

April 15, 2019

The regular monthly meeting of the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District was held on Monday, April 15, 2019 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  
Ray Mayet  
Lance Authement  
Eli Miles, Jr.  
Chris Domangue  
Jake Giardina  
Barry Soudelier

Absent: Scott LeBlanc

Also present were: David Boudreaux, Delta Coast; Greg Chatelain, Delta Coast; Eric Dallimore, Stantec  
Kristyn Childers, Millage Management; Ryan Perque, FOBL; Alma Robichaux, BTNEP;  
Lisa Mayeaux, Attorney; Kevin Dezern, APTIM; Beau Tate, Royal Engineers; Josh Bordelon  
Henry Templet; Jerry Waguespack; Jocelyn Lewis, NSU; Robert Mire  
Ben Malbrough, Executive Director; Jana Langley, Administrative Assistant

Current commissioners Lance Authement and Chris Domangue were reappointed to the board, and were sworn in by Lisa Mayeaux, attorney.

Chairman Hugh Caffery asked for a motion to open the public hearing. Moved by Commissioner Ray Mayet, seconded by Commissioner Donald Schwab and unanimously approved to open the public hearing to consider levying additional or increased millage rates without further voter approval or adopting the adjusted millage rate after reassessment and rolling forward to rates not to exceed the prior year's maximum.

Ms. Kristyn Childers, Millage Management, advised that the voters approved in 2012 2.11 mills for twenty years. Last reassessment the 2.11 mills was adjusted down to 2.03 mills. The District has to roll forward this year in order to not lose the 2.11 mills next year during reassessment.

Ms. Childers asked if anyone has any questions or concerns regarding the millage. Ms. Childers explained that two resolutions will be adopted during the regular meeting. One resolution will be to adopt the adjusted rate of 2.03, and second resolution will be to roll forward to the maximum rate of 2.11.

Chairman Hugh Caffery asked for any comments regarding the multi-parish millage rates. He asked again for any comments on the millage rates, and there were no comments,

Moved by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell, seconded by Commissioner Lance Authement and unanimously approved close the public hearing on the millage rates.

Chairman Hugh Caffery stated that we will now begin the regular meeting.

Moved by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell, seconded by Commissioner Francis Richard to dispense with the reading of the minutes, and approve the minutes of March 18, 2019. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Commissioner Jake Giardina to approve the accounts payable for March. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Donald Schwab, seconded by Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr. to approve the finance report for March. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Malbrough advised that he sent the pumping summary to the board. The river is at a high level and we were around 500 cfs for the entire month of March at zero cost to the district because we are siphoning. The bayou crew has been removing trees from the bayou.

Ms. Kristyn Childers, Millage Management, read Resolution No. 1 in full to adopt the adjusted millage rates of 2.03 for the Parish of Ascension, Assumption, and Lafourche for tax year 2019. Ms. Childers asked for any public comments on Resolution No, 1, and there were none. The roll was called and the votes were as follows: Yeas 11; Nays 0; Abstained 0; Absent 1. Resolution No. 1 was passed by a simple majority vote of the total membership of the board.

Ms. Kristyn Childers, Millage Management, read Resolution No. 2 in full to set forth the adjusted millage rates and roll forward to millage rates not exceeding the maximum authorized rates of 2.11 for tax year 2019. Ms. Childers asked for any comments on Resolution No. 2, and there were none. The roll was called and the votes were as follows: Yeas 11; Nays 0; Abstained 0; Absent 1. Resolution No. 2 was passed by two-thirds vote of the total membership of the board.

Commissioner Chris Domangue stated that he spoke to the Terrebonne Parish assessor, and the assessor told him that the collections are about 40% of what they were expecting from the contract with Assessure Systems. It was significantly under the projections the company provided.

Mr. Eric Dallimore, Stantec, reported that they are trying to get a meeting with CRPR make sure they understand the whole scope of the archeological assessment regarding the Pump Capacity Improvements Project. The area is where Fort Butler used to be, and they want to investigate to make sure they are not impacting any historical sites. The investigation cannot be done until the river goes down. Phase 1 is the initial assessment and if they find something they will issue a Phase 2, which is more focused on the area.

Mr. David Boudreaux, Delta Coast, gave a power point presentation on the status of the North Water Control Structure Project. The project location of the structure is approximately twenty miles south of the pump station. It is located at the Hwy. 1010 bridge crossing. Mr. Boudreaux explained how the structure will be built and operated. It will be fenced off, vandal proof, and weatherproof. There will be protection dolphins.

Mr. Boudreaux showed the predicted elevations if the gates were closed during an emergency situation. He stated that once all sluice gates the main gate is closed at the north control structure, we will be at an approximate elevation of about 6.1 ft. on the upstream side and a flat pool elevation of 3.77 ft. from that structure all the way south to the Lockport structure.

Mr. Malbrough stated that the final design will be completed by the end of April or the end of May. One option is we can let them submit the final design for review and give a final presentation to the board at the May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting, and then get authorization to go out for bid for construction. The second option is getting approval to go out for bid for construction as soon as the final design is complete.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr. and unanimously approved to authorize going out for bid for construction as soon as the final design is complete for the North Control Structure project with the understanding that the final engineers estimate and construction cost does not exceed 2.5 million.

Moved by Commissioner Donald Schwab, seconded by Commissioner Francis Richard to approve the after-the-fact permit for Cheramie Marine, LLC to construct a bulkhead along Bayou Lafourche in Larose, LA. Motion carried unanimously.

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

- St Patrick's Day event saw a 46% increase in paddle participation from 2018 to 2019. There were five bayou/estuary booths for children. They received from a fundraiser standpoint 60% more revenue from 2018 to 2019. He showed pictures from 2018 and 2019 that quantified the amount people watching the paddlers.
- Leighton boat launch improvements project is finalized and open for use. They repaired the wood dock, did bank grubbing, and installed a 100 ft. floating dock which will rise and fall as water the water comes down. They had a ribbon cutting ceremony at the boat launch.
- We are working with the Leeville Fishing Village & Preservation Commission to create a brochure to promote the attractions in their town, and to inform people about the bayou.
- Ben and he are working with the Nicholls marketing class to do different market research topics. They will look at surrounding parishes and their perception of Bayou Lafourche from a drinking water standpoint, an economic impact standpoint, and recreation standpoint.
- The Louisiana Recreational Trails Programs grant will be submitted this year for next year's dollars. Assumption Parish Police Jury is receptive to doing several projects in their area.
- They are in the process of documenting every asset along the bayou, such as launches, parks, restaurants, museums, etc. You will be able to click on any icon and you will see a picture of the asset, a brief write up of the asset, exact location, and contact information.

Ms. Alma Robichaux, BTNEP, reported that they are still wrapping up getting their results for the Bayou Lafourche Cleanup. They had quite a turn out. The Paddle Bayou Lafourche was a success except for the last day they cut it short at lunch because of the high winds. She thanked Ryan and Ben for their help.

Mr. Henry Templet reported that they had less trash to pick up in the Assumption Parish area this year for the Bayou Lafourche Cleanup.

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

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

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Hugh Caffery, Chairman

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Greg Nolan, Secretary/Treasurer

