

June 15, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District was held on Monday, June 15, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. at the Water District office, 1016 St. Mary Street, Thibodaux, LA

Present were: Hugh Caffery, Chairman
Greg Nolan, Secretary/Treasurer
Jake Giardina
Ron Animashaun

Francis Richard
Donald Schwab
Eli Miles, Jr,

Absent: Gene Harrell, Vice-Chairman; Judge Jimmy Gaidry; Lance Authement

Also present: Tia Barbera, CPA-Waguespack & Gallagher; Dustin Rabalais, T. Baker Smith
Windell Curole; Tiffany Bergeron; Melissa Cloutet; Robert Mire
Ayad Taofik, Burk-Kleinpeter, Inc.; Ben Malbrough, Executive Director
Jana Langley, Administrative Assistant

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Francis Richard to dispense with the reading of the minutes, and approve the minutes of May 18, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Donald Schwab to approve the accounts payable for May. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Greg Nolan, seconded by Commissioner Francis Richard to approve the finance report for May. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ben Malbrough advised that he distributed the pumping summary for May. He stated that a car went into the bayou in Donaldsonville. The car was in the area where the contractor will be mobilizing his equipment for the dredge project. We had the car removed with a wrecker truck. We incurred the expense to have it removed, and will pursue getting reimbursed for the wrecker service fees.

Mr. Malbrough advised that we were not notified by the sheriff's department about the car in the bayou. Commissioner Greg Nolan stated that he doesn't understand why the trooper didn't demand that the car be pulled out to find out if anything was in it. Mr. Malbrough advised that there was a file opened with the Ascension Parish sheriff's department.

Chairman Hugh Caffery asked for a resolution that we recognize Windell Curole for the depth of his service and commitment to the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District. Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Commissioner Donald Schwab and unanimously approved to adopt a resolution expressing appreciation for Windell Curole's outstanding dedication and service to the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District.

Chairman Hugh Caffery presented a plaque to Mr. Windell Curole for his dedicated years of service to the District. Mr. Curole stated that he appreciates it, and stated that he learned a lot over here. He advised that we have some big projects ahead, and this Board has been doing the best thing possible. He advised that it has been an honor to serve with everyone.

Mr. Malbrough reported that the contractor has been moving fast to move equipment in for the dredge project. He advised that the contractor purchased an amphibex dredge, which is the dredge that Windell Curole had built that restoration project down in South Lafourche. Mr. Malbrough stated that he is excited to see it work. It is at the Belle Rose Bridge right now.

Mr. Dustin Rabalias, T. Baker Smith, advised that for two years he has been reporting about where he was in the project, and now he can finally come and report where someone else is. He reported that the contractor is basically focusing on the upper half of the project, which is sites three, two, and one. He showed pictures of the different disposal sites, and the containment dikes being built. He showed the pipe that is fused together which will lead from the bayou all the way back to the disposal sites. He showed pictures of the amphibex being launched at the boat launch in Donaldsonville.

Mr. Rabalais reported that he has never worked with the contractor as motivated as this one. He stated that his contract time started June 9th, and he was actually on site working eleven days prior to June 9th.

Mr. Rabalais advised that today they flew the bayou with their aerial helicopter drone to further document the existing conditions of the bank lines. He will get a copy to the District.

Mr. Rabalais stated that he didn't get a pay request from the contractor this month but he would anticipate one next month, and it will be to the tune of about one million dollars.

Ms. Tia Barbera, CPA with Waguespack & Gallagher, reported that the findings have been the same as they have been the last few years. The findings are separation of duties, which we are not recommending to change because it is not feasible financially, the directing of the financial statement because the cost benefit of an outside firm to come in and do that is not feasible financially, and the third finding is the amended dredge project budget because we can't anticipate the timing of the funds received by the state for the dredge project.

Ms. Barbera reviewed the 2014 fiscal audit. She advised that there is a new requirement this year, which is benefits for an agency head has to be reported in a schedule. She stated that she is waiting on further clarification as to exactly what benefits needs to be included in the schedule.

Ms. Barbera advised that the operating fund is fine, which we do a great job with. The only problem is the dredge project amended budget. She advised that we got a good clean opinion on the audit, and the findings are not anything we need to be concerned about.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr. and unanimously approved to accept the 2014 fiscal audit presented by Ms. Tia Barbera.

Mr. Malbrough recommended that the District move forward in authorizing Hugh Caffery, Barry Marionneaux and himself in negotiating an agreement with Government Consultants to advise us on our bonding capabilities. The District will not incur any costs until a bond is issued. A bond is not issued until they prepare all of their information, present it back to us, and we make a decision whether or not to present it to the bond commission.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Donald Schwab and unanimously approved to authorize Hugh Caffery, Barry Marionneaux and Ben Malbrough to negotiate an agreement with Government Consultants to advise us on our bonding capabilities. The District would not incur any costs until a bond is issued. Government Consultants will prepare a packet with all of their information regarding the bond process, including expected cost, expected fees, and our bonding capabilities. They will present that packet to us, and the Board will make a decision whether or not to present it to the bond commission.

Mr. Malbrough advised that the District's legislation was signed by the Governor. Chairman Caffery stated that we now have our statute changed. He advised that the car going into the bayou reminds us that we have to make changes to the ordinance pertinent to those changes in the statutes. It will give us more clarity as to who has authority. Mr. Malbrough advised that Barry Marionneaux and he will revisit the ordinance to make sure everything jives together.

Mr. Malbrough advised that the notice to proceed will be issued Monday on the sediment trap project. The contractor will be mobilizing to the site. He stated that signs will be made to be placed at the construction sites of the sediment trap project and the dredge project.

Mr. Malbrough stated that the preliminary plans are complete on the Donaldsonville Drainage Project. We have another \$415,000.00 included in the capital outlay this year. The agreement with Union Pacific has been signed. We are negotiating our contract with HDR engineers.

Mr. Malbrough showed a video from Windell Curole regarding the Marsh Creation Project in the South Lafourche area. He advised that their drone was used to shoot the video and you can turn the video into slides. It has a Go Pro camera attached to it. He stated that they paid \$2,300.00 for the drone.

Mr. Malbrough stated that one of the things he would like the District to do is purchase a drone to monitor the bayou during construction, and monitor activities along the bayou. He feels it would be a value to the District now and in the future. The Board agreed to have Mr. Malbrough research the cost of a drone.

Chairman Caffery asked for any public comments. Mr. Windell Curole suggested that whatever happens in the LSU baseball tournament, it would be a nice gesture to get a hat or shirt to send to Union Pacific in Omaha, and say we appreciate your cooperation. Mr. Malbrough stated that he can do that.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr. and unanimously approved the meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Hugh Caffery, Chairman

Greg Nolan, Secretary/Treasurer

