

October 23, 2017

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District was held on Monday, October 23, 2017 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
Francis Richard
Donald Schwab
Scott LeBlanc
Eli Miles, Jr.
Chris Domangue
Ray Mayet

Absent: Jake Giardina, Lance Authement

Also present: Josef Hoffmann; Jason Kennedy, David Boudreaux; Ryan Perque, FOBL; John Lafargue, FOBL
Clark Capone, All South Consulting Engineers; Henry Templet; Hattie Templet; Josh Bordelon
Robert Mire; Nick Porto; Jerry Waguespack; Barry Marionneaux, Attorney
Ben Malbrough, Executive Director; Jana Langley, Administrative Assistant

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Commissioner Ray Mayet to dispense with the reading of the minutes, and approve the minutes of September 18, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Ray Mayet, seconded by Commissioner Francis Richard to approve the accounts payable for September. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Scott LeBlanc, seconded by Commissioner Chris Domangue to approve the finance report for September. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Malbrough stated that he will not be in town November 20 and 2, and asked the Board if they want to move the November meeting to the 13 or the 27. The Board agreed to move the meeting to November 27.

Mr. Malbrough reported that he sent the pumping report to the Board, and everything is operating as normal. The river is down, and the sugar mills and sod farms are pulling water. The monopile structure is back up and in operation. The company installed a longer and bigger monopile at no cost. We submitted to the Coast Guard a modification to the permit. Everything is operating as normal with the bayou crew.

Mr. Malbrough advised that they met with the project team for the Pump Capacity Improvements Project, and the schedule is to have 30% design completed by February 2018. We will then come to the Board to discuss our options going forward as far as the project delivery method.

Mr. Josef Hoffmann, Royal Engineers, gave a slide presentation of the findings of the preliminary analysis of the alternatives evaluations that were performed on the water control structure. Tasks included were:

- Evaluation of four structure locations along the bayou in terms of water surface profiles resulting from the emergency closures of the structures. Ran some analysis with the structure in the open position under different cross sectional configurations of main gate, sizes and dimensions, as well as different configurations of side gates. They evaluated with the gate open runs with the future of 1000 cfs flow rate. That run was used to determine the conceptual hydraulic criteria.
- Showed a map of the locations that were evaluated for the structure. Showed locations at different river mile locations. Ran three evaluations with single structures at three locations, and a fourth one with two locations. The structure would provide water storage upstream mainly to the water plant in Donaldsonville and Assumption Parish intake. For each location they evaluated two different flow rates with the gate

structure closed under what they consider an existing condition using the average current flow rate in the bayou of 450 cfs. He showed the different water surface elevations at the different locations. They also ran a future condition of 1000 cfs with the gate closed assuming future dredging.

- A two gate location was also evaluated, and he showed water surface elevations at those locations. There was only eight-tenths of a foot in difference from what they are seeing with just one single gate location. Ben stated that this will ultimately drive the decision of whether we go with one structure or two structures. When you compare the cost of one versus two structures we have to figure out is it worth the four-tenths to eight-tenths of a foot elevation in Donaldsonville.
- Mr. Hoffmann advised that after completing all scenarios they selected the middle location of the three single locations at river mile 22.4 as the base line for evaluating the hydraulic criteria as the basis for performing the alternatives evaluation of the structure in the open position under the 1000 cfs future flow rates.

A lengthy discussion was held regarding the locations of the gates, and different scenarios showing water surface elevations at the various locations.

Mr. David Boudreaux, Delta Coast, advised that once they received the hydraulic data from Royal they sat down and discussed if we put 1000 cfs down Bayou Lafourche how big of a cross sectional area do we need to maintain within the structure. First, we don't want to put too big of a velocity going to the structure because then it becomes a navigational issue. We also want to maintain a 25 ft. minimum clear opening width that the current bridges have. They looked at unlimited vertical clearance.

Mr. Boudreaux reported that they looked at numerous different combinations of sluice gates. He reviewed in detail how the swing gate and barge gate would operate. He reviewed the pros and cons of the swing gate and barge gate, and the cost of each gate. The cost of the barge gate is \$3.7 million, and the swing gate is \$2.4 million.

Mr. Jason Kennedy advised that the reason he thinks the swing gate is better because it is easier to fabricate, it does not have pumps, and the maintenance without question is simpler. The gate would be built for emergency. Once the emergency is over you can turn the pumps back on, open up the by-pass gates and bleed the water out to try and level it out. While you would not design completely for that situation, you wouldn't have to necessarily design the structure for 3½ ft. of head difference either.

