

January 20, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District was held on Tuesday, January 20, 2015 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
Windell Curole
Eli Miles, Jr.

Francis Richard
Lance Authement
Donald Schwab
Ron Animashaun

Absent: Judge Jimmy Gaidry, Jake Giardina

Also present: Dustin Rabalais, T. Baker Smith; Tiffany Bergeron; Alma Robichaux, BTNEP
Barry Marionneaux, Attorney; Ayad Taofik, Burk-Kleinpeter, Inc.
Stevie Smith, All South Consulting Engineers; Robert Mire; Jerry Waguespack
Ben Malbrough, Executive Director; Jana Langley, Administrative Assistant

Chairman Hugh Caffery asked for nominations for the election of officers. Moved by Commissioner Ron Animashaun, seconded by Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr. to retain the same slate of officers. Chairman Caffery asked for any other nominations, and there were none. Moved by Commissioner Windell Curole, seconded by Commissioner Francis Richard to close the nominations. Chairman Caffery asked for a vote on the motion, and the vote was unanimous to retain the same slate of officers.

Moved by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell, seconded by Commissioner Windell Curole to dispense with the reading of the minutes, and approve the minutes of December 16, 2014. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Donald Schwab, seconded by Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr. to approve the accounts payable for December. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Malbrough advised that the operations at the pump station is normal. We advertised for the vacancy for the bayou crew position until the end of January. We pulled the harvester out and are getting some prices to repair the main conveyor of the harvester. We are still running one harvester.

Commissioner Greg Nolan asked if we have any updates on the damage of the dolphin alarm system, and Mr. Malbrough answered that we will talk about that in executive session because of the litigation.

Chairman Caffery asked if the barge with the excavator has been running, and Mr. Malbrough stated that it is parked at this time. He advised that all we do right now is routine running of it.

Chairman Caffery stated that he heard from Charlotte Randolph that the funding for the saltwater control structure was pulled. Mr. Malbrough advised that he had heard that projects are being pulled but he hadn't heard about the saltwater control structure. Mr. Malbrough stated that he was concerned about the dredge project funding, but because that money is federal it will not be affected.

Chairman Caffery commented on the little movement on the BP litigation and that might lead to Restore money. Chairman Caffery stated that Ben and he met with Jerome Zeringue, and he verified that it is a big pool of money that Louisiana will get. Mr. Barry Marionneaux advised that if there is a settlement with BP it will be available pretty quick but, based upon what he has been reading so far, it doesn't look to good that there will be a settlement. If that is the case, there will be a long appeal.

Dustin Rabalais, T. Baker Smith, gave an update on the Mississippi River Reintroduction into Bayou Lafourche project, as follows:

- He submitted to Ben yesterday the Statement of Intentions, which includes the final plans and specs, permits from DOTD, DNR, and determinations from the Corps of Engineers.
- The next big step is the CPRA review process. He advised that after the review process is complete, he would need 72 hrs. notice to get it in the newspaper for advertisement.
- They have two tracts on the land rights that are not completely 100% signed. One of the two tracts they have 95% of the ownership signed, and the second one we will probably get 95%.

Mr. Malbrough stated that in speaking with Jerome Zeringue on Friday, he said CPRA's policy is 70% ownership. If we use that as guidance, then we are there already. We would be taking on the liability of not having 100% ownership. Mr. Barry Marionneaux stated that he would highly recommend not holding up this project if we don't have 100%. He advised that Dustin has done a real good job in making a good faith effort to try to get in touch with everybody.

Mr. Malbrough advised that all of the final documents will be in CPRA's hand tomorrow morning. He stated that he is optimistic that we can have this project advertised at the very beginning of February.

Mr. Malbrough reported that it is customary of the Fresh Water District to make a \$5,000 donation to BTNEP for the Bayou Lafourche Cleanup. Moved by Commissioner Windell Curole, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell and unanimously approved to make a \$5,000 donation to BTNEP for the Bayou Lafourche Cleanup.

Commissioner Windell Curole asked if there has been any discussion in expanding the cleanup into Terrebonne Parish. Ms. Alma Robichaux stated that she has been working with South Louisiana Wetlands Discovery Center, and they have been talking about getting a group to do the Terrebonne cleanup next year at the same time as the Lafourche cleanup.

Mr. Malbrough advised that Lori LeBlanc and her team Tiffany and Mandi have really been assisting us in working with Alma and the BTNEP program. Mr. Malbrough advised that we are soliciting money to put on an appreciation party afterwards. Chairman Caffery stated that we could also have some type of awards ceremony, and Mr. Malbrough advised that it all depends on the amount of sponsorship money we get. Mr. Malbrough advised that he already got the use of the pavilion under the Hwy 90 overpass for the appreciation party.

Mr. Malbrough advised that Justin Tenney submitted a permit application for two floating docks near LA 1 and Percy Brown Rd. for kayak access on the bayou as well as for fishing and wildlife observation. Moved by Commissioner Windell Curole, seconded by Commissioner Francis Richard to approve the permit application for Justin Tenney, 1010 Hwy 1, Thibodaux, LA, to construct two floating docks at the intersection of Percy Brown Rd. and Hwy. 1 for fishing, kayaking, wildlife observation, and other outdoor activities on Bayou Lafourche for public enjoyment. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Malbrough stated that in working with the landowner regarding the permit for the floating docks the discussion came up about his interest in donating the property to the parish or to BTNEP. Mr. Malbrough asked if he would entertain the idea of allowing us to construct a boat launch on his property if we had full access to it, and he said absolutely as long as it is just us and him, and not a public boat launch. We would have to construct the boat launch. Chairman Caffery stated that he doesn't think anybody would object to that at this point.

Mr. Malbrough stated that Barry and he will move forward with negotiating an agreement with the landowner to construct a boat launch on his property that we will have access to in order to launch our equipment. Mr. Malbrough will get an estimate of what it will cost to construct the launch.

Mr. Malbrough reported that every year the Teche-Vermillion has a state of the fresh water gathering where they invite all the stakeholders and the politicians, and he attended it this past year. He advised that the director and he were walking around and he was showing Ben their equipment. Mr. Malbrough noticed they had a dump truck sitting next to a brand new one. The director asked Mr. Malbrough if he wants the old one and Ben said yes, and asked how much they want for it. Mr. Malbrough stated that he received an e-mail stating that their Board passed a resolution to donate the dump truck to us.

Mr. Malbrough stated that we don't have any means of taking the trees that we cut out of the bayou. It doesn't require a CDL to drive it. Moved by Commissioner Windell Curole, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell to accept the donated dump truck from Tech-Vermillion Fresh Water District to the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Malbrough reported that Alma and he were on KTIB radio yesterday morning promoting the cleanup. He advised that the public outreach team is continuously updating Facebook, and he is going out giving presentations to various organizations.

Mr. Malbrough advised that the outreach team and he are working on rebranding the BLFWD logo. He stated that we could tie in all the facets that we service from the restoration and the marshes to the residents and the businesses. We will also have an e-Newsletter to send out to everyone. Chairman Caffery stated that we have a data base of all the addresses of the residents along the bayou, and we could send out a request for their e-mail addresses in order for them to get our e-Newsletter.

Chairman Hugh Caffery asked for any public comments, and there were none.

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Commissioner Windell Curole and unanimously approved to go into executive session at 6:05 p.m.

Moved by Commissioner Windell Curole, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell and unanimously approved to return to regular session at 7:30 p.m.

Moved by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell, seconded by Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr. and unanimously approved the meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Hugh Caffery, Chairman

Greg Nolan, Secretary/Treasurer

