

Registrars of Voters Employees' Retirement System
Minutes of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees
May 28, 2025

The meeting of the Board of Trustees for the Registrars of Voters Employees' Retirement System was held at the Renaissance Hotel, 7000 Bluebonnet Boulevard, Baton Rouge, Louisiana on May 28, 2025.

I. Call to Order

Ms. Menard called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

II. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance

Ms. Menard offered an invocation, and Mr. Champagne led the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Roll Call

Ms. Kathy Bourque called the roll. Board members present: Ms. Charlene Menard, Mr. Dwayne Wall, Ms. Shanda Jones, Mr. Brian Champagne, Ms. Rhonda Rogers, Ms. Stephanie Agee, and Ms. Nicole Brown. Ms. Shanika Olinde arrived at 9:42 a.m. Senator Kirk Talbot and Representative Polly Thomas were absent. A quorum was present. Others present included: Ms. Kathy Bourque (System Director); Mr. Greg Curran and Ms. Sondra Bordelon (Actuary and Administrator, Curran Actuarial Consulting, Ltd); Mr. Jon Breth (Investment Consultant, Mariner); Ms. Cynthia Averette (representing Custodian of Assets, Hancock Whitney); Ms. Laura Gail Sullivan (Legal Counsel); and Mr. Steve Raborn (EBR ROV).

IV. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

V. Review and Approval of Minutes

Upon motion by Mr. Wall, seconded by Ms. Agee, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes from March 10, 2025, education training board meeting as presented.

Upon motion by Ms. Rogers, seconded by Mr. Champagne, the Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes from March 11, 2025, board meeting as presented.

VI. Presentation by Investment Consultant, Mariner***

Presentation counts for 1 hour of continuing education for investment training as per R.S. 11:185

Mr. Breth presented the Investment Performance Review for the first quarter period ending March 31, 2025, with a total market value of \$139,242,416 which was down 1.4% for the quarter and up 2.92%

fiscal year to date. He discussed artificial intelligence and its influence on the stock market as well as the recent volatility on the market during this time.

Mr. Breth then discussed the underperformance of Barrow Hanley, which was down 18% this past quarter and lower than the benchmark Russell 2000 Value Index which was down 7.7% in the first quarter of 2025. He explained that a large part of their underperformance was due to their heavy allocation into the technology sector.

Next, Mr. Breth revisited the topic of adding additional real estate investments to the portfolio which was mentioned by Mr. Champagne at the previous board meeting. He discussed how some of the self-storage investments were using private REITs and these were difficult to exit and mostly included huge risks and excessive costs. There was no further action taken at this time pertaining to additional real estate investments.

Lastly, Mr. Breth reviewed the investment market performance ending April 30, 2025, with a total market value of \$134,841,959. He stated that the portfolio remained stable at .47% for the month.

Upon motion by Mr. Champagne, seconded by Ms. Olinde, the Board voted unanimously to approve Mr. Breth's report as presented.

VII. Presentation by Hancock Whitney

Mrs. Averette presented the Custodian Report which included a breakdown of assets for the period ending March 31, 2025, with a market value of \$134,339,798.

Mrs. Averette presented the Members Supplemental Savings Plan Investment Performance Review for the quarter ending March 31, 2025, totaling \$285,697.00.

Upon motion by Ms. Olinde, seconded by Mr. Champagne, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Custodial Report and the Members Supplemental Savings Report as presented by Hancock Whitney.

A break was taken at 10:19 a.m. and returned at 10:28 a.m.

VIII. Report from System's Attorney, Laura Gail Sullivan

Regarding "Recreation and Park Commission for the Parish of EBR v. Sid J. Gautreau, III," Ms. Sullivan informed the Board that the judge had signed a judgement in January of 2025 that was favorable to the Systems. She stated that he ruled that BREC's taxes were to be shared with the retirement systems outlined in the case and the funds should be released. Then, BREC's attorneys objected to the funds being released from the court and submitted their own judgement that would keep the funds with the registry of the court, which the judge agreed and signed. Ms. Sullivan also explained that BREC has requested a subs pensive appeal which was granted so now the record should be lodged from the

district court to the appellate court. As of this meeting date, Ms. Sullivan stated that the record had not been lodged.