Chairman Hugh Caffery stated that as the gate is in the open position most of the time it will get trash built up, and he asked if we are going to exercise it once a month. Mr. Malbrough answered that the increased water velocity is going to help. Mr. Kennedy advised that we are putting the structure in an open channel, and it will catch whatever is there. He stated that even if you get a wrath of lilies that pile up behind the structure it will not have a detrimental effect on the flow moving through the structure, and it will still operate.

A lengthy discussion was held regarding the width of the structure, and the trash and debris that would build up around the structure. Mr. Kennedy advised that they could work out some type of boom system to funnel it through the main opening of the gate. Chairman Caffery stated that they could look at water surface elevation for bank stability, and look at wet cost of making it wider.

Commissioner Scott LeBlanc asked if that 1000 cfs is the target number, and Mr. Malbrough answered that it is the minimum we are expanding to. Commissioner LeBlanc stated that he feels we need the wider opening if it is feasible to keep the flow, and the side gates to relieve pressure for other purposes.

Mr. Malbrough stated that he hears what everybody is saying, and obviously debris is a major concern. The idea is

that between now and the November meeting they will iron out some of the details, make sure we are comfortable with moving forward with one gate with the weir taken out after the gate is constructed, and if they have time present the entire proposal by the November meeting.

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell and unanimously approved to open the public hearing on the proposed Amendment to Ordinance No. 5.

Mr. Malbrough advised that the purpose of the Amendment to Ordinance No. 5 is to allow people to build as long as they stay out of the proposed 1000cfs channel cross section. They worked with T. Baker Smith, who looked at the bottom elevation from Donaldsonville to the Intracoastal, and they inserted the channel cross section dredging and where the channel cross section line and the 1000 cfs water surface elevation line intersect, and they transposed that line on both sides of the bayou, and they geo-referenced it. We have a point every 25 ft. that shows the latitude and longitude that you cannot go beyond certain parameters to build structures.

Mr. Malbrough stated that now that we have a line on the ground we will do a survey inspection of the bayou with the go pro camera once the ordinance is approved. We will continue to do that every quarter, and go back and reference that video to see if people are building beyond these lines.

Chairman Hugh Caffery asked for any public comments on the proposed Amendment to Ordinance No, 5.

Mr. Jerry Waguespack asked if the line is from the center of the bayou out, and Mr. Malbrough answered yes it is a 65 ft. channel bottom with three to one side slopes. Everything is based off the center line.

Mr. John Lafarge asked if a permit would be required behind our office building, and Mr. Malbrough answered yes. Mr. Malbrough stated that we will be able to put a link on our website to access the map files. He asked if a permit is required for a floating dock, and Mr. Malbrough answered yes. He asked if there is a part of the bank that does not require a permit, and Mr. Malbrough answered if you are building a structure outside of the mean high water mark it does not require a permit from the District. He stated that anything between the mean high and mean low side of the bayou requires a permit.

Chairman Hugh Caffery asked for any further comments on the amendment to the proposed Amendment to Ordinance No. 5, and there were none.

Moved by Commissioner Chris Domangue, seconded by Commissioner Ray Mayet and unanimously approved to close the public hearing on the proposed Amendment to Ordinance No. 5.

Moved by Commissioner Ray Mayet, seconded by Commissioner Donald Schwab and unanimously approved to adopt the Amendment to Ordinance No. 5.

Moved by Commissioner Ray Mayet, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell and unanimously approved to open the public hearing on proposed Ordinance No. 7.

Mr. Malbrough advised that proposed Ordinance No. 7 relates to derelict vessels and the policies for removing them, and remedying any violations of people intentionally abandoning or sinking any vessels or anything in the bayou. We decided to pull the language out of Ordinance No. 5 in an attempt to clarify things a little better regarding derelict vessels. We developed a completely separate Ordinance No. 7 relating to derelict vessels.

Chairman Hugh Caffery asked three times for any comments on proposed Ordinance No. 7, and there were none.

Moved by Commissioner Donald Schwab, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell and unanimously approved to

close the public hearing on proposed Ordinance No. 7.

Moved by Commissioner Chris Domangue, seconded by Commissioner Ray Mayet and unanimously approved to adopt Ordinance No. 7.

Commissioner Ray Mayet read the notice of public hearing to be held November 27, 2017 on the proposed 2018 operational budget. He read the budget summary figures that will be published with the public hearing notice.

