

November 18, 2013

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District was held on Monday, November 18, 2013 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	Judge Jimmy Gaidry
	Greg Nolan, Secretary/Treasurer	Donald Schwab
	Lance Authement	Jake Giardina
	Windell Curole	Eli Miles, Jr.
	Juan Pickett	

Absent: Ron Animashaun

Also present were: Jason Kennedy and Dustin Rabalais, T. Baker Smith
Barry Marionneaux, Attorney; Gasper Chifici, CPRA Project Manager
Jerry Jones, Lafourche Parish Councilman; Taylor Gravois
Nick Porto; Robert Thibodaux, Robert Mire; Robert Payne; Leah Payne
Ben Malbrough, Executive Director; Jana Langley, Administrative Assistant

Juan Pickett and Eli Miles, Jr., Terrebonne Parish and Ascension Parish commissioners were sworn in by Judge Jimmy Gaidry. Chairman Hugh Caffery welcomed the new commissioners.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Windell Curole to dispense with the reading of the minutes, and approve the minutes of October 21, 2013, and November 6, 2013. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Commissioner Jake Giardina to approve the accounts payable for October. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Hugh Caffery thanked the budget committee, Judge Gaidry, Francis Richard, Gene Harrell, Greg Nolan, and Jake Giardina, for their participation and input on the budget.

Moved by Commissioner Windell Curole, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell to approve the finance report. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ben Malbrough reported that the bayou crew is still cutting grass every day. The pump station has been operating normally, and have been pumping at 215cfs. We opened the weir in Thibodaux to accommodate for the grinding season. We have been delayed spraying herbicides due to issues out of our control.

Mr. Malbrough advised that he talked to Mr. Steve Landry today regarding the machine we could possibly use to help out with cutting the hydrilla. A guy in Delacroix that owns the machine is using it right now, and we will check with him about us using it. It will be a temporary fix. The machine grinds the hydrilla up to get the channel opened. Mr. Malbrough will e-mail the commissioners the website so they can see how the machine operates.

Commissioner Windell Curole stated that it is basically a 48 inch wheel with dragon teeth and it chops it all up. It could go as deep as you want to get some sediments in the water column which will start knocking down some of the light, and should reduce some of the hydrilla.

Commissioner Jake Giardina recommended running the tugboat again up and down the bayou to help with the hydrilla. Mr. Malbrough stated that the tugboat is still on the south side, and that the hydrilla is worse from St. John to the K-Mart Bridge. Commissioner Giardina suggested getting a cost estimate to move the tugboat north of the weir, and Mr. Malbrough advised that we can possibly get the guys working on the Tiger Drive Bridge to lift it for us at no cost to put it on the north side.

Mr. Jason Kennedy, T. Baker Smith Project Manager, gave an update on the Mississippi River Reintroduction into Bayou Lafourche-Phase 2 Project as follows:

- ❖ The contract amendment has been worked out, and it is on the agenda for approval tonight.
- ❖ Two design crews have been surveying. They performed 165 bayou cross sections, and 110 cross sessions are remaining. They have about three weeks remaining to do cross sections.
- ❖ Dustin has been doing a lot of work on land rights/ROW's. They have identified several candidate disposal sites, and also access sites along the bayou for equipment and staging areas. There is a good possibility of donations for some of these right-of-ways.
- ❖ Permitting is going to be handled by sub-consultant, Providence. We don't have a contract worked out with them yet but should have it soon.
- ❖ Terracon is the sub-contractor handling the geotechnical field work. They are proposing 38 soil borings along the reach. It will take about 4½ months to complete the Geotech work.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell and unanimously approved to open the public hearing on the 2014 Proposed Operational Budget, and 2014 Proposed Dredge Project Budget. The 2013 Amended Operational Budget, and 2013 Amended Dredge Project Budget will also be reviewed.

Mr. Malbrough showed a power point presentation for the budget spreadsheets that were discussed by the budget committee, and also sent to the Board members for review after the committee meeting. He reviewed the line items for the 2014 Proposed Operational Budget revenues and expenditures. He also reviewed the line items for the 2013 Amended Operational Budget revenues and expenditures.

Mr. Malbrough reviewed the nine proposed Capital Projects for 2014, which are as follows:

1) Modifications to the Company Canal Structure - \$50,000.00

Lafourche Parish engineers did an analysis of the structure to use it in Bayou Lafourche so it could withstand a reverse head condition. The only cost would be to increase the size of the pin on the barge that hooks the barge into place to the receiving structure.

2) Dredge of Sediment Trap (includes repairing boat launch) - \$200,000.00

Dredge the sediment trap in Donaldsonville, and repair of Donaldsonville boat launch.

3) Acquisition of properties in Donaldsonville - \$400,000.00

Two main properties are the property that is on top our existing discharge pipes, as well as the property next to it. This will allow for the future pump station. The other is the American Legion property, which may be for sale in the near future.

4) Evaluation of MRRBL Benefits -100,000.00

Need to hire a consultant to look at updated models, etc. of a new modified updated argument of the benefits of the Mississippi River Reintroduction into Bayou Lafourche Project.

5) Dredge Maintenance Plan - \$50,000.00

Need to bring in an outside source to look at the situation with the sediment trap, and come up with a five to ten year plan of the most economical way to handle the sediment trap issue.

6) Design of Weir Removal - \$200,000.00

We could have this project designed and shovel ready waiting to go to construction, and have all the other parameters put into place later.

7) Vegetation Abatement Treatment - \$60,000.00

We have been consulting with herbicide professionals to find out a solution to treat the vegetation problems in the bayou, other than just mechanical removal. A guy is coming this Thursday to assess the situation in the bayou. Commissioner Donald Schwab asked if we had talked to the duck hunters to see what they have done, and Mr. Malbrough stated that he will call the duck hunter to find out what they use.

