Committee Members Present: Tammy Jahnke, Ryan Benefield, Twilia Harrison, and Sheila Thomas. Pat Cox and Rob Hunt were present via phone.

Committee Members Absent: None.

Designated Federal Officer Dana Coburn called the meeting to order at 8:00 a.m. and gave a recap of the purpose of the TRLOC. DFO Coburn also provided ground rules for the committee and its meetings.

Committee Chairman Dr. Tamera Jahnke gave a recap of the first and second meetings of the TRLOC, and the purpose of today’s meeting, including the process for the public comment portion of the agenda.

The committee heard public comment via phone.

The committee heard a presentation by Becky Short on the Commercial Remote Service Dock program as a follow up to questions asked at previous meetings.

The committee heard additional public comment via phone.

The committee heard a presentation from Jerry Judge, district forester, regarding Eastern cedar trees as a follow up to information requested at previous meeting.

Chairman Jahnke recessed the meeting at 9:50 a.m. for a break, and reconvened at 10:00 a.m.

The committee heard a report from Rodney Raley clarifying the language regarding dock violations.

The committee heard a report from Rodney Raley regarding a project called Serenity Shores which had requested a new resort lease.

Discussion followed until Chairman Jahnke recessed the meeting at 12:13 p.m. for lunch. The meeting reconvened at 1 p.m. Additional discussion followed.

Pat Cox made a motion that the committee recommend to the Commander, Little Rock District, the approval of a resort lease permit at Serenity Shores. Ryan Benefield seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

The committee requested that the Corps staff review rezoning requests received since October 2019, not using the 2003 exclusion policy and present the findings to the committee at the next meeting.

Sheila Thomas made a motion that the committee recommend to the Commander, Little Rock District that the Commercial Remote Service Dock program not be eliminated. Ryan Benefield seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously with Pat Cox abstaining.

Ryan Benefield made a motion that the committee recommend to the Commander, Little Rock District that the vegetation modification permit be modified to include provisions for a waiver of the
requirement on a case-by-case basis. The Commander should include the provisions that may quality the permittee for the waiver. Twilia Harrison seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Rob Hunt made a motion that the committee recommend to the Commander, Little Rock District that the Corps explore partnerships with relevant state agencies to provide field support and forestry expertise in developing vegetation management waivers. Ryan Benefield seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Ryan Benefield made a motion that the committee recommend to the Commander, Little Rock District that the 2003 policy regarding not allowing rezoning requests be rescinded, and that all future rezoning requests be evaluated for possible inclusion in future master plan and shoreline management plan revisions. Twilia Harrison seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Tamera Jahnke made a motion that the committee recommend to the Commander, Little Rock District, that the Corps continue evaluation of communication plans to the public and seek excellence in all communication. Sheila Thomas seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Pat Cox made a motion that the committee recommend to the Commander, Little Rock District, that the Corps look for alternatives to address the disparity between revenue generated from a private boat dock program versus the cost of operating the program. Twilia Harrison seconded the motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Ryan Benefield made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sheila Thomas seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 4 p.m.

Submitted By:

Sheila Thomas, Secretary