

May 18, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District was held on Monday, May 18, 2015 at 5:00 p.m. at the Water District office, 1016 St. Mary Street, Thibodaux, LA

Present were:	Hugh Caffery, Chairman	Francis Richard
	Gene Harrell, Vice-Chairman	Lance Authement
	Greg Nolan, Secretary/Treasurer	Donald Schwab
	Jake Giardina	Eli Miles, Jr,
	Ron Animashaun	Judge Jimmy Gaidry

Absent: None

Also present: Dustin Rabalais, T. Baker Smith; Lori LeBlanc; Melissa Cloutet; Alma Robichaux, BTNEP
Barry Marionneaux, Attorney; Stevie Smith, All South Consulting Engineers
Ty Carlos, LA Community Development Authority; Garland Pennison, HDR; Robert Mire
Shawn Toups & John Holt, Government Consultants; Nick Porto; Jerry Waguespack
Ben Malbrough, Executive Director; Jana Langley, Administrative Assistant

Moved by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell, seconded by Commissioner Jake Giardina to dispense with the reading of the minutes and approve the minutes of April 20, 2015, and special meeting minutes of May 5, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Commissioner Jake Giardina to approve the finance report for April. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Judge Jimmy Gaidry to approve the accounts payable for April. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ben Malbrough advised that he sent the Board the pumping summary. He reported that the bayou crew has been working the past couple of weeks removing the downed trees that are restricting flow in the Napoleonville area.

Chairman Hugh Caffery asked for the status of the sand trap, and Mr. Malbrough answered that we are ready to issue the notice to proceed by the end of this week.

Mr. Dustin Rabalais, T. Baker Smith, reported that we delivered the contracts to the contractor, and those contracts will be delivered to us tomorrow by Fed Ex. We will need a few hours to review them, and then they will be delivered to Ben to sign them. He advised that they already put in a request to have a pre-construction meeting, and based upon how that meeting goes, he will get his notice to proceed as soon as possible. Mr. Rabalais advised that he is hopeful that maybe in three to four weeks we will see start to see some activity out there.

Mr. Malbrough advised that he has been in contact with Mr. Henry Dupre in Assumption Parish, and once the contract is signed and everything is official they will hold a public meeting somewhere in Paincourtville to let the residents know that they will start to see some activity.

Mr. Malbrough stated that he and Alma will be on HTV Tuesday, May 26th, and he will also be giving a presentation to the Terrebonne Parish Chamber. Chairman Hugh Caffery thanked Mr. Donald Schwab for getting that date on HTV. Chairman Caffery stated that Alma was on the radio this morning, and gave a few plugs about the project.

Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell asked if the contractor made a decision about whether or not they are going to haul the sediment or slurry it. Mr. Rabalais answered that he will provide more specifics at the pre-construction meeting but it appears as though he will do a combination of the two.

Chairman Caffery asked what they are going to do with the sediment from the sand trap, and Mr. Malbrough answered that they will put it on the bank and let it dewater to a state where the parish will be comfortable hauling it off, and the parish will take care of re-grading our property afterwards.

Mr. Malbrough advised that the state withheld three million dollars from our CIAP grant because of Phase 1 legal issues. He advised that about three or four months ago when the different agencies starting having to cut some of their budgets back, one of the projects that got cut from CPRA's project list was the moving of the saltwater control structure. We have been working with CPRA to get the three million dollars to not be withheld for the legal fees but for the construction of that saltwater control structure. It will be funded through us to Lafourche Parish.

Mr. Malbrough stated that LEEVAC is requesting a letter of non-opposition for Foreign-Trade Zone status, and he asked for approval of a letter of non-opposition.

Moved by Commissioner Donald Schwab, seconded by Commissioner Jake Giardina and unanimously approved that the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District send a letter of non-opposition in reference to LEEVAC establishing a Foreign-Trade Zone at 3201 Earnhart Boulevard, Houma, Louisiana. LEEVAC has already entered into an agreement with the Terrebonne Parish that no local taxing dollars will be affected by LEEVAC obtaining a Foreign-Trade Zone.

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell and unanimously approved to change pump station employee Albert Evans, Jr. from probationary to permanent status, and also approve a two percent (2%) pay increase effective June 12, 2015.

Mr. Malbrough advised that he had several conversations with some of the commissioners, and other folks about looking at potential bonding capabilities. As it stands now, at the end of this year we have seven million dollars of surplus funds on hand which is a good place to be in. It is not enough for us to do some of the things we need to do to implement the additional phase of the reintroduction into Bayou Lafourche project.

Mr. Malbrough stated if we could come to an agreement with Union Pacific with some kind of cost share to get that bridge constructed, Union Pacific has clearly stated that they will not be interested in cost sharing any project unless we are able to prove that we have the money in hand to move forward.

Mr. Malbrough advised that Ty Carlos, Shawn Toups, and John Holt are here tonight to discuss how they help municipalities secure bonds. They look at our finances and see what kind of money could be available. We don't incur any costs to these guys unless a bond deal goes through.

Mr. Shawn Toups advised he and John Holt are with Government Consultants, which is a registered municipal advisory firm. They look at agencies finances, and see what is out there in the market. He advised that any debt issuance in Louisiana is going to take some time. There are some regulatory steps that have to be taken. You have to go through the bond commission. Mr. Toups stated that the District is in a fairly good position. It will be a first time issuance which is sometimes a little bit of a challenge in the market.

Mr. Ty Carlos advised that he is the Executive Director of Louisiana Community Development Authority, which was created back in the mid 1990's to assist municipalities in issuing municipal debt. They have thirty-six active members. He stated that there are specific benefits to using the authority to issue bonds. They would issue the bonds on the District's behalf, and the District would sign a loan agreement with Shawn Toups with Government Consultants. It was recommended that the District may want to consider joining the LCDA, which does not cost anything to join. They are always watching for new things in the market and available funds.

Chairman Hugh Caffery asked who LCDA has helped thus far, and Mr. Carlos answered that they do a lot of improvement type bonds for entities like Bossier Parish, Jefferson Parish, and recreation districts. The District would also have to hire other parties throughout the bond process, such as a financial advisor, a bond attorney, and possibly an underwriter.

Mr. Malbrough advised that Genesis Pipeline submitted a permit application to install a 20" crude pipeline by boring 28ft. under Bayou Lafourche near Raceland, LA. Mr. Malbrough recommended approval of the permit application for Genesis Pipeline.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Francis Richard to approve the permit application for Genesis Pipeline USA, to install a 20" crude pipeline by boring 28ft. under Bayou Lafourche near Raceland, LA. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Malbrough advised that he will give a presentation to the Terrebonne Chamber on Tuesday, May 26th at 11:30 at the Courtyard Marriott in Houma. He stated that he and Alma will be on HTV Tuesday from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. to give an update on the fresh water district activities, and a recap on the bayou cleanup.

Mr. Malbrough stated that the District's bill is up for final passage today at the legislative session.

Ms. Lori LeBlanc reported that they got the e-Newsletter out, and they are working on a couple of other things.

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

Hugh Caffery, Chairman

Greg Nolan, Secretary/Treasurer

