



**TENSAS BASIN LEVEE DISTRICT
REGULAR MEETING
Board of Commissioners
Tuesday, May 14, 2024, 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.

Roll Call

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

PRESENT

President Drew Keahey
Vice President Rodney Hutchins
Commissioner Dick Zeagler
Commissioner Robert Neal Harwell
Commissioner Ashley Peters
Commissioner Johnny Turner, Sr.
Commissioner Antwain Downs
Commissioner Mike Calloway

ABSENT

Commissioner Dustin Morris
Commissioner Michelle Collum
Commissioner Kenneth Wilson

Others in attendance were Mr. Brandon Waggoner, Executive Director of Tensas Basin Levee District; Mr. Justin Holloway, Operations Superintendent of Tensas Basin Levee District; Mr. Michael Street Attorney for Tensas Basin Levee District, Max Tullos DOTD; Dylan McIntosh, DOTD.

Prayer

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

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Action

1. Minutes of the April 2024 Meeting

Motion made by Commissioner Calloway, Seconded by Commissioner 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 at this moment declare that the reading of the minutes of the regular meeting of April 9, 2024, is at this moment dispensed with and declared approved as published in the official journal of this board, The News-Star.

Aundi Brown
Secretary

Drew Keahey
President

2. Bills for April 2024

Motion made by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Zeagler, 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 paying of all bills reviewed and approved by the financial committee for April 2024.

Aundi Brown
Secretary

Drew Keahey
President

3. Advertise for Bidding for the TBLD Official Journal

Motion made by Commissioner Turner, Seconded by Commissioner Downs, 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

WHEREAS the Board of Commissioners of the Tensas Basin Levee District does authorize staff to advertise for Bids for the TBLD Official Journal for the FY 2024-2025.

Aundi Brown
Secretary

Drew Keahey
President

4. Advertise for Bidding for the TBLD Fuel Vendor Contract for Monroe/Jonesville

Motion made by Commissioner Zeagler, Seconded by Commissioner 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

WHEREAS the Board of Commissioners of the Tensas Basin Levee District does hereby authorize staff to advertise for Bids for the TBLD Fuel Vendor for the FY 2024-2025.

Aundi Brown
Secretary

Drew Keahey
President

5. Authorize Signing TBLD up for the KLB Clean Biz Program

Motion made by Commissioner Calloway, seconded by Commissioner Harwell, and passed unanimously by the Board of the 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 Tensas Basin Levee District Board of Commissioners authorized staff to sign TBLD up for the Clean Biz program with Keep Louisiana Beautiful.

Aundi Brown
Secretary

Drew Keahey
President

6. Open Bidding Process on Hunting Lease in Morehouse Parish 79.54 Acres.

Commissioner Turner moved, seconded by Vice President Hutchins, and passed unanimously by the Board of Commissioners of the Tensas Basin Levee District after President Drew Keahey called for public comments. There were none, to wit: to open the bidding for a 79.54-acre hunting lease in Morehouse parish.

RESOLUTION

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Commissioners for the Tensas Basin Levee District does authorize the opening of bids for a hunting lease in Morehouse parish for 79.54 acres

Aundi Brown
Secretary

Drew Keahey
President

7. Open Bidding Process on Hunting Lease in Morehouse Parish 80 acres

A motion was made by Commissioner Calloway and seconded by Commissioner Downs 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: to approve the opening of the bidding process for a hunting lease that is 80 acres in Franklin Parish.

RESOLUTION

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Commissioners for the Tensas Basin Levee District does approve the opening of bidding for an 80-acre hunting lease in Franklin Parish

Aundi Brown
Secretary

Drew Keahey
President

8. Commissioner Health Insurance Benefits

Commissioner Calloway made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Turner, and passed unanimously by the Board of Commissioners of the Tensas Basin Levee District after President Drew Keahey called for public comments. There were none, to wit: to no longer offer health insurance benefits to commissioners. This will allow TBLD to be eligible to join OGB State Benefits.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the Tensas Basin Levee District does hereby approve no longer offering Health Insurance Benefits to Commissioners.

Aundi Brown
Secretary

Drew Keahey
President

9. Allow TBLD to consider Legal Recourse Against Forth Insurance, Glatfelter Public Entities, & any other subsidiaries of these agencies providing insurance policies to TBLD.

A motion was made by Vice President Hutchins and seconded by Commissioner Zeagler 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: to approve the exploration of taking legal action against Forth Insurance, Glatfelter Public Entities, & any other subsidiaries of these agencies providing insurance policies to TBLD.

RESOLUTION

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Commissioners for the Tensas Basin Levee District does approve the opening of bidding for an 80-acre hunting lease in Franklin Parish

Aundi Brown
Secretary

Drew Keahey
President

10. Allow TBLD staff to explore potential separation from Forth Insurance & seek additional options for insurance coverage.

Commissioner Calloway made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Peters, 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: to allow TBLD staff to explore the option of separation from Forth Insurance.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the Tensas Basin Levee District does hereby approve allowing staff to explore the option of separation from Forth Insurance and seeking additional vendors for insurance coverage.

Aundi Brown
Secretary

Drew Keahey
President

11. Approve the Resurfacing Project for Monroe levee in the Chauvin area.

A motion was made by Vice President Hutchins and seconded by Commissioner 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: to approve the Resurfacing project for the levees in the Chauvin area.

RESOLUTION

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Commissioners for the Tensas Basin Levee District does approve the resurfacing project for the Monroe Levee in the Chauvin area.

