

February 24, 2014

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District was held on Monday, February 24, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. at the Water District office, 1016 St. Mary Street, Thibodaux, LA

Present were: Hugh Caffery, Chairman  
Gene Harrell, Vice-Chairman  
Greg Nolan, Secretary/Treasurer  
Lance Authement  
Jake Giardina  
Judge Edward Gaidry  
Francis Richard  
Donald Schwab  
Eli Miles, Jr.

Absent: Ron Animashaun, Windell Curole, Juan Pickett

Also present were: Dustin Rabalais, T. Baker Smith; Gasper Chifici, CPRA Project Manager  
Clay Breau, GSE Associates; Alma Robichaux, BTNEP  
Mike Sobert, Consolidated Waterworks District; Henry and Hattie Templet  
Jerry Waguespack; Nick Porto; Robert Mire; Bobby Acosta  
Ben Malbrough, Executive Director; Jana Langley, Administrative Assistant

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Commissioner Donald Schwab to dispense with the reading of the minutes, and approve the minutes of January 27, 2014. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell, seconded by Commissioner Francis Richard to approve the accounts payable for January. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell to approve the finance report for January. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ben Malbrough reported we are now able to pump between 250 and 325cfs in the bayou. We are now getting back to where we were in August of last year. He stated that we received a report on the analysis of the walk across bridge in Assumption. We could cut that bridge section out if it ever becomes a problem again. We didn't have to do that because we were finally able to get through.

Chairman Caffery advised that there was an article in the Times Picayune two weeks ago regarding the funding of these different diversion projects, and that we were still mentioned in there. Chairman Caffery asked that a copy be made of the article to send to the Board, and Ben stated he would do that.

Mr. Dustin Rabalais, T. Baker Smith, gave an update on the Mississippi River Reintroduction into Bayou Lafourche-Phase 2 Project as follows:

- Design cross sections are complete.
- Topographic surveys of soil disposal sites access are to begin in next few weeks.
- Geotechnical completed investigation of first round of land based borings, and second set of land based borings and water based borings are planned to begin mid-March.
- Lands Rights/ROW draft lease agreement was provided to land owners to review.
- Aerial photography was flown Friday, and it takes about two weeks to process data.
- Permitting- Field work for the wetland delineation in the bayou is complete.
- Field work for the soil disposal site should be complete this week.
- Request for a Jurisdictional Determination to the Corps will be submitted in the next two to three weeks.
- Pre-Application meeting was held with DNR and the Corps.

Commissioner Greg Nolan asked about the two pipelines that were crossing the bayou. Mr. Rabalais stated that they have spoken to all the pipeline companies, and he was told verbally that they were fine with the project. Mr. Malbrough stated that is based on the preliminary template sent to them.

Moved by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell, seconded by Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr. and unanimously approved to adopt the Resolution for the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire, and a copy of the resolution and questionnaire will be given to the auditor. RESOLUTION ATTACHED

Mr. Malbrough recommended the approval of two dock/wharf permit applications, both which have their Coastal Use Permit and Corps permit. The location of both proposed projects is in Lockport.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Judge Edward Gaidry to approve the permit application for Anthony Patrone, 938 Dravis Ave., Girard, OH (project location- 7590 Hwy. 308, Lockport, LA), to construct a pier measuring 8' X 10' with a 35' X 8' dock. A houseboat will be moored to the dock. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Donald Schwab, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell to approve the permit application for Edmond Griffin, 7216, Hwy. 1, Lockport, LA, to construct a pier along the bank line to be used for the enjoyment of outdoor activities. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Malbrough reported that agenda Item 10.(e)-Discussion on BLFWD future under State Civil Service, will be tabled until next month's meeting. He needs to get more information to present to the Board.

Mr. Malbrough advised that he, Mr. Sobert, Mr. Barrios, Waitz Engineers, and engineers from Picciola met to discuss the Dugas Canal project. Mr. Sobert and Mr. Barrios expressed their main concern, which is water quality. Mr. Malbrough expressed his major concern of water surface elevation and water quality. Lafourche Parish is going to continue to work on an operations plan, which will hopefully appease the water quality concern. In addition to that, they are also going to run some analysis using the model that we had formulated from the Phase 2 project to look at some of the water surface elevations of how it will impact the bayou. Mr. Malbrough stated that they may be going out to public notice in the next week or so, and we will keep an eye on that.

Mr. Malbrough advised that the Lafourche Parish District Attorney is hosting a seminar Thursday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. at Central Lafourche High School Auditorium in Mathews to discuss open meetings laws, executive sessions, public records, and public bidding.

Mr. Malbrough reported that he met last week with the appraiser and Mr. Guillot regarding the American Legion building appraisal. The American Legion agreed to extend the deadline for the appraisal. Mr. Malbrough will submit the appraisal to the Board for review once it is complete.

Mr. Malbrough stated that he hung a section of the map which will ultimately cover the whole length of the wall. The Board agreed to have South Central Planning complete the remaining sections of the map.

Mr. Malbrough advised that last year we sponsored a supper for the BTNEP Paddle Bayou Lafourche event, and was checking to see if we would host the supper this year at Madewood on April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Francis Richard and unanimously approved to sponsor the BTNEP Paddle Bayou Lafourche supper at Madewood on April 3<sup>rd</sup>, with a limit of \$2,500.00.

