

June 16, 2014

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District was held on Monday, June 16, 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, Jr., Secretary/Treasurer

Windell Curole
Donald Schwab
Judge Jimmy Gaidry

Absent: Ron Animashaun, Lance Authement, Jake Giardina, Francis Richard, Juan Pickett, Eli Miles, Jr.

Also present were: Dustin Rabalais. T. Baker Smith; Clay Braud, Providence/GSE Associates
Tia Barbera, CPA, Waguespack & Gallagher; Representative Dee Richard
Alma Robichaux, BTNEP; Stevie Smith, All South Consulting Engineers
Barry Marionneaux, Attorney; Jerry Waguespack; Robert Mire; Nick Porto
Ben Malbrough, Executive Director; Jana Langley, Administrative Assistant

Hugh Caffery, Chairman, announced that we do not have a quorum of the Board to take action on any issues, but we will discuss all matters that are pressing the District.

Chairman Caffery asked if there were any questions on the accounts payable, and there were none.

Mr. Malbrough advised that Albert Evans, Jr. was hired as an operator at the pump station on June 12th.

Chairman Caffery advised that the District's capital outlay project was included in the bill for \$700,000.00. We still have to go through the bond commission to get fully funded. The project is to prevent the flooding in Donaldsonville. Chairman Caffery commented on the recent flooding in Donaldsonville, and asked that Mr. Malbrough briefly discuss that issue.

Mr. Malbrough stated in the pumping summary that is sent out to the Board, you can see the storm event that came in on May 28th. Estimates show as much as twelve to sixteen inches of rain over a twelve hour period came down in Donaldsonville. We shut the pump station down, and the guys monitored the weather. Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell advised that he doesn't think any homes were flooded.

Mr. Malbrough stated that he spoke to Mayor Sullivan after the rain event. The timing of the flood event was strangely coincidental because the capital outlay bill we were trying to get the city to endorse us for was up for a vote that following weekend. Mr. Malbrough advised that he told Mayor Sullivan that this is what we are trying to help alleviate, and asked if we could all come to the table to try to resolve this.

Ms. Tia Barbera, CPA, Waguespack & Gallagher, reviewed the 2013 fiscal year-end audit. She advised that the audit was good with the exception of a finding regarding the amended dredge project budget. It is difficult to anticipate the timing of the revenues from CPRA for the dredge project.

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

- ❖ We are still targeting June for Preliminary Design Report.

- ❖ Anticipate construction by January 1 or approximately two weeks after Lula finishing grinding.
- ❖ Terracon will provide memorandum with exhibits to include with the preliminary design report.
- ❖ The jurisdictional determination is just mapping of the wetlands and the Corps signing off on it.
- ❖ Negotiations are still ongoing with Lula Westfield regarding land rights.

Mr. Malbrough reported that the health insurance premium will increase by 5% effective July 1st. The District currently pays 100% of the employees'/family premium, and the increase will cost the District \$55.00 per month.

Ms. Alma Robichaux, BTNEP, advised that Kerry St. Pe's retirement party will be held next Thursday, June 26th at the Nicholls ballroom from 4:00-7:00p.m.

Mr. Malbrough advised that we had discussions regarding a public outreach campaign for Bayou Lafourche. He advised that recently we met with Public Service Commissioner Scott Angelle, and Jerome Zeringue of CPRA, and put a game plan together on addressing the railroad issue in Donaldsonville. One of the big issues they talked about in that meeting is some sort of public outreach campaign to get the word out not only in helping us develop something to present to Union Pacific, but to take it even further and take our overall reintroduction into Bayou Lafourche project and expand on the importance of getting 1000cfs in the bayou. We need to explain to the public why it is so important.

Mr. Malbrough stated that this public outreach campaign is something above his skill set, and it will definitely take a lot of time which he does not have to dedicate to something like this. It was talked about bringing on some sort of outside consultant to handle the campaign. He would like to go out with a RFQ to see who would be interested and what their qualifications are, and get some ballpark figure on what it will cost. This person will be an extension of our staff to help us organize all the information and knowledge we have, and put it together in a manner for us to take it to the streets.

