

September 16, 2013

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District was held on Monday, September 16, 2013 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                      Larry Dugas  
Greg Nolan, Secretary/Treasurer              Windell Curole  
Ron Animashaun                                      Jake Giardina

Absent: Francis Richard

Also present were: Barry Marionneaux, Attorney; Jimmy Ledet & Dustin Rabalais, T. Baker Smith  
Stevie Smith, All South Consulting Engineers; Alma Robichaux, BTNEP  
Gasper Chifici, CPRA Project Manager; Henry Templet; Nick Porto  
Bruno Deleo; Robert Thibodaux; David Plater; Robert Mire  
Bobby Acosta; Euel Zeringue, Sr.; Euel Zeringue, Jr.  
Ben Malbrough, Executive Director; Jana Langley, Administrative Assistant

Chairman Hugh Caffery asked everybody what they think of the new Board table arrangement, and stated that we have four vacant seats that should be filled as early as our next meeting.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Ron Animashaun to dispense with the reading of the minutes, and approve the minutes of August 8, 2013 and August 19, 2013. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Greg Nolan, seconded by Commissioner Larry Dugas to approve the accounts payable for August. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Ron Animashaun to approve the finance report. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ben Malbrough reported that the pumping summary and monthly report were e-mailed to the Board. He advised that we are averaging between 300-315cfs for the month of August, which is higher than we have ever pumped before. Chairman Caffery requested that Ben hang in the Board room the graph of the pumping for the whole year. Mr. Malbrough stated that he will hang a map of Bayou Lafourche across the whole wall in the Board room.

Mr. Bruno Deleo stated that years ago there was a resolution passed to keep the bayou in the range from 7.6 ft. - 8.3 ft. He advised that it is getting pretty close to flooding Donaldsonville right now. If we get a big rain the underpass and St. Patrick Street will flood.

Mr. Malbrough advised that according to the Operations & Maintenance manual that CH2MHill put together they changed the operating procedure of the pump station to operate between a range of 7.5ft. -9 ft. Chairman Caffery stated that we will discuss this further under the public comments section.

Mr. Malbrough advised that Bill Campbell, who has been an employee of ours for thirteen years, will be retiring September 29<sup>th</sup>. We will not fill that position right now since we recently hired a new employee at the pump station.

Mr. Malbrough distributed to the Board the Civil Service promotion paperwork for Eric Sanchez. In order for him to be upgraded a position, we have to submit the paperwork laying out his job duties currently, and Civil Service makes the determination of whether or not to promote him.

Chairman Caffery advised that Eric has a stellar record with this commission, and has been here many years. He has great knowledge of the pump station, and commitment to the pump station.

Moved by Commissioner Windell Curole, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell and unanimously approved to submit the paperwork to Civil Service to promote Eric Sanchez two grade levels up from his current position of Operating Engineer Foreman to Operations Engineer Superintendent, contingent upon Civil Service approval of the promotion. The Board approved a 10½% increase in pay, with an effective date of the increase to be issued by Civil Service upon their approval.

Mr. Malbrough stated that the bayou is a little overtaken by the vegetation. We have taken a few of the bayou crew guys to Baton Rouge to take the herbicide applicator's certification, and are now certified to spray. We notified all the water plants last week that we intend to spray the paspalum and water hyacinths north of the K-Mart Bridge. Hopefully, by the end of this week we can start spraying.

Mr. Malbrough advised that he contacted Mr. Robert Rome regarding the blighted building on the bayou side, and Mr. Rome stated that he has no problem with removing the building.

Mr. Jimmy Ledet and Dustin Rabalais gave an update on the Mississippi River Reintroduction into Bayou Lafourche-Phase 2 project as follows:

- ◆ Showed a graph where the one mile section above the 998 Bridge that is carried over. Showed the area that represents the five miles. The total length is 8.3 miles.
- ◆ The Data Analysis and Recommendation Report was presented to BLFWD and submitted to CPRA. Ben Malbrough advised that the response was received from CPRA today.
- ◆ The surveying began last Monday. They will have two crews working the bayou. They are taking cross sections starting every 500 ft.
- ◆ They have a total of 93 cross sections, and they have taken 33 so far.
- ◆ There are still a few things they need to check, as far as pipelines and utility crossings.
- ◆ Terracon will start studying the cross sections, and the geo tech work will start
- ◆ They have identified the access locations and are putting the right-of-way team together

Chairman Caffery advised that we had talked about grubbing before the surveying so that we could have a more accurate survey. Mr. Malbrough stated that this is something they are looking into but haven't come to a decision yet. It will really be contingent upon the timeline of whether or not we think we can get the project done in two phases. It is still on the table because we do not have enough information to make a decision on it now.

Moved by Commissioner Windell Curole, seconded by Commissioner Ron Animashaun and unanimously approved to adopt the resolution for Whitney Bank to obtain a safe deposit box to keep an external hard drive backup of the District files, which will be updated weekly.

Moved by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell, seconded by Commissioner Jake Giardina to approve the four percent performance adjustments effective October 1, 2013 per Civil Service Rules for the employees who received satisfactory/exceptional evaluation ratings.

Mr. Malbrough advised that Hugh and he were asked to get on a call with a representative of CPRA to discuss the closing out of Phase 1. There were still a few lingering issues that needed to be resolved. Most

importantly was the O&M Manual, which was prepared back in January 2012, and had never been formerly approved by the Board. Mr. Malbrough sent out an e-mail to the Board, and got approval to submit to CPRA a letter acknowledging the District's acceptance of the Operations & Maintenance Manual as laid out by CH2MHill in January 2012.

