

November 16, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District was held on Wednesday, November 16, 2016 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 Eli Miles, Jr.
Jake Giardina Ray Mayet
Lance Authement Chris Domangue
Donald Schwab Francis Richard
Ron Animashaun

Absent: Gene Harrell, Vice-Chairman, Judge Jimmy Gaidry

Also present: Dustin Rabalais, T. Baker Smith; Barry Marionneaux, Attorney; Dan Grandal, Stantec
Jason Kennedy, Delta Coast; John Lafargue, FOBL; Cyndi Guion, FOBL
Nick Porto; Henry Templet; Hattie Templet; Stevie Smith, All South Consulting; Robert Mire
Ben Malbrough, Executive Director; Jana Langley, Administrative Assistant

Moved by Commissioner Ray Mayet, seconded by Commissioner Francis Richard to dispense with the reading of the minutes, and approve the minutes of October 17, 2016. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Moved by Commissioner Chris Domangue, seconded by Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr. to approve the finance report for October. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ben Malbrough reported that the pump station is back up at full capacity running all four pumps, and everything in the bayou is good. Chairman Hugh Caffery asked about the eddy current drive pump issue, and Mr. Malbrough answered that there was a bolt that had some insulation that was cracked. Mr. Malbrough advised that if we buy an eddy current drive in the future, we will make sure that they have local representatives.

Mr. Malbrough stated that if there was any lesson learned it is that we really need to do very good preventive maintenance on our pumps so that we do not have a failure. Chairman Hugh Caffery stated that we really need to start looking at those aqua dams for this problem, and a host of other things. A discussion was held regarding deployable weirs that are included in the MRRBL project.

Chairman Hugh Caffery stated that the shrimp were delicious last month, and he thanked Lance Authement for that delicious treat.

Mr. Dustin Rabalias, T. Baker Smith, advised that Phase 2 and Phase 2a dredging only has one or two punch list items remaining. He stated that they will have to come to the board for a change order. Mr. Rabalais advised that the Pedestrian Bridge is ahead of schedule, and has to be completed by December 31st.

Mr. Malbrough reported that he spoke to the Union Pacific Railroad superintendent, and they will start at midnight next Wednesday, and the shutdown window will be next Thursday, Friday, and Saturday to swing the bridge spans in place. Mr. Malbrough stated that he trying to get a videographer.

Mr. Malbrough advised that the saltwater control structure is substantially complete. We had the ribbon cutting with the parish on Thursday of last week. It was a really nice turnout and nice weather. The structure is still owned by Lafourche Parish, and we will transfer ownership over to us once all the CIAP paperwork is closed out.

Mr. Dan Grandal, Stantec, advised that they are on schedule and moving forward with all the geotechnical borings, survey, and the field testing on the Pump Capacity Improvements Project. They are doing testing on the water column on the sediment. The early work should be completed by the end of the year. They will do the 1D model of the sediment in the bayou, and the 3D model of the river that they will use in the design. They are looking at four 250cfs pumps with one backup pump. They are looking at setting up a site visit to the pump stations that are going to be protecting New Orleans so we can see those pump stations, and see some of the different options that are available. Chairman Hugh Caffery asked Mr. Grandal to bring some pictures for the next meeting if they don't have the site visit by then.

Mr. Malbrough advised that he spoke to Nick Porto and Don Guillot, the real estate agent, about checking with his client about accepting an offer of \$150,000 for the American Legion building. Mr. Guillot informed Ben that they would accept an offer of \$150,000 for the American Legion building and property. Commissioner Jake Giardina asked if there is clear title on the property, and Mr. Barry Marionneaux answered that the purchase agreement will be conditioned on a clear title and title insurance. Mr. Malbrough recommended that the American Legion building and property be purchased for the price of \$150,000.

Commissioner Jake Giardina asked if there is any other property in the area that could be purchased, and Mr. Malbrough answered that across the street there is property where a hamburger stand is that is up for rent. Mr. Malbrough spoke to the owner to see if he would be interested in selling that portion of property, and the owner is interested in selling it. Mr. Malbrough stated that he would like to get that property appraised.

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Commissioner Jake Giardina and unanimously approved to purchase the American Legion building and property at a price of \$150,000 conditioned on the terms of the purchase agreement. The motion also authorizes Ben Malbrough to sign any and all documents required to purchase the property.

Mr. Nick Porto advised that the manager of the American Legion has asked if whenever the deal is made for the purchase if he can have thirty days to remove their personal belongings, and the Board agreed.

Commissioner Jake Giardina asked how old the American Legion building is, and Mr. Porto answered that when he was about eighteen years old he used to work in that building when it was a cigar company a long time ago in the 1950's. Commissioner Jake Giardina recommended that the attorney put a clause in the agreement for asbestos. Mr. Marionneaux advised that he thinks that language is already in the purchase agreement.

Mr. Malbrough advised that Alma Robichaux will not be here to make her presentation on the Bayou Lafourche Cleanup.

Commissioner Chris Domangue read the Notice of Public Hearing to be held December 12, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. at the District office on the proposed 2017 Operational Budget. He also read the budget summary figures for the proposed 2017 Operational Budget.

Mr. Malbrough advised that he included in the board binders a breakdown of the budgets. He advised that the budget committee met and went over the line items, and developed the amended 2016 budget and proposed 2017 budget.

Chairman Hugh Caffery thanked budget committee members Francis Richard, Gene Harrell and Chris Domangue for serving on the committee.

Chairman Hugh Caffery asked Mr. Malbrough to go over the capital projects for 2016, and Mr. Malbrough reviewed each of the projects. He also reviewed the capital projects proposed for 2017.

Commissioner Jake Giardina asked about discharging material back into the river, and Mr. Malbrough advised that they spoke to the Corps, and their concern is where you discharge that material back into the river. Mr. Malbrough stated that he believes that is the most logical and viable option long term, but that is contingent upon Corps approval.

Mr. Malbrough reported that we had talked about having another summit, and doing it after the Terrebonne guys came on. Chairman Hugh Caffery advised that we had the last summit, and it was really a push to get this dredging done. We had one hundred fifty plus people, and it was several days of people coming in and participating in small workshops to come up with projects. We brought attention to the bayou, and another summit would bring that attention to the bayou again.

Mr. Malbrough asked for approval to get an appraisal of the hamburger stand property. Moved by Commissioner Jae Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr. and unanimously approved to authorize Ben Malbrough to get try to get a conditional purchase agreement on the hamburger stand property.

Mr. John Lafargue, Friends of Bayou Lafourche, introduced Cyndi Guion, Director of Friends of Bayou Lafourche, to the Board. Mr. Lafargue advised that she started on November 1st. Mr. Lafarge reported that he took her to Donaldsonville on her first day. She is currently working on opening the checking account, getting a post office box, and trying to get tax exempt status. Ms. Guion stated that she worked for three non-profits in the past. She thanked the Board for the opportunity to work for the non-profit.

Ms. Guion advised that she videoed the tail end of the duck race. Chairman Hugh Caffery asked about videos of the Pedestrian Bridge, and the railroad bridge. She advised that she is an amateur, but her husband is a professional photographer. She advised that they will be around for Thanksgiving and advised that they will probably show up with her camera on one of those days. Chairman Hugh Caffery advised that if we would have a videographer we could really document to use that for the summit.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Francis Richard and unanimously approved the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Hugh Caffery, Chairman

Greg Nolan, Secretary/Treasurer

