

May 29, 2018

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District was held on Tuesday, May 29, 2018 at 5:00 p.m. at the Water District office, 1016 St. Mary Street, Thibodaux, LA

Present were: Hugh Caffery, Chairman
Donald Schwab
Francis Richard
Scott LeBlanc
Chris Domangue
Ray Mayet

Absent: Gene Harrell; Greg Nolan; Jake Giardina; Lance Authement; Eli Miles, Jr.

Also present: Eric Dallimore, Stantec; David Boudreaux, Delta Coast; Pernell Pellegrin, CPA
Ryan Perque, FOBL; Henry Templet; Hattie Templet; Robert Mire; Josh Bordelon
Barry Marionneaux, Attorney; Ben Malbrough, Executive Director; Jana Langley, Admin. Asst.

Chairman Hugh Caffery announced that we do not have a quorum present for the meeting, and that we are only able to discuss items on the agenda that do not require votes of the Board.

Mr. Malbrough reported that he sent to the board the pumping summary and flow reports. The pump station is operating as normal. We are about to take delivery on a recently repaired motor so we will have a spare motor if something were to happen. The river elevations have dropped so we are running motors.

Mr. Malbrough stated that the water control structure in Lockport needs upgrades to the winch system which would allow us to open the structure with a one foot differential on the north side versus the south side. We got three quotes which range from \$80,000 to \$120,000.

Commissioner Chris Domangue asked if Lafourche Parish Government would be interested in working with us on for resources on the upgrades, and Mr. Malbrough answered that he could check with them.

Mr. Malbrough advised that the green machine paddlewheel barge has fallen beyond repair. The motor is damaged, and he advised that his opinion would be to replace it with something that functions very similar to it. We need a piece of equipment that can go uninhibited from Thibodaux through all the fixed span bridges on the north end. It does not have the lifting capacity that the excavator has but it had been working proficiently.

Mr. Malbrough advised that we have the option of going out with a RFQ and hire a naval architect to design a structure, or go out with a bid packet that specifies what we want for the piece of equipment. Chairman Hugh Caffery asked if we would be compelled to taking the lowest bid on the design-build, and Mr. Barry Marionneaux answered that it depends upon how the contract is put out and your request relative to the design-build. Mr. Malbrough stated that he will have the answers to these potential options at the next meeting. Mr. Malbrough stated that the price range is between \$150,000 and \$200,000.

Chairman High Caffery asked why it is so worn out. Mr. Josh Bordelon, bayou crew foreman, stated that the engine went down, and the guys could not start it so we checked it out, and it dropped a value so the engine is done. The hydraulics are real old so if we put in a new engine the hydraulics will start going out and we will have to start replacing that, and it is not worth putting all the money in it. The pontoons were already replaced and they have pads on the front. We sealed them off but some of them have mud in them so we know they are leaking.

Chairman Hugh Caffery stated that Nick Speyer has a company that advised on the master plan for the CPRA. CPRA is our best hope of sponsoring a new pump station. Mr. Speyer gave us a quote for \$63,000 to organize and put on the summit. The summit will help prepare us for full funding of the pump station. It would be designed to get the attention we need from sources of funding, and put that together with the public to get the word out.

Mr. Malbrough stated that he sent the summit proposal to the board for review. He advised that it includes planning, branding, marketing and research strategy, summit preparation and presentations. They would manage the check-in, coordinate the video and audio, take notes, and document feedback. They would prepare all of that in a summary report. In order to save on cost they would engage Friends of Bayou Lafourche, the BLFWD, and other stakeholders who could help facilitate the summit basically as an extension of them.

Mr. Pernell Pellegrin with Martin and Pellegrin, CPAs introduced himself to the board, and advised that we engaged their firm to do our financial audit.

Mr. Pellegrin advised that the first opinion is whether the financial statements prepared by our staff are accurate, and they gave an unmodified opinion meaning that the financial statements presented by our staff were correct.

Mr. Pellegrin advised that they also issued an opinion as to whether the control systems are good enough to produce accurate financials in the course of the employees doing their job. He stated that we have a very small staff at the district, and normally they like to have the functions spread out to several people but with having only one person doing the accounting functions they found that the control systems are working as well.

Mr. Pellegrin stated that the third opinion is whether they found any instances where we did not comply with any laws, regulations, contract bids, public bid laws, and state surplus property laws. They issued an opinion that they found no instances of non-compliance with any laws and regulations.

Mr. Pellegrin reported that the legislative auditor has new requirements this year which are called statewide agreed upon procedures. They reviewed all these procedures, which are policy driven, and they were mostly positive. They reviewed policies on receipts, disbursements, payroll, credit cards, and travel expenses to make sure policies were followed. He stated that we do not need to have written policies in place according to state law, but it is just suggested as best practices. He advised that the district is in good shape on these statewide agreed upon procedures. He recommended that the district consider a few additions to some of the written policies.

Mr. Pellegrin asked for any questions. Chairman Hugh Caffery asked Mr. Pellegrin what type of companies and entities they audit, and Mr. Pellegrin answered that they do non-profits and government agencies.

Mr. Eric Dallimore with Stantec reported that they met with the Corps on the Pump Capacity Improvements Project to discuss the path forward for the 408 and 404 permits. The Corps had three areas of concerns, which are the first being access, the second being seepage, and the third was the effects on their downstream projects. Mr. Dallimore advised that they should have the 60% by the end of June, and in July they will be submitting to the Corps the two permits.

Mr. Malbrough stated that he believes we have a location for the water control structure. The landowners on both sides are accepting of the structure. We are looking at spending in the ballpark of \$35,000 to purchase the piece of property. We would have access to both sides.

Mr. Malbrough advised that we will table the permits on the agenda for Edward Landry and Bridget Moncada until the next meeting. Commissioner Chris Domangue asked if we could take an e-mail vote on approving the permits, and Mr. Barry Marionneaux answered that he will check to see if e-mail voting is acceptable.

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

- He appreciates the opportunity to be involved in the process for the summit, and they want to help in any way they can.
- They are finished with their series of three steering committee meetings with the architectural consultants for the Nicholls Bayouside Park project. The architects are going to make some final changes to the draft based on the comments received at their meeting last week. The next step would be to give their notice to proceed with the architects to finalize the master plan based on the drawings. It will be a complete aerial and side view layout of the Nicholls Bayouside Park.
- He sent out the first newsletter to let people know what the Friends of Bayou Lafourche is doing, and it also spotlights the work being done by the BLFWD.
- They are looking at hosting a series of small paddles and social areas to give people the opportunity to get into the bayou, and use it recreationally. They are looking at weekdays in the evening providing people a site where they can either bring their own paddleboats, or we will have access to canoes or paddleboards. It will be free of charge for them to paddle a mile or two, and then we will have some burgers and drinks for people to socialize on the bayou.
- The Alumni Grill in Thibodaux teams up with a non-profit every month to come up with a specialty burger. The month of June we will have the Bayou Boudin burger, and some of the proceeds from the burger will go to the Friends of Bayou Lafourche.

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Hugh Caffery, Chairman

