, seconded by Commissioner Johnny Turner, and passed unanimously by the Board of Commissioners of the Tensas Basin Levee District, after President Drew Keahey called for public comments and there were none, to-wit:

RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION WHEREAS, by letter dated March 19, 2021, Real Estate Division, Vicksburg District, Corps of Engineers, the Board of Commissioners for the Tensas Basin Levee District was requested to obtain right-of-ways in Ouachita Parish and Caldwell Parish, Louisiana, for construction in conjunction with Ouachita River Basin Ouachita & Caldwell Parishes P.L. 84-99 Emergency Bank Stabilization and Levee Setback Right of Way, and WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners for the Tensas Basin Levee District hereby certifies that payments to the landowners will be in accordance with the laws of the State of Louisiana, and payment will be made to any person required to move from real property as a result of acquiring the rights-of-way for this project in accordance with Public Law 91-646.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners for the Tensas Basin Levee District, in regular meeting convened on April 13, 2021, passed a resolution allowing Board President to hereby appropriate and made available to the United States Army Corp of Engineers, Vicksburg District, rights-of-way needed for the construction of Ouachita River Basin Ouachita & Caldwell Parishes P.L. 84-99 Emergency Bank Stabilization and Levee Setback Right of Way, Ouachita Parish and Caldwell Parish, Louisiana, as shown on the Map "Ouachita River Basin Ouachita & Caldwell Parishes P.L. 84-99 Emergency Bank Stabilization and Levee Setback Right of Way." These rights-of-way being furnished free of all costs to the United States and the United States being held harmless and blameless from any and all damages that may occur or result from construction of the proposed project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the rights-of-way hereby appropriated shall be burdened with permanent levee servitude expect when designated as temporary servitude.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President of the Tensas Basin Levee District is hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to execute and act on all instruments for and on behalf of the Levee board in furnishing the rights-of-way required on this item of work.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Secretary of the Tensas Basin Levee District provides written notice of this appropriation to each landowner within five days from this date.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of the resolution, along with landowner maps, be recorded in the Clerk's Office of Ouachita Parish and of Caldwell Parish, Louisiana.

I, Naomi Eppinette, Secretary to the Board of Commissioners for the Tensas Basin Levee District do hereby certify the above and foregoing to be a true and correct copy of resolution to be ratified by said Board, meeting in regular session on April 13, 2021, at which meeting a quorum was present and voting.

Jennifer Chism
Acting Secretary

Drew Keahey
President

Presentations

Items for Discussion

President Keahey reminded the Commissioners that the Louisiana Board of Ethics Financial Disclosure is due by May 15, 2021.

Update on Levee Projects

Public Comment

Adjourn

ANNOUNCEMENT:

President Keahey to advise the Tensas Basin Levee District will hold an open meeting, Tuesday, May 11, 2021 at 9:30 A. M. at our office at 505 District Drive, Monroe, La. to adopt the millage rate for 2016.

John C. Stringer, Executive Director
Tensas Basin Levee District
Monroe, Louisiana 71202-6862
318-323-1130