

February 15, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District was held on Monday, February 15, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. at the Water District office, 1016 St. Mary Street, Thibodaux, LA

Present were: Hugh Caffery, Chairman
Ron Animashaun
Lance Authement
Francis Richard
Donald Schwab
Eli Miles, Jr.
Ray Mayet
Chris Domangue

Absent: Gene Harrell, Vice-Chairman, Greg Nolan, Secretary/Treasurer, Judge Jimmy Gaidry, Jake Giardina

Also present: Dustin Rabalais, T. Baker Smith; Jason Kennedy; Clay Breaud; Ayad Taofik;
Barry Marionneaux, Attorney; Alma Robichaux, BTNEP; John Lafargue; Joe Cancienne
Katherine Ovalle LaTorres, HDR; Robert Mire
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 19, 2016. Motion carried unanimously,

Moved by Commissioner Lance Authement, seconded by Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr. to approve the accounts payable for January. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Commissioner Lance Authement to approve the finance report for December. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ben Malbrough reported that the Board was sent the monthly pumping summary. The river is starting to go down so once we get a timeframe where we can get some equipment in we will start the installation of the pump that was repaired.

Mr. Malbrough advised that Barry and he have a conference call tomorrow with the Dept. of the Interior regarding the \$4.3 million which will go to funding a large portion of Phase 2A dredging. Assumption had to close out their existing project with the Dept. of the Interior, and reapply for a new grant. Mr. Malbrough stated that Barry and he are meeting with the Assumption Parish attorney tomorrow to go over the intergovernmental agreement which will lay out the terms and conditions for them to direct that money to us.

Mr. Dustin Rabalais, T. Baker Smith, reported that the Phase 2 dredging project is 450 days. We are at day 245, and have 205 days remaining. He reviewed the status of all of the disposal sites, and described the location of each disposal site. He showed pictures of some of the debris being removed from the bayou.

Mr. Rabalais reported that Phase 2A design and quantity surveys are complete. The abstracting report should be complete in two weeks or less so they can go ahead and sign the lease agreements with the two landowners. He is beginning to work the pipelines and utilities to get the right-of-way agreements. The geotech report should be complete by the end of this week. DNR appears to have no objections regarding permitting but we are waiting on the Corps of Engineers. We should have the geotech reports and all the permits in hand to go ahead and execute the change order in 30 to 40 days.

Mr. Malbrough advised that the plans were submitted to Union Pacific on February 9th, and Garland is working on setting up a conference call with Union Pacific, HDR, and he to start initiating the agreement to move this to construction. The agreement will be submitted to CPRA for review.

Commissioner Chris Domangue asked for clarity on who will be absorbing the cost of the Union Pacific railroad, and Ben answered that we are funding the entire project with CIAP funds with Union Pacific's participation, but not financial participation. Mr. Malbrough advised that HDR and Union Pacific have been working together on every issue that has arisen out of the project.

Mr. Malbrough advised that we have finally gotten everything in order with Lafourche parish regarding the water control structure, and all the agreements are in place. There were some change orders that needed to be executed, and everything came in right at the end of the previous administration. We are going out to the structure tomorrow to operate it to make sure everything is working properly. The contractor plans to get the barge Wednesday or Thursday, and bring it to Allied Shipyard to dry dock it. We did the additional analysis, and the number we settled on is a six foot head differential. It is an additional \$150,000 to the price of construction.

Mr. Malbrough asked that the RSIQ's for the Thibodaux Weir Removal project be tabled until the next meeting. He advised that the RSIQ's for the Pumping Capacity Project are due by Friday, February 19th. We will be ready to discuss and award the two by next month's meeting. Chairman Caffery advised that we received six responses to the RSIQ for the Thibodaux Weir Removal project.

Mr. Malbrough requested that the agenda be amended to discuss a permit application for Greg Torres. Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Commissioner Chris Domangue and unanimously approved to amend the agenda by two-thirds vote to discuss a permit application for Greg Torres.

Mr. Malbrough stated that Greg Torres is requesting a permit to build a bulkhead, boat slip, wharf, and four pilings for a boat lift. He received his Coastal Use Permit. Mr. Malbrough showed a picture of where the bulkhead will be constructed.

Moved by Commissioner Donald Schwab, seconded by Commissioner Ray Mayet to approve a permit for Greg Torres, 2940 Highway 308, Raceland, LA to build a bulkhead, boat slip, wharf, and four pilings for a boat lift. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Ray Mayet, seconded by Commissioner Francis Richard and unanimously approved to return to the regular order of the agenda.

Mr. Malbrough requested that the District sponsor an appreciation reception up to \$5,000 for the BTNEP Bayou Lafourche Cleanup, and sponsor a meal for the Bayou Lafourche Paddle Trip not to exceed \$2,500.00. He advised that he cooked last year, and plans to cook the meal again this year.

Moved by Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Ron Animashaun and unanimously approved to sponsor an appreciation reception up to \$5,000 for the BTNEP Bayou Lafourche Cleanup, and sponsor a meal for the Bayou Lafourche Paddle Trip not to exceed \$2,500.00.

Chairman Caffery asked if the contractor is finished with the sediment trap, and Mr. Malbrough answered that the contractor demobilized from the site, and stated that we have some issues with the project. The contractor did not dredge to the full template. We worked with the engineer who did the design and

construction management, and had them develop a letter to submit to us on their findings and their recommendations. Ben stated that the final post construction dredge did not come to the design elevation. We are evaluating the post construction survey, and working with the engineer on a path forward to close out the project.

Chairman Caffery asked about the drainage issue with the boat launch, and Ben answered that the original plan was to have the contractor do that, but the cost from the contractor was not favorable at all. We have a plan put together to get some quotes from contractors to do that repair.

Commissioner Ray Mayet asked about the hiring of the Bayou Lafourche promotional person, and Ben stated that John Lafargue is here to give an update of where we stand with the Friends of Bayou Lafourche Foundation.

Mr. John Lafargue advised that they are close to getting the potential Board members, and once that happens they will adopt the by-laws, accept the cooperative endeavor agreement, engage a CPA, and hire a director. They will then focus on operational income so they will not have to rely on the Fresh Water District for funding. Long term they will focus on the strategic development of the bayou with regards to recreation and beautification.

Chairman Hugh Caffery asked for public comments. Ms. Alma Robichaux thanked the Board for the Bayou Lafourche Cleanup sponsorship.

Ms. Robichaux stated that as a private citizen and on behalf of the Country Club she would like to get feedback on the effects of the Dugas Canal project on the bayou. Chairman Hugh Caffery stated that we have a new president, and they are looking at all of the alternatives.

Mr. Malbrough advised that the parish initially wanted to put a 450 cubic feet per second pump station that would be pumping into the bayou. We were hesitant in approving the donation of the Dugas Canal structure to the parish until some more analysis was done. One concern the District had was the water surface elevation resulting from it, and the other being water quality. Terrebonne Parish and Lafourche Parish Waterworks both strongly opposed the pump station project because of the water quality. The Fresh Water District sent a statement of objection to the project to the Dept. of Natural Resources Coastal Use Permit.

Jason Kennedy applauded the efforts of the District, and thinks that the Board is very proactive in taking advantage of funding opportunities with the Phase 2 dredging.

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Commissioner Donald Schwab and unanimously approved the meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Hugh Caffery, Chairman

Greg Nolan, Secretary/Treasurer

