

April 20, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District was held on Monday, April 20, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. at the Water District office, 1016 St. Mary Street, Thibodaux, LA

Present were:	Hugh Caffery, Chairman	Francis Richard
	Greg Nolan, Secretary/Treasurer	Donald Schwab
	Jake Giardina	Eli Miles, Jr,
	Windell Curole	Judge Jimmy Gaidry

Absent: Gene Harrell, Vice-Chairman; Ron Animashaun, Lance Authement

Also present: Dustin Rabalais, T. Baker Smith; Lori LeBlanc; Tiffany Bergeron; Melissa Cloutet
Barry Marionneaux, Attorney; Stevie Smith, All South Consulting Engineers
Alma Robichaux, BTNEP; Diane S. Gaidry; Robert Mire
Ben Malbrough, Executive Director; Jana Langley, Administrative Assistant

Moved by Commissioner Windell Curole, seconded by Commissioner Jake Giardina to dispense with the reading of the minutes, and approve the minutes of March 16, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Windell Curole, seconded by Commissioner Jake Giardina to approve the accounts payable for March. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Jake Giardina to approve the finance report. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Malbrough advised that the water has come down substantially from last week. We made sure we did everything we could to keep the water as low as we could. We lost power to the pump station for a couple of days, but everything worked out good with the generator.

Mr. Malbrough reported that most of the high water complaints were mainly here in Thibodaux and south. We had some serious overtopping of the Theriot gates which came up really fast. Tuesday the water came up really fast within about three hours. This gave us a test to see what the whole system holds now that we are putting this much water in the bayou. We can use this as a lesson on how we analyze the Dugas Canal pump station. It gave us an opportunity to really see what the bayou does in a certain storm condition, and what the elevations are throughout that stage, and allows us to not necessarily rely on model results.

Commissioner Jake Giardina asked how high the elevation in Dugas Canal got to, and Mr. Malbrough answered about one foot below the top of the gate. It did not overtop Dugas Canal. Mr. Malbrough advised that it got up to 6 ½ ft. in the bayou at Jackson Street, and it was probably 6 ft. at Dugas Canal.

Chairman Hugh Caffery asked if we had adjusted the pump rates during the rain, and Mr. Malbrough answered that we had shut the pumps down during the rain.

Chairman Hugh Caffery asked if we had any news on the Dugas Canal pump station, and Mr. Malbrough answered that the last we had heard was the parish had got a permit from DNR.

Mr. Malbrough stated that the Mississippi River Reintroduction Into Bayou Lafourche Phase 2 Dredge Project was advertised again for bids because we didn't get any bids during the first advertisement. We had the mandatory pre-bid last Thursday, and it was well attended. We will be releasing an addendum that will modify the plans and specifications to accommodate some of the concerns brought by the contractors. We have relaxed the ability of the contractor to work in multiple reaches of the bayou at the same time. Mr. Malbrough stated that he met with CPRA, and the funding is secure. They have verbally committed to seeing the project through.

Mr. Dustin Rabalais stated that the bid opening was March 31st, and we didn't get any bids. We immediately checked with the contractors to find out their reasons for not bidding because nothing was brought up at the original pre-bid meeting. Mr. Rabalais advised that we will change those things brought up by the contractors, and he believes we will get bids this time.

Chairman Hugh Caffery asked what will be our next step if we don't get any bids again, and Mr. Malbrough answered that we could break the project into smaller segments to appeal the smaller guys. Mr. Rabalais advised that we need someone that can handle a project of this size that has the appropriate equipment.

Ms. Alma Robichaux, BTNEP, gave a power point presentation on the Bayou Lafourche Cleanup. She advised that they had 1,032 volunteers sign up, which was amazing. She showed pictures of the various items picked up. There were 30,309 pieces picked up.

Ms. Robichaux advised that Tiffany Bergeron came over, and they sent a survey to 430 people who signed up for the cleanup, and they received ninety-four back with responses about where they found out about the survey, do they know that Bayou Lafourche is the drinking water supply for the area, etc.

Commissioner Donald Schwab stated that we need to show the power point presentation on HTV, and he will get Martin Folsom to show it. The people need to know the effect of this on their drinking water. Commissioner Windell Curole stated that we need to say we picked up this trash from Bayou Lafourche that in the end is your drinking water. We need to make the connection to the people.

Ms. Robichaux advised the Board that the Thomassie boat launch will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Monday.

Mr. Malbrough reported that we went out for bid for the Maintenance Dredging of the Sediment Trap, and we received three bids. The bids were opened on March 19th and reviewed, and the lowest bidder was Professional Construction Services, Inc. of Kenner, LA for \$227,000.00.

Moved by Commissioner Windell Curole, seconded by Commissioner Donald Schwab and unanimously approved to formally award the contract for the Bayou Lafourche Sedimentation Basin Maintenance Dredging Project to Professional Construction Services, Inc. of Kenner, LA in the amount of \$227,000.00. Also, negotiate a contract with Professional Construction Services, Inc. and authorize Hugh Caffery to execute the contract to begin work on dredging the sediment trap.

Mr. Malbrough advised that we signed a six month contract in November with Lori LeBlanc LLC and her team to assist us with our public outreach. He reported that he distributed to the Board a summary of

some of the things they have done. Mr. Malbrough stated that they have been a tremendous help with lining up and preparing presentations, updating our website, and the helping with the Bayou Cleanup. Mr. Malbrough recommended extending the contract on a month-to-month basis.

Ms. Lori LeBlanc thanked the Board for the opportunity to work with us. She introduced her new team member, Melissa Cloutet, who is doing outreach coordination. She advised that they have a lot more speaking engagements dependent on getting Phase 2 off the ground. Ms. LeBlanc stated that they have enjoyed working with us, and would like to continue to do so.

Ms. LeBlanc advised that Saturday she is sponsoring Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District to have a crawfish boiling team for the Bayou Industrial Group's Crawfish Crawl. Ben will be the crawfish boiler.

Moved by Commissioner Windell Curole, seconded by Commissioner Francis Richard and unanimously approved to continue the public outreach consulting services with Lori LeBlanc LLC and her team on a month-to-month basis for a fee of \$4,500.00.

Chairman Hugh Caffery advised that Ben's pay increase was overlooked in January, and he recommended that a motion be made for his pay increase. Moved by Commissioner Windell Curole, seconded by Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr. to approve the pay increase of 4% for Ben Malbrough retroactive 01/23/2015. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Malbrough advised that BTNEP had a huge model of the bayou that the District had displayed in the Board room. We had moved it into the shop to make more room in the Board room .Mr. Malbrough state that he reached out to Johnathan Foret with the Wetlands Discovery Center in Houma regarding the model, and he will have it displayed at the Wetlands Discovery Center in Houma.

Mr. Malbrough distributed a copy of the BLFWD revised legislation that will be introduced this legislative session. He advised that it is on the agenda for Wednesday in the Natural Resources Committee.

Chairman Hugh Caffery welcomed and thanked Mrs. Gaidry for not only for coming tonight but for putting up with us, and loaning her dear husband for all the work that he has done that we appreciate.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Windell Curole and unanimously approved to go into executive session at 6:05 p.m. for a discussion on the Union Pacific preliminary engineering agreement.

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Commissioner Windell Curole and unanimously approved to return to regular session at 7:30 p.m.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Francis Richard and unanimously approved the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Hugh Caffery, Chairman

Greg Nolan, Secretary/Treasurer

