

Redevelopment Authority moves on without D&Z

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The members of the Red River Redevelopment Authority (RRRA) Board of Directors Monday approved a resolution to confirm that it is moving ahead with the early transfer of the property "excessed" by the BRAC (Base Realignment and Closure) Commission in 2005 without the involvement of the Day & Zimmerman (D&Z) Corporation, the manager of the Lone Star Army Ammunition Plant.

Redevelopment Authority Executive Director Duane Lavery reminded board members that the RRRA is the official LRA (Local Redevelopment Authority) for Red River.

He reviewed a time line going back to 2005 on the process whereby the Department of Defense (DoD) approved divesting itself of 3,855 acres of the Depot and the entirety of the army ammunition plant, 15,500 acres.

The DoD's Office of Economic Adjustment (OEA), the department which helps communities that have been affected by the BRAC process, approved a \$846,000 planning grant last month for the Red River project, said Lavery.

That's welcome because up until now the RRRA has been paying for the planning out of its own budget. Normally, the DoD does not divest of property excessed by the BRAC process until an environmental cleanup is accomplished, but the RRRA is asking for an early transfer with the understanding it will have the cleanup done itself.

With the planning grant and the request for early transfer in the works, Lavery said the RRRA needs to move on the agreement with the Army and it can't wait for D&Z cooperation.

He reviewed a timeline for board members where the RRRA and D&Z have tried to come to an agreement. D&Z made its own offer to buy the facility outright last year for \$23.3 million, but the DoD told them in August that the RRRA is the LRA and they had to participate in the process through them.

Earlier this month, the RRRA staff thought they had an agreement with D&Z for the future of the Lone Star plant, and even went so far as to draft a press release, but D&Z refused permission to release it and said that "no agreement has been reached", said Lavery.

The Authority will move ahead with plans for a disposition strategy with the Army,

The RRRA is committed to the continued operation of the Lone Star Army Ammunition Plant, he added, but the plant would have to deal with the RRRA as a tenant.