

March 16, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District was held on Monday, March 16, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. at the Water District office, 1016 St. Mary Street, Thibodaux, LA

Present were: Hugh Caffery, Chairman -arrived at 5:10 p.m. Francis Richard
Gene Harrell, Vice-Chairman Lance Authement
Greg Nolan, Secretary/Treasurer Eli Miles, Jr,
Ron Animashaun Judge Jimmy Gaidry

Absent: Windell Curole, Jake Giardina, Donald Schwab

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

Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell chaired the meeting until the arrival of Chairman Hugh Caffery.

Moved by Commissioner Greg Nolan, seconded by Commissioner Francis Richard to dispense with the reading of the minutes, and approve the minutes of February 23, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Commissioner Greg Nolan to approve the accounts payable for February. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Ben Malbrough reported that the river has come up substantially, and we are now siphoning. There will be some mass reduction in our Entergy bill for the pump station.

Mr. Malbrough advised that the new bayou crew employee, Mr. Wayne Thibodaux, was hired three weeks ago, and he is here tonight at the meeting.

Mr. Malbrough stated that we had an issue with the thruster on the barges. We got an estimate from the manufacturer to replace the prop at a ballpark figure of \$21,000.00. We brought it to a machine shop to see what it would cost to repair it rather than have it replaced.

Mr. Malbrough advised that we need a motion to amend the agenda by two-thirds vote to include a discussion on the capital outlay Donaldsonville Flood Control Project with the State of Louisiana.

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr. and unanimously approved to amend the agenda by two-thirds vote to include a discussion on the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement and resolution regarding the capital outlay Donaldsonville Flood Control Project.

Mr. Malbrough advised that a resolution has to be adopted designating an individual with the Fresh Water District to act on behalf of BLFWD in all matters as it pertains to the Donaldsonville Flood Control Project with the Facility, Planning and Control office.

Chairman Hugh Caffery arrived at 5:10 p.m., and took over chairing the meeting.

Moved by Commissioner Judge Edward "Jimmy" Gaidry, seconded Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell and unanimously approved to adopt the resolution designating Ben Malbrough to act on behalf of BLFWD in all matters pertaining to the Donaldsonville Flood Control Project.

Mr. Dustin Rabalais, T. Baker Smith, reported that the bids are now due March 20th at 10:00 a.m. The bids were extended from March 6th to March 20th, and the bids will be opened at the BLFWD District office.

Mr. Malbrough stated that Thursday, March 19th at 2:00 p.m. will be the bid opening for the Maintenance Dredging of the Sedimentation Basin in Donaldsonville.

Mr. Malbrough advised that back at the beginning of 2014 the Board had authorized Royal Engineering and FTN to begin the preliminary phase of a revised updated benefits analysis of the MRRBL project that would be in conjunction with the same modeling software effort and methodology used by the State in their decision making criteria.

Mr. Malbrough stated that he provided the Board with the new proposal from Royal Engineers, which gives several alternatives and modeling scenarios so we can make a decision. Mr. Malbrough explained Option 1 FWP + FWOP (future with project plus future without project), and Option 2 FWP Only. Mr. Malbrough advised that they had talked about doing just twenty years. Chairman Caffery asked what the time frame is in getting the results for the twenty years, and Mr. Malbrough answered an eight month turnaround. The cost would be about \$160,000.00.

Chairman Hugh Caffery advised that if we have this modeling and it shows strongly big benefits for land building then we are in a lot better position than if we don't have any conclusive modeling. Chairman Hugh Caffery asked Mr. Stevie Smith what he thinks about the modeling. Mr. Smith answered that the people that will allocate the money, no matter where you get your source from, are going to want some objective backup report that demonstrates the benefits of what you want to use the money for. Mr. Malbrough recommended going with Option 1 FWP + FWOP for an amount not to exceed \$162,000.00.

Moved by Commissioner Judge Jimmy Gaidry, seconded by Commissioner Francis Richard and unanimously approved to move forward with Royal Engineers continuing the MRRBL benefits analysis, and approve Option 1 FWP + FWOP at a cost not to exceed \$162,000.00.

Mr. Malbrough advised that he received the proposal to continue on with the permitting from the termination of the Phase 2 project all the way to Canal Blvd. for the rest of the dredging and the removal of the weir. He stated that the most time consuming portion of these dredging projects is the regulatory compliance, and getting the permits. The reason we are going to stop at Canal Blvd. is because that is where the non-navigable channel starts and goes up to Donaldsonville. We could have a permit on the shelf if funding was available. Mr. Malbrough stated that the cost of the permitting is \$91,000.00. This will be an eighteen mile section that they will be permitting.

Moved by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell, seconded by Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr. and unanimously approved to move forward with Providence providing the scope of work for the permitting from the termination of the Phase 2 project all the way to Canal Blvd. for the rest of the dredging and the removal of the weir. The cost of the scope of work for the permitting will be \$91,000.00.

Mr. Malbrough advised that the next item on the agenda is to adopt the millage rates. Chairman Hugh Caffery read the resolutions for the adoption of the millage rates of 2.11 mills for Lafourche, Assumption, Ascension, and Terrebonne parishes for tax year 2015. Chairman Hugh Caffery asked for a motion to adopt the resolutions for the millage rates.

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell to adopt the resolutions for the millage rates of 2.11 mills for Lafourche, Assumption, Ascension, and Terrebonne parishes for tax year 2015. Chairman Hugh Caffery asked for any discussion on the resolutions, and there were none. Chairman Hugh Caffery asked for a vote on the motion, and the motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Hugh Caffery asked for any public comments. Ms. Alma Robichaux stated that the Bayou Lafourche Cleanup was on the front page of the Daily Comet and The Advocate. Chairman Caffery stated that we have Alma and Tiffany here tonight. He stated that we had about 300 people at the appreciation party in Mathews. Ms. Robichaux stated that they had the people sign up for the door prizes, and their names will be entered into a database.

Mr. Malbrough advised that we changed the distance in our proposed legislation to 150 linear feet from the center line, which will give us plenty enough distance.

Mr. Malbrough stated that the Bayou Lafourche appreciation party far exceeded everyone's expectation. He thanked everyone who helped and said that it was a team effort.

Mr. Malbrough advised that there will be no executive session tonight.

Moved by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell, seconded by Commissioner Francis Richard and unanimously approved the meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Hugh Caffery, Chairman

Greg Nolan, Secretary/Treasurer