8) Remote Monitoring at Pump Station - \$10,000.00

A company would install sensors and valves, which would allow our guys the ability to monitor all the flow levels. It would be set up where they would have alarms in place, and would notify them so that they would have the ability to monitor everything going on at the pump station, but not physically be there 24 hours a day. We would have an on-call guy who would be notified of the alarm, and that guy can go to the pump station and shut everything down.

9) Updates to Board Room - \$2,500.00

Get a map of the whole length of Bayou Lafourche to hang in the Board room, build a podium, and a few other upgrades to the Board room.

Commissioner Windell Curole commented that the two main concerns of what we could possibly do is look at the flooding in Donaldsonville, and the train crossing in Donaldsonville. He stated that no matter what we do it will mean nothing if we can't get the flow pass Donaldsonville, and he feels we need some type of budgetary grasp of this issue.

Mr. Malbrough advised there is a capital outlay request out there right now, and the biggest thing he needs to do is lobby and fight for some of that money. Mr. Malbrough advised that when we see that we will get some money, we will amend next year's budget to include any additional projects.

Chairman Caffery commented on the planting of cypress trees that was discussed at the budget committee meeting. Mr. Malbrough stated that they talked about the planting of trees with the State, and they were not in favor of us doing that at all. Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell discussed the situation that took place regarding replacement of the property owners' trees in the Phase 1 dredge project. He

stated that the majority of the property owners didn't want the trees replaced because of the location of where they would have had to plant them.

Commissioner Jake Giardina stated that one of the biggest problems in the Phase 1 dredge project was the definition of the property boundary. He commented that planting cypress trees on the State lines would identify where State property is, and would serve as a boundary marker for years to come.

Mr. Barry Marionneaux, attorney, requested that the issue of tree planting be discussed in executive session because it has to do with litigation.

Mr. Malbrough reviewed the line items for the 2014 Proposed Dredge Project Budget, and 2013 Amended Dredge Project Budget.

Chairman Caffery asked three times for any other comments on the 2014 Proposed Operational Budget, 2014 Proposed Dredge Project Budget, and the 2013 Amended Operational Budget and 2013 Amended Dredge Project Budget. There were no additional comments on the budgets.

Moved by Commissioner Windell Curole, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell and unanimously approved to close the public hearing on the 2014 proposed budgets, and 2013 amended budgets.

Moved by Commissioner Donald Schwab, seconded by Commissioner Windell Curole and unanimously approved to adopt the 2013 Amended Operational Budget, and 2013 Amended Dredge Project Budget.

Moved by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell, seconded by Commissioner Francis Richard and unanimously approved to adopt the 2014 Proposed Operational Budget, and 2014 Proposed Dredge Project Budget.

Moved by Commissioner Judge Edward "Jimmy" Gaidry, seconded by Commissioner Donald Schwab and unanimously approved to adopt the Resolution authorizing Chairman Hugh Caffery to execute Amendment No. 1 to the Engineering Contract relative to the Phase 11 Mississippi River Reintroduction into Bayou Lafourche Project with T. Baker Smith. Also, to authorize Executive Director, Ben Malbrough, to approve and certify the Project invoices which are in accordance with the terms and conditions of the 2013 Agreement between Owner and Engineer for Professional Services. RESOLUTION ATTACHED

Mr. Malbrough distributed to the Board a proposed Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District and the City of Donaldsonville regarding the City of Donaldsonville managing the boat launch, and surrounding designated property as a "public park." We will submit the agreement to the City of Donaldsonville for their review and comments. We can remove the District from the liabilities of the boat launch property.

Mr. Malbrough advised that last month he talked about the walk across bridge in Assumption Parish, and their engineers are looking at how much of a section can be taken out of the bridge.

Mr. Malbrough stated that Lafourche Parish, Lafourche Parish Waterworks, Terrebonne Waterworks, some engineers, and he met to discuss the Dugas Canal structure concerns. The engineers are looking at

some alternative mitigating factors which would set the water districts at ease a little. We still have an objection to the permit.

Mr. Malbrough advised that he met with Carl Kocke several times about the property, and it looks like they will work with us on leasing that land for disposal material. President Tommy Martinez is more than willing to take the dirt. The Don Guillot issue regarding his property has been resolved.

Mr. Malbrough stated that the new District website will be up and running tomorrow. The website address is www.blfwd.org.

Chairman Caffery advised that our insurance is coming up for renewal. He requested that we have a committee review our insurance when it comes up for renewal next year, and asked that Lance Authement and Windell Curole serve on the insurance committee. Mr. Jerry Marcello agreed that his agency would not quote, but he would be an impartial advisor to the committee next year.

Mr. Malbrough asked that Lance and Windell sit with him to review the insurance proposals that are due in the office by December 2nd. He advised that Mr. Barry Marionneaux will help with the insurance proposals review also.

Chairman Caffery advised that Consolidated Waterworks District in Terrebonne has invited us on December 2nd to their meeting, and there will be a reception afterwards. He stated that an e-mail went out from Mr. Sobert inviting everyone to attend.

Mr. Robert Thibodaux stated that in 1995 when this first project was done they did a study of all the borings at a cost of over \$500,000. He asked if they can use these borings in the current dredge project. Mr. Kennedy advised that they could possibly look at the borings that were done back then.

Moved by Commissioner Windell Curole, seconded by Commissioner Jake Giardina and unanimously approved to go into executive session at 7:10 p.m.

Moved by Commissioner Windell Curole, seconded by Commissioner Jake Giardina and unanimously approved to return to regular session at 8:00 p.m.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Judge Jimmy Gaidry and unanimously approved the meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Hugh Caffery, Chairman

Greg Nolan, Secretary/Treasurer

