

October 21, 2014

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District was held on Tuesday, October 21, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. at the Water District office, 1016 St. Mary Street, Thibodaux, LA

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

Absent: Ron Animashaun, Jake Giardina, Juan Pickett

Also present: Dustin Rabalais and Marc Rogers, T. Baker Smith; Lori LeBlanc; Tiffany Bergeron  
Barry Marionneaux; Ayad Taofik, Burk-Kleinpeter, Inc.; Jerry Waguespack; Robert Mire  
Ben Malbrough, Executive Director; Jana Langley, Administrative Assistant

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Commissioner Donald Schwab to dispense with the reading of the minutes, and approve the minutes of September 15, 2014. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Windell Curole to approve the accounts payable for September. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Commissioner Judge Jimmy Gaidry to approve the finance report for September. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ben Malbrough advised that the surveillance camera has been installed at the pump station. We had a couple of glitches with remote access, but the technician is working on it. Chairman Hugh Caffery asked if we are still tracking the pumping range with the variable speed drive, and Mr. Malbrough answered yes that we are ranging between 8.4 ft. and 8.6 ft., with the goal of 8.5 ft.

Mr. Malbrough reported that the bayou crew is still fighting the grass. We were unsuccessful in filling the vacant position for the bayou crew. There were two interested applicants that met the qualifications of Civil Service, but neither one was interested in the job due to the salary amount.

Mr. Malbrough advised that Jana and he will work to prepare the paperwork and information for the Board to make a decision next month on our future with Civil Service.

Chairman Hugh Caffery asked if the machines are still working to clear the hydrilla, and Mr. Malbrough answered yes. We had to change the paddle-wheels on the harvesters. We are still going back and forth with the water plants regarding the herbicide applicator.

Mr. Malbrough showed a video of the operation of the revised design of the grass cutting machine that was observed in Delacroix. The machine was modified to add more blades and wheels on it.

Chairman Hugh Caffery commented that the large map of Bayou Lafourche on the wall looks really good, and Mr. Malbrough stated that South Central Planning helped us out tremendously to design it.

Mr. Dustin Rabalais, T. Baker Smith, gave an update on the Mississippi River Reintroduction into Bayou Lafourche project, as follows:

- Geotechnical is 100% complete. We reviewed the final report and addendum with Ben.
- The Coastal Use Permit has been received. USACOE permit not required. DOTD permit pending.
- Pipeline letters of no objection are pending.
- We received two signed lease agreements. We anticipate hopefully by the end of this week to have 75% of the leases signed, which is disposal and access. The 75% is the bare minimum of what we need to actually do our project.
- We anticipate 95% completion of plans and specifications within the next five to ten days.
- There will be a Q&A period for two to four days to get someone else to look at everything to make sure all is good to go.
- We will deliver them to Fresh Water District for Ben's review, and then we will send it off to CPRA. We will ask for a Resolution at the November meeting to advertise the project.
- We will have a recommendation to award the project at the December meeting, and if that is the case we will issue a Notice to Proceed January 2, 2015.

Moved by Commissioner Windell Curole, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell and unanimously approved to amend the agenda by two-thirds vote to discuss authorizing Ben to sign the lease agreements for the dredge project.

Commissioner Windell Curole asked what are the general conditions of the lease for the disposal sites. Mr. Malbrough answered that we will return the ditches and roads to the pre-construction condition, there is a maximum amount of disposal at each site, there is no exchanging of money for the lease, there is no minimum amount we have to put as long as we don't go over a certain elevation, and there are no grading requirements.

Moved by Commissioner Windell Curole, seconded by Commissioner Lance Authement and unanimously approved adopt a Resolution authorizing Ben Malbrough to sign the lease agreements that have been negotiated for the Phase 2 Dredge Project.

Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell stated that he would like to get a spreadsheet of the disposal sites, and Dustin advised that he will send a spreadsheet to Ben for him to send to the Board members.

Mr. Malbrough announced that the District will hold a public hearing on Monday, November 17, 2014 to adopt the 2015 Proposed Operational Budget, and 2015 Proposed Dredge Project-Phase 2 Budget. The Board was given a copy of the public hearing notice that outlined the budget summary figures for the 2015 Proposed Operational Budget, and 2015 Proposed Dredge Project-Phase 2 Budget. Jana Langley advised that she will publish the public hearing notice in the Daily Comet tomorrow.

Mr. Malbrough requested that a budget committee be formed to discuss and prepare the 2015 budgets, and the 2014 amended budgets to be adopted at the November 17<sup>th</sup> meeting. Chairman Hugh Caffery asked for volunteers for the budget committee, and Judge Jimmy Gaidry, Gene Harrell, Greg Nolan, Francis Richard and Hugh Caffery volunteered to serve on the committee.

Moved by Commissioner Windell Curole, seconded by Commissioner Francis Richard and unanimously approved to pay 100% of the employees' health insurance premium through December 31, 2015 on the most similar plan to the one the employees' have now.