Next, Ms. Sullivan discussed the 2025 regular legislative session which convened April 14, 2025, and would have to adjourn no later than June 12, 2025, unless the legislature needs more time to pass appropriation bills by extending the session in two-day increments but no longer than six days. She explained that the bills we were watching, that could have a negative impact on ROVERS, have not moved, such as the one that pertained to proxy voting. She explained that she was closely watching proposed HB 674 which would make numerous changes to the ethics code and consisted of approximately thirty pages. Ms. Sullivan also commented on HB 526 which would establish a website as the official journal of the State instead of the Advocate.

Next, Ms. Sullivan discussed the repeal of (WEP) Windfall Elimination Provision and (GOP) Government Pension Offset by the Social Security Administration. She mentioned that the social security website stated that due to funding and staffing issues it could take more than a year to adjust benefits in pay or retroactive payments, but that all records should be updated by November 2025.

Ms. Sullivan then discussed her contract with ROVERS. She stated her hourly rate since becoming the System's attorney was \$250/hour and requested an increase to \$350/hour to begin fiscal year 2026 which would be effective July 1, 2025.

Upon motion by Mr. Champagne and seconded by Mr. Wall, the Board voted unanimously to approve Ms. Sullivan's updated contract with an increase in her hourly rate from \$250/hour to \$350/hour effective July 1, 2025, as presented.

Mr. Champagne revisited the topic of the BREC litigation and the Board along with Ms. Sullivan discussed the costs associated with attorney fees up to this point in the process of having this case resolved. The Board made a request for the Administrator's office to determine the total costs associated with the BREC Litigation and then provide an update to the trustees. Ms. Bordelon stated that she would research this and email the Board with the information.

Upon motion by Ms. Rogers and seconded by Ms. Olinde, the Board voted unanimously to accept Ms. Sullivan's report as given.

IX. Report from Curran Actuarial Consulting, LTD.

Mr. Curran discussed the renewal of both the ROVERS administrative and actuarial contracts with Curran Actuarial Consulting Ltd. for the fiscal year 2026. Mr. Curran stated that he reviewed the existing contracts and made a few changes which were outlined in the letter sent to Ms. Bourque and enclosed in the meeting packets. For the actuarial contract, he confirmed that there was no increase in the hourly

rate or the monthly retainer amount. Mr. Curran explained that there were changes within the contract that related to light formatting changes, data analyst position added to hourly rates, duties related to assumed rate of return and answering LLA annual reviews had been added. He also explained that there were language clarification changes regarding extraordinary work that could be required to respond to LLA annual reviews.

Mr. Curran stated that there were no changes to the administrative contract and reviewed some of the basic services provided by his office to ROVERS.

Upon motion by Mr. Champagne, seconded by Ms. Rogers, the Board voted unanimously to approve the renewal of the actuarial and administrative contracts for fiscal year 2026 effective July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2026, and to authorize the Director to sign contracts, as presented by Mr. Curran from Curran Actuarial Consulting, Ltd.

Next, Mr. Curran stated that the valuation interest rate was discussed at yesterday's special meeting and there would be no changes.

Mr. Curran then discussed the cost of the study of Back-DROP. He stated that if the Board wanted to move forward with a bill for next year's legislative session on Back-DROP, then certain steps need to be taken to accomplish that goal. First, he explained that there would need to be a revised assumption study completed. Once the studies were completed then all programming would need to be updated for the alternative valuation model. Next, Mr. Curran explained that data would have to be reviewed pertaining to costs of active members selecting Back-DROP and members currently in DROP. He explained that to make these determinations, four calculations would need to be made for approximately twenty-four DROP members. He wanted the Board to understand that there would be lots of work involved in having a Back-DROP option for ROVERS. The Board and Mr. Curran discussed a timeline for completion of adding Back-DROP with an expected effective date of January 1, 2027, but it may not be possible until July 1, 2027. The Board, along with Ms. Sullivan and Mr. Curran, discussed in detail the Back-DROP study and its parameters.

Mr. Curran then discussed the cost of a Back-DROP study. He reminded the Board that this would be an extensive, complicated, and expensive study. He stated that the Board could instruct the actuary to do the work and then charge ROVERS whatever it took to complete the study, or they could set a specific price. Mr. Curran estimated that it would cost approximately \$15,000 to complete this type of study. He explained that the Board needed to remember that the program currently used for ROVERS would also need to be updated and this would also come with significant costs and estimated that it would take approximately \$20,000 because updated programming would have to cover Back-DROP and rescission of DROP.