Mr. Malbrough advised that the State of the Coast convention is coming to New Orleans March 18-20. Every two years the Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana puts on this convention, and it is essentially all the stakeholders in all of coastal Louisiana. He requested that he attend the convention.

Moved by Commissioner Judge Edward Gaidry, seconded by Commissioner Jake Giardina and unanimously approved to authorize Ben Malbrough to attend the State of the Coast convention on March 18-20 in New Orleans. The convention registration fee is \$360.00, and two nights cost at a hotel.

Mr. Malbrough reported that we are going to begin preparing a new/updated Capital Outlay request for the drainage issues in Donaldsonville. It will allow us to start pumping more water into the bayou. In talking to the delegation, they feel our best shot at getting something funded through Capital Outlay would be for the Fresh Water District to champion the project. The benefits are portrayed in a totally different manner when you talk about the drainage in Donaldsonville as opposed to saying the drainage in Donaldsonville is impeding the drinking water to 300,000 people who depend on it. We are looking at addressing the culverts, both south of the railroad, just north of the railroad, and even further north of Marchand that drains that whole section of Donaldsonville.

Chairman Caffery advised that we are looking at updating our modeling. Our project may have lost a little bit of luster in the days talking about these huge diversions. Our modeling that was done ten or more years ago is not up to date.

Chairman Caffery stated that Ben found an engineering company, Royal Engineers, who is well familiar with all the current projects, and their modeling techniques. We got a quote from them on what it would cost to update our modeling.

Mr. Malbrough advised that we got a quote from Royal Engineers, and it was higher than we anticipated. CPRA reviewed it and they are strongly in favor of our moving forward with this type of analysis. Mr. Malbrough stated it is his recommendation to move forward with this project. We should get the revised proposal this week, and will be getting a letter from CPRA supporting that analysis.

Commissioner Jake Giardina asked if this engineering firm came to us with this proposal, and Mr. Malbrough answered that he sought them out. Commissioner Giardina asked if it would be reasonable to think about getting two or three other proposals from very reputable and knowledgeable firms. Mr. Malbrough stated that is professional services, and advised that FTN is the modeler and they were the modeling firm who started out with CH2MHill.

Chairman Caffery asked if we can explain that there is a unique service that Royal Engineers can provide us that is not available from another engineering firm. Mr. Malbrough answered that the main point of contact that will be on the project is Kirk Reinhardt, who just left CPRA, and he is the one who headed up the 2012 Master Plan. Mr. Reinhardt knows what went down in the meetings, and he knows the discussions that took place. Mr. Malbrough advised that he thinks there is an added benefit to having him on our team. A bulk of the money is to FTN for the actual modeling of the work.

Commissioner Francis Richard advised that he feels another proposal should be obtained just for comparison. He asked if we are forced to go with a low bid. Ben answered no because this is for professional services, and we are supposed to select off of qualifications, and not off of price.

Mr. Malbrough stated that he met with Royal Engineers at the office and outlined what he thought we needed for the deliverable, and they drafted a scope of work. Ben advised that he reviewed it and sent it back to them. They submitted a final scope of work with their attached rates, and an estimate.

Chairman Caffery asked if there are others that can do this work. He asked if FTN is an essential provider of this service. Mr. Malbrough answered I think so for the reason that they were involved in the very beginning. He feels they may have some information that may be valuable to us.

Mr. Malbrough stated that we are competing with whatever the guys who formulate the master plan think is the most creditable model. Mr. Malbrough advised that Kirk Reinhardt knows the people who are going to be working on that next master plan that will be updated in 2017.

Mr. Clay Breaux advised that FNT is more familiar in the areas of Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes because they have done a lot of studies, and they have a lot of information. He stated when you try to compete with them and when you do hydraulic modeling, you rely on a lot of that data.

Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell asked if the discussions with Robert Routon and Jerome Zeringue suggest that it is likely to increase or decrease the cost, and Mr. Malbrough answered decrease the cost. The original proposal was \$220K, and it looks like we will be able to cut at least \$30K to \$40K.

Mr. Malbrough stated that he could get rate sheets from different modeling firms, and see how they stack up. Chairman Caffery stated that he thinks we need some type of comparison.

Chairman Caffery welcomed Mr. Mike Sobert to the meeting, and asked if he wanted to add anything. Mr. Sobert commented that Ben did a good very good job of detailing their meeting. M. Sobert advised that the ball is in Lafourche Parish's court right now, and we will wait to see what they come up with.

Ms. Alma Robichaux, BTNEP, advised that the Bayou Lafourche Cleanup will be held March 15<sup>th</sup>. She stated they still need dumpsters for Assumption Parish. Lafourche is having their hazardous waste day the same day as the cleanup, and we can bring any hazardous items to them.

Moved by Commissioner Judge Edward Gaidry, seconded by Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr. and unanimously approved to go into Executive Session at 6:25 p.m.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Donald Schwab and unanimously approved to return to regular session at 7:30 p.m.

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

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Hugh Caffery, Chairman

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Greg Nolan, Secretary/Treasurer