Mr. Ben Malbrough advised that there were several discussions about bringing on someone to assist us with our public outreach campaign. He stated that we need to start reaching out to the public and letting them know what we are doing.

Chairman Caffery commented that we go day to day and forget that every time you turn on the tap it is because someone did some work, and we are pumping and supplying water. We need to have a retreat again for this Board so that we can review and reauthorize our master plan. We need to be out in the public explaining where we are and what we are doing for them, and how that's critical to their water supply. He looks to really reinvigorate our whole program with this public outreach campaign.

Mr. Malbrough stated that we went out with a Request for Proposals to assist with the public outreach campaign, and we received responses back. Mr. Malbrough made the recommendation that we move forward with selecting Lori LeBlanc, LLC and her team. He sat down with Lori and her team and went over the details of where we are, and where he sees us going. Mr. Malbrough stated that he does not have the skill set to envision these nice plans to get out to the public.

Mr. Malbrough stated that he doesn't have any problem with going to talk with any organization or gathering. He was looking for Lori and her team to get us plugged into the social media, and help to get presentations put together that are modified to specific audiences at specific organizations. We are disconnected from the public and not a whole lot of people in the public know what we do.

Commissioner Donald Schwab asked if we have ever contacted Martin Folse at HTV to use them to reach out to the public, and Mr. Malbrough answered that he has talked to Jason and Martin about getting on Bayou Time.

Commissioner Windell Curole advised that we missed out on teaching moments because when there was that terrible water quality in West Virginia it was all over the nation. He stated that we could have brought up what happened in 2002, and after Gustav. It would have been a great teaching moment.

Moved by Commissioner Windell Curole, seconded by Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr. and unanimously approved to authorize Ben Malbrough and Barry Marionneaux to negotiate and executive a contract with Lori LeBlanc, LLC and her team to do a public outreach campaign.

Ms. Lori LeBlanc thanked the Board for the opportunity for them to submit the proposal. She stated that Bayou Lafourche is totally the number one greatest asset we have in this region because of the drinking water supply. She advised that they would be more than happy to help to get the word out. She stated that it will be a very robust, comprehensive public outreach campaign, and they look forward to working with us.

Mr. Malbrough reported that we had originally asked the legislation for \$1.3 million to be included in the capital outlay bill. We were able to get in the bill for \$700,000.00 and it was approved by the bond commission on October 16<sup>th</sup> for a line of credit for \$315,000.00 We are going to reapply for next year's capital outlay bill for the remainder of the funds.

Mr. Malbrough advised that they met with the City of Donaldsonville at their committee meeting last night regarding the Donaldsonville drainage project. We are getting the dialog going with them but have a long way to go. We are very comfortable that we can design and construct at least one or most

likely two of these pump stations. Our cost share of the overall project is about \$300,000.00. We can move forward with our 25% match of \$315,000.00, or we could keep our same dedicated match for the overall project which would give us about \$650,000.00.

Mr. Malbrough advised that the main two pump stations they are dealing with is just north of the railroad, and just south of the railroad in Donaldsonville on the Hwy. 308 side. The pump station on the north side of the railroad is the most critical because the biggest drainage problem they have in a rainfall event is that St. Patrick Street floods. Mr. Malbrough stated that the intent of the drainage project is to prevent the flooding in Donaldsonville with our current operations.

Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell stated that he doesn't have a full concept of the pump stations. Chairman Hugh Caffery advised that we need to show Mr. Gene and Mr. Eli how this system is going to work, and Mr. Malbrough drew an illustrated sketch of the sump pump, and explained how it will work.

Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr. advised that he lived off of St. Patrick Street for forty-three years, and it never flooded back there before. He stated that it started flooding in the St. Patrick Street area when that grass pond started up. It is blocked off. He stated that he has been telling the city that for a long time, and he stated that the mayor knows exactly where the problem is. Mr. Miles advised that two weeks ago they came and cleaned out the ditches, and blew the culverts out back there where they are.

Mr. Ayad Taofik introduced himself to the Board, and advised that he works for Burk-Klienpeter. He stated that they are opening a company in Houma, and he is hoping to provide services to the District.

Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell asked where we are on the dredging of the sand pit, and Mr. Malbrough answered that we received the wetland delineation done. We will advertise to bid the project at the same time as the dredging project.

Mr. Malbrough reported that we are in the process of negotiating the agreement with Union Pacific Railroad. We have the engineer that we are going to use for the project.

Moved by Commissioner Windell Curole, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell and unanimously approved to authorize Ben Malbrough to submit the capital outlay request for next year by November 1<sup>st</sup>.

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Commissioner Windell Curole and unanimously approved to go into executive session at 6:25 p.m.

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Commissioner Windell Curole and unanimously approved to return to regular session at 7:45 p.m.

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Commissioner Windell Curole and unanimously approved the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

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Hugh Caffery, Chairman

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Greg Nolan, Jr., Secretary/Treasurer