Mr. Curran also stated that Back-DROP could affect the benefit calculation procedures, and the Board would need to determine whether they wanted to charge members for the different Back-DROP estimates that were requested. Ms. Sullivan confirmed that she would suggest language to include in the bill for Back-DROP as well as assist with the drafting process. Mr. Curran stated that if the Board decided to move forward with the cost study of Back-DROP then he would provide the results at the September board meeting.

Upon motion by Mr. Champagne, seconded by Mr. Wall, the Board voted unanimously to authorize Curran Actuarial Consulting Ltd. to proceed with the Back-DROP study for a total cost of \$15,000, as discussed.

Upon motion by Ms. Olinde, seconded by Mr. Wall, the Board voted unanimously to accept Ms. Curran's report as given.

X. Director's Report

Ms. Bourque informed the Board that included in their meeting packets were the financials through March 31, 2025, for their review. She also stated that there was a packet which had a list of DROPs, refunds, deaths, new members, terminations, and retirees. Next, Ms. Bourque discussed the proposed budget for fiscal year 2026 that was also included in their meeting packets. She stated that there were increases to the custom software, board expenses, staff travel, death audits, and decreases to board member per-diem, and office equipment leases. Ms. Bordelon pointed out that actuarial fees increased from \$60,000 to \$75,000 but that was only because of the Back-DROP study cost of \$15,000 which had already been approved. Ms. Bourque also informed the Board that the total budget for salaries remained the same, however she was asking for an increase to \$93,600 which was a 4% increase. Ms. Bordelon informed the Board that Ms. Cunningham from Duplantier, Hrapmann, Hogan & Maher had provided updated budget amounts for all audit categories, which increased except for the State-Wide AUP which had decreased. Ms. Bourque explained that budget amounts for legal remained the same since no one was sure what would happen regarding the BREC litigation.

Upon motion by Mr. Champagne, seconded by Ms. Olinde, the Board voted unanimously to approve the fiscal 2026 budget as presented.

Upon motion by Mr. Wall, seconded by Mr. Champagne, the Board voted unanimously to approve Ms. Bourque's salary increase to \$93,600 effective July 1, 2025, as discussed.

Ms. Bourque then presented the engagement letter for the State-Wide AUP from Duplantier, Hrapmann, Hogan & Maher which was updated in the budget for \$3,800.00. She pointed out that this was a decrease from the last fiscal year.

Upon motion by Ms. Rogers, seconded by Ms. Olinde, the Board voted unanimously to approve the one-year engagement letter from Duplantier, Hrapmann, Hogan & Maher for up to \$3,800 for period ending June 30, 2025, as presented.

Ms. Bourque then discussed the ROVERS Board of Trustee election which would have two vacant spots effective December 31, 2025. She explained that Mr. Wall and Ms. Menard’s terms would be ending and that Mr. Wall could not run again, however Ms. Menard would be eligible for re-election. Ms. Bourque also informed the Board that there was a letter in their meeting packets from the Louisiana State Treasurer, John Fleming, MD sharing his concerns pertaining to investments in the China, Hong Kong, and Macau regions. Mr. Champagne requested that Mr. Breth have discussion of this item added to the next meeting agenda for September 2025.

Upon motion by Ms. Olinde, seconded by Ms. Rogers, the Board voted unanimously to accept the Director’s report, as presented.

XI. Other Business

Next, the Board discussed and confirmed that the next meeting date would be held at the Westin Hotel in New Orleans after the LAPERS conference on Tuesday, September 9, 2025, starting after lunch.

XIII. Adjourn

Upon motion by Mr. Wall, seconded by Ms. Olinde, the Board voted unanimously to adjourn at 12:25 p.m.

*****These minutes are meant to provide readers with a summary of what took place during the meeting and are not intended to be verbatim transcription. They are in compliance with R. S. 42:20. The signatures that follow simply denote that these minutes were approved by the Board of Trustees as a reasonable representation of the meeting, including providing the substance of all matters decided.***

Director Signature

Date

Chairman Signature

Date