Aundi Brown
Secretary

Drew Keahey
President

12. Open the bidding process for the resurfacing project for Monroe levee in the Chauvin area.

Commissioner Harwell made the motion, seconded by Vice President Hutchins, and passed unanimously by the Board of Commissioners of the Tensas Basin Levee District after President Drew Keahey called for public comments. There were none, to wit: to open the bidding process for the Resurfacing Project for Monroe levee in the Chauvin area.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the Tensas Basin Levee District does hereby approve the Resurfacing Project for Monroe levee in the Chauvin area.

Aundi Brown
Secretary

Drew Keahey
President

13. Approve the Resurfacing Project for the West Monroe levee system in the Bawcomville area.

Commissioner Calloway made the motion, seconded by Commissioner 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: to approve the Resurfacing Project for the West Monroe levee system in the Bawcomville area.

RESOLUTION

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Commissioners for the Tensas Basin Levee District does approve the Resurfacing Project for the West Monroe levee system in the Bawcomville area.

Aundi Brown
Secretary

Drew Keahey
President

14. Open the bidding process for the resurfacing project for the West Monroe levee system in the Bawcomville area.

Vice President Hutchins made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Zeagler, 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: to open the bidding process for the resurfacing project for the West Monroe levee system in the Bawcomville area.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the Tensas Basin Levee District approve opening the bidding process for the resurfacing project for the West Monroe levee system in the Bawcomville area.

Aundi Brown
Secretary

Drew Keahey
President

15. Temporary Easement for Ralph Brockman & Harris Brown

A motion was made by Commissioner Peters, seconded by Commissioner Downs, and passed unanimously by the Board of Commissioners of the Tensas Basin Levee District after President Drew Keahey called for public comments. There were none, to wit, to grant the temporary easement to landowners Ralph Brockman & Harris Brown.

RESOLUTION

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Commissioners for the Tensas Basin Levee District does approve the temporary easement to landowners Ralph Brockman & Harris Brown.

Aundi Brown
Secretary

Drew Keahey
President

16. Approve the floodwall gap closure project for Monroe, West Monroe, & Jonesville

Commissioner Calloway made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Downs, and passed unanimously by the Board of Commissioners of the Tensas Basin Levee District after President Drew Keahey called for public comments. There were none, to wit: approving the floodwall gap closure project for Monroe, West Monroe, & Jonesville.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the Tensas Basin Levee District does hereby approve the floodwall gap closures project for Monroe, West Monroe, & Jonesville.

Aundi Brown
Secretary

Drew Keahey
President

17. Item Tabled until a later date.

18. Open Bidding Process for Permanent floodwall gap closures.

A motion was made by Commissioner Calloway and seconded by Commissioner 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: approving the opening of the bidding process for permanent floodwall gap closures.

RESOLUTION

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Commissioners for the Tensas Basin Levee District does approve the opening of bidding process for permanent floodwall gap closures.

Aundi Brown
Secretary

Drew Keahey
President

19. Open the bidding process for temporary floodwall gap closure prototypes.

Commissioner Calloway moved, seconded by Commissioner 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: approving to open the bidding process for temporary floodwall gap closure prototypes.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the Tensas Basin Levee District approve opening the bidding process for temporary floodwall gap closure prototypes.

Aundi Brown
Secretary

Drew Keahey
President

20. Approve ROW and necessary legal services to allow access for the floodwall gap closure project.

Commissioner Zeagler made the motion, seconded by Commissioner Turner, and passed unanimously by the Board of Commissioners of the Tensas Basin Levee District after President Drew Keahey called for public comments. There were none—approval ROW and necessary legal services to allow access to the floodwall gap closure project.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the Tensas Basin Levee District does hereby Approve ROW and necessary legal services to allow access for the floodwall gap closure project.

Aundi Brown
Secretary

Drew Keahey
President

21. Approve the purchase of a generator trailer.

Vice President Hutchins made a motion, seconded by Commissioner 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: to allow TBLD staff to approve purchasing a generator trailer.

RESOLUTION

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Commissioners for the Tensas Basin Levee District does Approve the purchase of a generator trailer.

Aundi Brown
Secretary

Drew Keahey
President

22. Approve the Purchase of a fuel tank trailer.

Commissioner Calloway made the motion, which was seconded by Commissioner 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: approving the purchase of a fuel tank trailer to move fuel to the pump stations for the generator.

RESOLUTION

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of the Tensas Basin Levee District does hereby approve the purchase of a fuel trail.

Aundi Brown
Secretary

Drew Keahey
President

Public Comments

Presentations

Items for Discussion

23. Monroe Marina

Mr. Waggoner stated that TBLD has spent a large amount of time working with ORVA, USACE, and the Coast Guard to determine that the current plans for the Monroe Arena would pose a threat to barge traffic coming up and down the Ouachita River. At this time, we cannot see this project moving forward because it would cause unsafe piloting conditions for barge traffic on the river.

24. Diversion Canal Legal Update

Mr. Waggoner stated that TBLD legal counsel believes that we should be able to deem the Diversion Canal a private road.

25. TBLD Response to Boards & Commissions Work Group

Mr. Waggoner stated that the TBLD staff will be drafting a white paper to submit to this work group.

Financial Statements

26. Financial Statements were reviewed and discussed.

Items for Discussion

Levee Updates

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:41 a.m.

Next Meeting June 11, 2024, 9:30 am