

December 16, 2019

The regular monthly meeting of the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District was held on Monday, December 16, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. at the Water District office, 1016 St. Mary Street, Thibodaux, LA

Present were: Hugh Caffery, Chairman (entered meeting at 5:25 p.m.)

Gene Harrell, Vice-Chairman	Jake Giardina
Greg Nolan, Secretary/Treasurer	Ray Mayet
Francis Richard	Eli Miles, Jr.
Barry Soudelier	Chris Domangue
Donald Schwab	

Absent: Lance Authement; Scott LeBlanc

Also present were: David Boudreax, Delta Coast; Greg Chatelain, Delta Coast; Ryan Perque, FOBL
Ryan Allen, Louisiana Companies; Josh Bordelon; Mrs. Eli Miles, Jr., Jerry Waguespack
Chris Durio, Nathan Grant, Tommy Pitre, Josh Jones, Hancock Whitney Bank
Barry Marionneaux, Attorney; Ben Malbrough, Executive Director
Jana Langley, Administrative Assistant

Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell chaired the meeting because Chairman Hugh Caffery called and said he would be a little late arriving for the meeting.

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Commissioner Jake Giardina to dispense with the reading of the minutes, and approve the minutes of November 18, 2019. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Barry Soudelier, seconded by Commissioner Ray Mayet to approve the accounts payable for November. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Mr. Ben Malbrough advised that he sent the pumping summary to the board member. Everything is operating as normal. The river is coming up again, and we should see the ability to siphon real soon. Mr. Malbrough stated that he will discuss the derelict vessel removal project later in the meeting.

Mr. Malbrough asked that the board amend the agenda by two-thirds vote to add two items under New Business – a permit application for Tommy Prejean, and discussion on donation of a fifteen passenger van from Port Fourchon.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr. and unanimously approved to amend the agenda by two-thirds vote to add two items under New Business – a permit application for Tommy Prejean, and discussion on the donation of a fifteen passenger van from Port Fourchon.

Mr. Malbrough advised that the insurance proposal is next for discussion. He reviewed the breakdown of the lines of coverage, and the cost comparison of the expiring policy premium and the renewal policy premium. The proposal is to stay with the same underwriters, and overall there is a reduction of \$490.00. Mr. Malbrough made the recommendation to renew the insurance coverage with all the existing underwriters for a premium of \$149,731.00.

Moved by Commissioner Chris Domangue, seconded by Commissioner Francis Richard and unanimously approved to renew the insurance coverage with all the existing underwriters for a premium of \$149,731.00.

Mr. Malbrough advised that agenda item under new business for the Pump Capacity Improvements Project for the discussion on contract amendment for construction documents preparation, bidding services, construction administration and construction closeout will be tabled until the January meeting.

Mr. Malbrough advised that the North Water Control Structure Project has been contractually under construction. The contractor has mobilized to the site, and it is progressing. We will have a camera on site to monitor all the construction activities that we will use for public relations. The construction completion will be early May.

Mr. Malbrough reported that he signed and submitted the Coastal Use Permit application for the Weir Removal Project. We met with the project team, along with the Corps of Engineers and DNR's coastal management group, to flush out any significant questions they may have.

Mr. Malbrough advised we have here tonight four gentlemen from Hancock Whitney Bank to discuss the investment management agreement.

Mr. Chris Durio, Vice-President Relations Manager, with Hancock Whitney Bank briefly explained the investment products and services provided by the bank. He advised that they could build a short-term bond portfolio, as an alternative to cash, with a decent return with no risk because these are all government securities. It could be liquid so we could get the money if we need it. Mr. Durio stated that he distributed to the board a description of the bond portfolio they would build for the District.

Mr. Nathan Grant, Vice-President Portfolio Manager, advised that it is important to point out that all public institutions investments are governed by Louisiana R.S. 33:2955, which tells you how you can invest your money. The cost is 1.5% per year which comes out of the account. The District would collateralize its own investments. The District would own the bonds.

Mr. Durio stated that Mr. Barry Maronneaux has reviewed the documents, and has recommended some changes. Mr. Durio advised that they would have their legal counsel review the changes.

Commissioner Jake Giardina stated that normally with public entities the investments are backed, and Mr. Durio answered that if it is a deposit account and it is a public entity then they have to secure it by law. In this case the bonds will become the District's assets, and the District would collateralize its own investments.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Donald Schwab and unanimously approved to authorize Ben Malbrough to sign the Hancock Whitney Bank Investment Management Agreement contingent upon the revisions made to the agreement as put forth by Mr. Barry Maronneaux.

Mr. Malbrough advised that the January meeting date falls on a holiday, and the board agreed to tentatively change it to Tuesday, January 21st.

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

- He did a press release on the North Water Control Structure Project in Napoleonville.
- They finalized the list of seven to eight different native Louisiana plants for erosion control.
- They signed their agreement with the State for the Nicholls project. They are waiting for the funds to come in and are looking at options for professional services for the design of the park.

Chairman Hugh Caffery entered the meeting at 5:25 p.m., and chaired the remainder of the meeting.

Mr. Malbrough stated that a permit application was submitted by Mr. Tommy Prejean to construct a bulkhead and boat launch, and he recommended approval of the permit.

Moved by Commissioner Greg Nolan, seconded by Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr. to approve the permit application for Mr. Tommy Prejean, 7131 Hwy. 308, Belle Rose, LA to construct a bulkhead and boat launch. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Malbrough advised that Port Fourchon offered to donate a fifteen passenger van to the District. He stated that with a lot of the construction we have going on it will be an asset to us to be able to use it. We could also use it for the events for Friends of Bayou Lafourche. Commissioner Francis Richard asked about liability to the District, and Mr. Marionneaux answered as long as the insurance is adequate we would not have any problems. Mr. Malbrough stated that we could try it for a year to see how it works out.

Commissioner Jake Giardina asked that Mr. Malbrough check for any saltwater damage to the van, and Mr. Malbrough stated that he would check to see if there is any saltwater damage.

Moved by Commissioner Greg Nolan, seconded by Commissioner Barry Soudelier and unanimously approved to accept the donation of the 2005 fifteen passenger van from Port Fourchon. The District will use it for a year and reevaluate it. If we see that we are not using it, we can give it back to them.

Mr. Malbrough stated that the board should have received an e-mail from Stacy Ortego with Louisiana Wildlife Federation inviting the entire board for a tour on January 29th at the LSU Center for River Studies.

Mr. Malbrough reported that the Derelict Vessel Removal Project is well under way. The contractor mobilized to the site and immediately began removing vessels, and also trying to locate some vessels that were moved to another location from where they were supposed to be. They were able to locate and remove the vessels that were moved. There are three vessels remaining to be removed.

Commissioner Francis Richard asked about the status of the archeological project, and Mr. Malbrough answered that the field work is complete. The archeologist is doing office archive work to piece together what they found in the field, and what they find in the records. The Corps is not accepting a management summary. They want a full summary.

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

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Commissioner Jake Giardina and unanimously approved to go into executive session to discuss employee evaluations, and pay increases for employees.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Donald Schwab and unanimously approved to return to regular session.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Francis Richard to approve the employee pay increases effective January 1, 2020 according to the table presented by Mr. Malbrough per performance evaluations. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Francis Richard and unanimously approved the meeting adjourned at 6:10 p.m.

Hugh Caffery, Chairman

Greg Nolan, Secretary/Treasurer

Gene Harrell, Vice-Chairman