

October 19, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District was held on Monday, October 19, 2015 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, Secretary/Treasurer
Judge Jimmy Gaidry
Francis Richard
Donald Schwab
Eli Miles, Jr.
Jake Giardina
Ron Animashaun

Absent: Lance Authement

Also present: Dustin Rabalais, T. Baker Smith; Alma Robichaux, BTNEP; Tiffany Bergeron
Barry Marionneaux, Attorney; Shaun Toups, Government Consultants
Lawrence "Bud" Bergeron; John Lafargue; Jason Kennedy
Henry Templet; Hattie Templet; Nick Porto; Jerry Waguespack; Robert Mire
Ben Malbrough, Executive Director; Jana Langley, Administrative Assistant

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Commissioner Jake Giardina to dispense with the reading of the minutes, and approve the minutes of September 21, 2015. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Commissioner Donald Schwab to approve the finance report for September. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ben Malbrough reported that pump #4 went out at the pump station, and had to rebuilt it minus the motor. It will be an 8-10 week repair. Mr. Malbrough advised that he met with Assumption Parish Waterworks just to have some safeguards in place. He also talked to Lula.

Commissioner Jake Giardina asked when was the last time that pump has been pulled out, and Mr. Malbrough answered in 2001 something had been repaired. Mr. Malbrough stated that he will talk to Conhagen to find out what routine maintenance would cost on the pumps.

Mr. Malbrough reported that everything is normal with the bayou. Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell stated that the paspalum has really been backed up at the Valentine Bridge, and Chairman Hugh Caffery answered yes. Mr. Malbrough stated that we need to come up with a plan with Lafourche Parish in order to stay ahead of the grass condition in that area.

Mr. Dustin Rabalais, T. Baker Smith, gave an update on the Mississippi River Reintroduction into Bayou Lafourche Phase 2 Dredge Project as follows:

- The contract is 450 days. We are at contract day 133. There are 317 remaining days.
- The project is right around 30% complete as of today.
- Mr. Rabalais showed the different disposal sites, and percentages completed at each site.
- All the material in the bayou that was scheduled to go into site one has been delivered.

- He showed pictures of the trash being pulled out of the bayou.
- There was a site visit last Tuesday, and the bayou looks really good.

Mr. Malbrough advised that he requested a project schedule from Union Pacific. They did the ground penetrating radar, and the environmental regulatory work. They see no reason why the timeframe to complete the project by December 2016 is any problem. They should have the design done by January or February 2016, and the project completed by the December 2016 deadline.

Mr. Malbrough reported that a pre-construction meeting was held last week regarding the saltwater control structure. The contractor will receive the Notice to Proceed this week. The project is 200 construction days. A discussion was held regarding the barge design and water depth. Mr. Malbrough advised that he will show the design plans of the structure at the next meeting.

Chairman Hugh Caffery announced that a public hearing will be held on November 16, 2015 to adopt the 2016 Proposed Operational Budget, and 2016 CIAP Program Funds Budget. Mr. Malbrough reviewed the budget summary figures for both budgets. Chairman Hugh Caffery advised that they will form a budget committee to review the proposed budgets that will be presented at the public hearing.

Moved by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell, seconded by Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr. and unanimously approved to pay 100% of the employees' health/life insurance premium for 2016.

Mr. Malbrough advised that we went to the bond commission last Thursday, and were approved up to \$30 million dollars of bonds. He stated that we now have to figure out how much money we are interested in bonding and the timing of it. We will need to bring on a trustee who will manage the payments on the bonds, and an underwriter who will be the person that sells the bonds to the market. We will have to see what our priorities are as far as moving forward.

Mr. Malbrough stated that CPRA is starting to get some of the Restore money to trickle in. Chairman Hugh Caffery asked what the news is on the settlement with BP on the fines, and Mr. Malbrough explained the different amounts expected to be received by Louisiana.

Mr. Shaun Toups advised that they have gotten the District through the regulatory process, and now when we are ready to move on projects we will be ready to go. Chairman Hugh Caffery asked what the time process is when we say we are ready to issue the bond, and Mr. Toups answered sixty days.

Chairman Hugh Caffery advised that he would like to fill the two vacant positions on the Board so we would be back to twelve members. He would like to have another summit. He stated that he knows the new governor would take a leadership role in having this summit, and we would get as much participation as we can. We would come up with a list of priorities again like we did at the last summit four years ago.

Commissioner Jake Giardina stated that it would be a good idea for Ben to come up with a timeline on these projects so that they would be in the right sequence so the money is spent properly. Mr. Malbrough advised that for the next meeting he will put together a projected timeline for the three major projects we are looking at, which is Phase 3 dredging from Napoleonville to Thibodaux, removing the weir, and a new pump station.

Mr. Malbrough advised that Hugh and he kicked around the idea of looking at the possibility of having a non-profit for the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District much like BTNEP and their foundation. It would basically handle and take on a very active role in focusing on Bayou Lafourche for recreation, and beautification. We would get stakeholders involved and interested in what is going on in the bayou. We got approached by Mr. John Lafargue, who is here today. He offered his assistance.

Mr. John Lafargue advised that he had spoken to Hugh, Ben and Mr. Giardina, We came up with an idea of a mission that we would raise awareness of the importance of the bayou and revitalization through educational and informational outreach, as well as recreational opportunities. We would create it as a 501(c) non-profit.

Chairman Hugh Caffery stated that Mr. Marionneaux offered his services to help with the legal work. He met with the Attorney General to see whether we can partially or completely fund the kick-off of this. It would be primarily someone who would be in charge of this who would initially temporarily work out of the District office.

Mr. Barry Marionneaux advised that Ben and he visited last week with the AG's office, and the head of the civil division. We need to clarify the value of utilizing this Board's public money to the non-profit as to what we would get back. We also have to quantify it. They would then give us a letter of approval for us to move forward once we give them some details.

Chairman Hugh Caffery asked for public comments. Ms. Tiffany Bergeron advised that they had the tour with Restore or Retreat to visit the dredge site. We had The Advocate there and the Daily Comet there. There is a video on the District's Facebook page.

Mr. Lawrence "Bud" Bergeron stated that he lives at 7261 Hwy. 1 in Belle Rose. He advised that the original contractor a couple of years ago piled up stumps and logs on his property. The present contractor only spread them out, and some of them will be a safety concern because he saw them going down the bayou with the current.

Mr. Bergeron advised that his second concern is the dredge barge tied off two cables on either side of the bayou to go back and forth. In the front of his property, he has a big sycamore tree that they tied on to which was no problem. In the process of pulling the barge back and forth, it completely uprooted a lemon tree, and partially pulled up a satsumas tree. Mr. Bergeron advised that he spoke to Mr. Glenn Wood, the contractor, and he assured him that in seven to ten days he would be there to dress up that area. Mr. Bergeron told Mr. Wood that if he would do that he would forget about the two citrus trees. Mr. Bergeron went to his trailer office, and was told that Mr. Wood was on another project. Mr. Dustin Rabalais stated that he will go up there tomorrow to take care of it. Chairman Hugh Caffery asked Mr. Rabalais to send him an e-mail report on that, and Mr. Rabalais answered he will.

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Commissioner Donald Schwab and unanimously approved the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Chairman Hugh Caffery stated that there is nothing to discuss in executive session.

Hugh Caffery, Chairman

Greg Nolan, Secretary/Treasurer