Mr. Malbrough stated that he would like to set up a budget committee, and Chairman Hugh Caffery asked who would be interested in serving on the committee. Commissioners Scott LeBlanc, Chris Domangue, Gene Harrell, and Francis Richard stated that they would serve on the budget committee.

Mr. Malbrough advised that there was a small decrease in the life insurance premium for active employees. There is no increase in the group health premium for 2018 for the active employees and retirees.

Moved by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell, seconded by Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr. and unanimously approved to continue to pay 100% of the life and health insurance premiums for active employees. The retirees pay 100% of their life insurance premiums, and the District pays a portion of the health premium based on vesting schedule.

Mr. Malbrough asked for a deviation to the agenda to include a permit application for Michael Halbrook. Moved by Commissioner Scott LeBlanc, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell and unanimously approved to amend the agenda by two-thirds vote to include an agenda item relating to a permit application for Michael Holbrook.

Mr. Malbrough advised that Michael Halbrook wants to construct a deck on his property along Bayou Lafourche. His deck falls outside the new permit line for the proposed construction of his deck.

Moved by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell, seconded by Commissioner Francis Richard to approve the permit application for Michael Halbrook contingent upon completion of his permit application, obtaining the letter of agreement required for the permit, and any other permits required. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Scott LeBlanc, seconded by Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr. to approve the permit application for Atmos Energy for the directional boring of a six inch (6") gas line adjacent to LA 70 Bridge in Paincourtville. They will go a minimum 15 ft. from the bottom elevation of the bayou. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Scott LeBlanc to approve the permit application for Victor Lefort to construct a bulkhead off LA 1 at 2332 St. Mary Street along Bayou Lafourche in Thibodaux. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ryan Perque, Executive Director of Friends of Bayou Lafourche, gave an update on the Friends of Bayou Lafourche as follows:

- He thanked the Board for adopting the two ordinances because relative to their mission those are two ordinances that are going to make the permitting process and usability of the bayou much more viable.
- Had a public speaking engagement for a group in Ascension Parish last week, and has one planned out every week for the next three weeks.
- They sent out solicitation letters to corporate level and individual level for the membership program.
- He is meeting with the Thibodaux advisory committee next week. They are in the process of putting

together a Donaldsonville, Raceland and Lockport advisory committee.

- He is working on a grant to purchase a storage facility for kayaks, paddleboards, and canoes for people interested in non-motorized boat access. There would be a rental agreement to use the facility.
- Still looking at potential improvements at the Leighton boat launch which will improve its usability.
- Met with Mayor Sullivan of Donaldsonville last week to discuss Donaldsonville launch and park to make it more user friendly.
- Combination of two grants that was submitted to develop a public access and interest points all along the 106 mile stretch of Bayou Lafourche.
- The cooperative endeavor agreement that the Friends of Bayou Lafourche has with Nicholls is going to the Louisiana Board of Supervisors for their December meeting for signing. We will move forward with the development of the master plan and design after the agreement is signed.
- Started sending out weekly summaries to the Friends Board, Hugh, and Ben. If anyone is interested in receiving the summaries, contact him to be put on the list.

Mr. Malbrough advised that they are still waiting on the Corps of Engineers permit for the Donaldsonville Drainage Improvements Project. We will be ready to go out for bid for construction once we have the permit.

Mr. Malbrough reported that they submitted the full application to the Lafourche Basin Levee District, CPRA and the Corps of Engineers for the sediment trap maintenance dredging back into the river. We are getting the sediment trap surveyed.

Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell stated that we might want to look at the area between the Marchand Bridge and where the trestle used to be. Mr. Malbrough stated that he doesn't think they got a lot of detail survey up there. Mr. Malbrough advised that they will get the sandbar surveyed.

Chairman Hugh Caffery asked for any public comments, and there were none.

Moved by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell, seconded by Commissioner Scott LeBlanc and unanimously approved to go into executive session at 7:20 p.m.

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Commissioner Ray Mayet and unanimously approved to return to regular session.

Moved by Commissioner Donald Schwab, seconded by Commissioner Ray Mayet and unanimously approved to authorize Ben Malbrough, Executive Director, to engage a geotechnical engineer as an expert pending Phase 1 litigation.

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell and unanimously approved the meeting adjourned at 7:30p.m.

Hugh Caffery, Chairman

Greg Nolan, Secretary, Treasurer

