

September 21, 2015

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District was held on Monday, September 21, 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.
Lance Authement
Ron Animashaun

Absent: Jake Giardina

Also present: Philip Chauvin, T. Baker Smith; Alma Robichaux, BTNEP; Melissa Cloutet
Barry Marionneaux, Attorney; Stevie Smith, All South Consulting Engineers
Henry Templet; Nick Porto; Jerry Waguespack; Robert Mire
Ben Malbrough, Executive Director; Jana Langley, Administrative Assistant

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell to dispense with the reading of the minutes of August 17, 2015. Commissioner Judge Gaidry stated that he thinks there is a typo in the minutes on the second page, second paragraph that reads "Mr. Malbrough advised that in September they met with Union Pacific..." Judge Gaidry asked if it should read "they will meet in September", and Mr. Malbrough answered the minutes are right because he was referring to September of last year. Ms. Jana Langley advised that she will change the minutes to clarify "they met in September 2014 with Union Pacific..." Commissioner Francis Richard moved to approve the minutes of August 17, 2015 with the change "they met in September 2014 with Union Pacific...", and seconded by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr. to approve the accounts payable for August. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Judge Jimmy Gaidry, seconded by Commissioner Donald Schwab to approve the finance report for August. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Malbrough advised that two weeks ago he got a call from Eric at the pump station that one of the pumps was knocking real hard. They made a decision to shut it down and get Conhagen to come in and give us an assessment. They took the pump out of the hole, and it is in the shop in Kenner being assessed. There was very visible wear on the shaft, propeller, and bearings.

Mr. Malbrough advised that everything is going normal in the bayou. The bayou crew has been taking trees out. He advised that we had a major repair on the tugboat.

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

- The project is 450 calendar days. We are at contract day 105. There are 345 days remaining.
- They had a progress meeting last week, and got an update from the contractor.
- One dredge is working in Reach A, which is the northern most reach, and it is moving at about 150 – 200 feet per day. Reach A is from the end of Phase 1 to the 998 Bridge.

- Mr. Chauvin showed pictures of the different disposal sites, and also of the debris that they are pulling out of the bayou.
- The contractor is currently ahead of schedule.

Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr. asked how much higher will the ground level be when they complete the pumping on the LA 1 side, and Mr. Chauvin answered that they are anticipating anywhere from 2-3 ft. of soupy material inside the levees. Once they are finished in those areas and it starts to consolidate, the material will get lower. The equipment will get back out there when they are finished and will knock the levee down and make it the same height as whatever is in that cell so it doesn't hold water.

Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr. asked if that will have any impact on the water coming back towards the front or going towards the back. Mr. Chauvin answered that all the water will go to the back. Mr. Chauvin advised if they see that there will be a lot of rain they will stop pumping during a rain event.

Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell asked if the depth in the bayou will be 8 ½ ft., and Mr. Malbrough answered that the bottom elevation changes but the water depth is generally going to be 8 -8 ½ ft.

Mr. Malbrough advised that they are setting up a site visit with Restore or Retreat for stakeholders and the Board members for a project site visit. Tentatively, the date for the site visit is October 13th.

Mr. Malbrough advised that the employee evaluations have been done, and commented that we are blessed to have some wonderful employees. He made a recommendation that a 4% pay increase be given to all the employees effective October 1, 2015.

Moved by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell, seconded by Commissioner Francis Richard and unanimously approved to grant a 4% pay increase to all the employees October 1, 2015.

Mr. Malbrough advised that he made a typo on Item 10(c) on the agenda. Moved by Commissioner Judge Jimmy Gaidry, seconded by Commissioner Francis Richard and unanimously approved to amend the agenda by two-thirds vote to correct Item 10(c) to read "Discussion on Professional Services Contract Amendment with All South Engineers for the Donaldsonville Drainage Project".

Mr. Malbrough advised that when we first started the Donaldsonville Drainage Improvements Project Some parameters were set on the engineering fees for the contract not to exceed \$62,000.00 for basic services. We realized what kind of coordination that was required with the City of Donaldsonville, the parish of Ascension, and what additional work that was needed to get this project done. We got a good plan together which is favorable to all parties.

Mr. Malbrough stated that he sent the amendment to the Board which increases the basic services fee to \$90,147.00. It fixes the geotechnical cost as well as the surveying cost to reflect what was actually incurred for the project. Mr. Malbrough asked for a recommendation to approve this amendment.

Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell asked if we are still talking about two sites, and Mr. Malbrough answered yes with the money we have available we are looking at one pump station on the north side, and we are looking at some options on the south side.

Moved by Commissioner Donald Schwab, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell to approve the amendment to the professional services contract with All South Consulting Engineers for the basic

services fee of \$90,147.00 for the Donaldsonville Drainage Improvement Project. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Malbrough showed pictures of the progress of the sediment trap maintenance project. He advised that the project is 30% complete. There have been no issues with the contractor. We signed a cooperative endeavor agreement with the parish of Ascension that they would take the material offsite. Mr. Malbrough advised that he met with the contractor about fixing the boat launch, and came up with a tentative plan which will be in addition to the existing construction contract.

Mr. Malbrough stated that the surveying work is completed on the railroad. The ground penetrating radar is scheduled for next Tuesday which will locate exactly where the turnstiles are, and any obstructions. Union Pacific will provide us with a detailed project schedule. They have made it clear that they see no issues with getting this project done on time, and within the budget we have laid out.

Mr. Malbrough advised that next month we will have to modify the engineering contract with HDR regarding the railroad project. Initially, the contract was just for preliminary design, and now they are taking it straight to final design and construction.

Mr. Malbrough reported that he was approached by a couple of commissioners to gage his interest in getting into Leadership Lafourche, which is a program put on by the Lafourche Chamber. He advised that he applied and was accepted to the program, which will be \$800.00 for the year. Chairman Caffery advised that he encouraged Ben because it is an outreach program which will get the word out.

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr. to approve Ben Malbrough joining the Leadership Lafourche program for \$800.00. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Hugh Caffery asked for any public comments, and Ms. Melissa Cloutet, public outreach coordinator, stated that they are still rolling with everything. She advised that she will get some of the pictures to post that were shown today at the meeting. Chairman Hugh Caffery asked if the video was posted, and Melissa answered yes.

Mr. Henry Templet stated that it sounds like we are doing well. He advised that the bayou itself has been clean. He stated that for several years they had to stop rowing in July and August because of the hydrilla, but it wasn't any hindrance at all to them this year.

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell and unanimously approved to go into executive session at 6:00 p.m.

Moved by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell, seconded by Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr. and unanimously approved to return to regular session at 6:30 p.m.

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

Hugh Caffery, Chairman

Greg Nolan, Secretary/Treasurer