Chairman Caffery pledged that before our next meeting that we will make sure that we have a quorum for that meeting. It is important that we get this off the ground with the railroad now that we have momentum with Scott Angelle and others. We have to get that RFQ out soon and take action.

Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell asked if this would be an individual or a firm, and Mr. Malbrough answered that it would be someone familiar with this type of work, and it is mostly individuals.

Commissioner Donald Schwab asked Ben if he has a job description for this job, and Ben answered yes. He read the job description to the Board. He advised that he will e-mail all the Board members the job description. Chairman Caffery stated that he is okay with it, and Ben can start the process with the RFQ. Commissioner Schwab asked how long will it take this person to do this, and Ben stated that we need to get this done in no longer than thirty days. Some commissioners stated that thirty days is quick.

Mr. Marionneaux stated that 100% of all the history and the documentation relative to that issue we have. He stated that Ben has it all electronically, and all we have to do is give this person we hire a thumb drive, and it is on there. They will have everything.

Commissioner Schwab asked what kind of salary we have in mind for this person, and Mr. Malbrough answered we have to see what their rates are first. Mr. Malbrough stated that he thinks it would be around \$30K - \$50K depending on how involved the work will be.

Mr. Malbrough reported that he received three quotes ranging from \$12K - \$39K for the temporary protection of the dolphins. We executed a contract with Budwine & Associates for \$12,440.00 to install a temporary buoy at the dolphins in the river this Thursday. This will put us back in compliance with the Coast Guard. This is only a temporary fix. It is a private aid to navigations and notification to mariners that there is an underwater obstruction in the river at our intake structure.

Mr. Malbrough stated that just because you don't need a permit for an aid to navigation, a lot of private agencies and industries along the river will put navigation aids to protect their interest. They have to have it marked and lit in a certain manner per Coast Guard requirements. Mr. Malbrough advised that once the buoy is deployed and we are protected in the interim, we can go back to the Coast Guard and determine what is required as far as our intake structure.

Mr. Malbrough advised that they met with the parish, the state, Terrebonne Consolidated Waterworks and several other entities and stakeholders regarding the Dugas Cana Project. The objective of the meeting was for everyone to air their concerns and the state was the mediator. They are going to rule one way or the other whether to issue the parish the permit based on the conversations at the meeting. The Lafourche Parish engineers and consultants that were hired were tasked with developing an operations plan that would be aimed at alleviating the concerns of the Fresh Water District and Terrebonne Consolidated Waterworks. The operation plan will be presented to all the stakeholders. The state will then determine whether or not the Coastal Use Permit will be issued.

Chairman Caffery asked to reconfirm that they still need a permit from the Fresh Water District or else they don't get the project approved, and Mr. Malbrough answered that is correct.

Mr. Malbrough advised that Stevie Smith distributed to the Board a drawing which he feels will solve the flooding problems in Donaldsonville. They have identified three major locations, which are just north of the railroad on Hwy. 308 side, just south of the railroad on Hwy. 308 side, and north of Marchand Drive by Claiborne St.

Mr. Malbrough stated that this will be set up on a way that if all fails there will be gate on the pump stations that will allow the drainage systems to operate as it is today. This will be a huge relief to us in our operations, and it will alleviate a lot of the flooding concerns that the City of Donaldsonville has.

Mr. Malbrough advised that Barry and he have worked up a draft of how our existing ordinance and permitting should be revised to allow property owners to have more access to the bayou while still not impeding anything we need to do. He would like to get the commissioners input on the revisions. Chairman Caffery requested that Ben e-mail the Board bullet points to summarize the major important things that will be included in the ordinance. Mr. Malbrough advised that he plans to have the ordinance revision at next month's meeting for review and hopefully adoption.

Mr. Barry Marionneaux announced that the suit was filed today against Enterprise Marine Services regarding the dolphin collision in the river. He advised that there is no need for executive session today.

Chairman Caffery adjourned the meeting at 6:50 P.m.

Hugh Caffery, Chairman

Gregory Nolan, Secretary/Treasurer