Mr. Malbrough stated that CPRA will provide the engineering support for dredging of the sediment trap at no cost to the District. If they have resources available to help us with the operations and maintenance, then he thinks they will certainly provide those.

Commissioner Larry Dugas asked if the parish will still take the dirt that was removed from the culverts. Mr. Malbrough answered that the parish has verbally accepted to take the material. Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell stated that George had indicated to him that it was in the works.

Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell stated that his only concern is the water level, and we will need to watch that very closely. Some people have called him in the last three or four weeks about the back end of their property actually having water up on the top of the bank.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Windell Curole and unanimously approved to accept the Operations & Maintenance Manual for Phase 1 as laid out by CH2MHill in January 2012. The water level range in the O&M Manual is 7.5ft. – 9ft.

Mr. Malbrough showed the new website, which is still being designed. He will be able to manage the website to update all the information as needed regarding the District.

Mr. Malbrough stated that the pump station rehab project is progressing as scheduled. He advised that the contractor has mobilized out to the site. They began laying the access road and the generator pad. The pump and motors are an eight to ten month lag time. Mr. Malbrough thanked Mr. Nick Porto for being kind to allow us to use the American Legion building.

Mr. Malbrough advised that he met with Mayor Sullivan and the city attorney regarding the Donaldsonville boat launch. They are interested in coming to some agreement where the city may take over some of that regulation and liability. Mr. Malbrough stated that it has been expressed to them as well that a lot of people have been riding and throwing wakes onto peoples' property.

Chairman Caffery advised that it is in our master plan to encourage the recreation use of Bayou Lafourche as it gets cleaned up. The public awareness and public support will grow.

Commissioner Windell Curole asked if we will look at the whole bayou regarding the "no wake" area. Chairman Caffery answered that Ben commented that we need to see what our legal rights would be to enforce it. Mr. Marionneaux stated that he will check that to see what our rights are.

Mr. Malbrough stated that we are tasked with trying to find the cheapest, most economical disposal location of the sediment trap material. There is an estimated 15,000 cubic yards of material to be removed. Commissioner Jake Giardina asked if we need to put this out for bid. Commissioner Curole answered that would be the safe way to do it. We could advertise to get rid of the material. Mr. Malbrough advised that in the release for the material that is there now we have drafted it to account for future dredging as well.

Mr. Malbrough stated that Hugh and he spoke about installing an alarm system in our buildings. He received a price from Alarm Detection System for \$1,700.00 to install both burglar and fire on the office, and

\$22.00 per month for monitoring. It is an additional \$1,800.00 if we want to include the two shop buildings for just burglar. The total would be \$3,500.00.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Vice-Chairman and unanimously approved to authorize Ben Malbrough to obtain three telephone quotes for installing an alarm system in the office building, and two shop buildings with a budget of \$5,000.00.

Mr. Malbrough advised that the insurance renewals are coming up January 1<sup>st</sup>, asked the Board if they want to go out for insurance proposals. The Board suggested that we get insurance quotes for the renewals.

Chairman Caffery addressed Mr. Bruno Deleo's concerns regarding the water levels in the O&M Manual, and the water levels that we are using now. Mr. Deleo stated that the Board had passed a resolution quite a few years ago to keep it between 7.6ft – 8.3ft.

Mr. Malbrough advised that we are trying to keep it as close to 8½ ft. at the Sonic Bridge, and prior to that it was at 7 ½ ft. – 8 ft., which is a foot higher than what we were keeping it at. Mr. Deleo advised that the time they shut the bayou down because of the benzene spill the properties caved in. He stated if they ever have to shut the pumps off any length of time now there will be a major problem. He stated that they had said that during the dredging process they were going to put in inflatable weirs along the bayou. Commissioner Curole advised that it is something to plan for in an emergency.

Mr. Robert Thibodaux asked if Phase 2 is going to be dredged to the same width and depth as Phase 1, and commented on the cost to do eight miles for \$20 million. Chairman Caffery responded that we were doing the five miles in Phase 1 in the most populated and most urban area in the whole bayou. He stated as we get down below Belle Rose and Spur 70 it is not very populated so the cost will be a lot less, especially if we are able to suction dredge it the cost per mile is going to be lot less.

Chairman Caffery stated that we need to make sure we apply for an extension of our dredge permit, which expires March 2014. Mr. Malbrough advised that Phase 2 is completely in the boundaries of the new coastal zone, and stated that everything else going forward is going to be in the coastal zone.

Mr. Templet advised that the Bayou Rowing Association will have a demo day on Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 a.m. at the rowing boatyard in Thibodaux on Hwy. 308. He invited everyone to attend the demo day. Ms. Alma Robichaux advised that Grand Isle Beach Cleanup is this weekend. She also advised that the next Bayou Lafourche Cleanup will be March 15, 2014, and said she is looking forward to that again next year.

Chairman Caffery advised that we are expecting to have four more commissioners maybe as early as our next meeting. Perhaps we might have a reception for them, and maybe serve something. It would be good to meet them, and for the public to come out and get to know them.

Chairman Hugh Caffery advised that there will be no executive session at this meeting.

Moved by Commissioner Larry Dugas, seconded by Commissioner Jake Giardina and unanimously approved the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

---

Hugh Caffery, Chairman

---

Greg Nolan, Secretary/Treasurer

