

September 24, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District was held on Thursday, September 24, 2020 at 5:00 p.m. via teleconference.

Present were: Hugh Caffery, Chairman Gene Harrell, Vice-Chairman
 Greg Nolan, Secretary/Treasurer Ray Mayet
 Barry Soudelier Jake Giardina
 Dale Dennis Francis Richard
 Donald Schwab Lance Authement

Absent were: Chris Domangue; Scott LeBlanc

Also present were: Ryan Perque, FOBL; Josh Bordelon; Ernie Blanchard
 Capt. Jake Stahl, Marine Expertise; Barry Marionneaux, Attorney
 Ben Malbrough, Executive Director; Heather Armstrong, Administrative Assistant

Chairman Hugh Caffery began the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Commissioner Barry Soudelier to dispense with the reading of the minutes, and approve the minutes of August 17, 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Donald Schwab to approve the finance report for September. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Malbrough reported that the pump station is still pumping around the clock. Everything is operating normally.

Mr. Malbrough reported that we are working closely with LPWD monitoring a salinity issue due to the recent storms, on the lower end of the Bayou.

Mr. Malbrough stated that the Sediment Trap is being dredged in the Bayou, in Donaldsonville.

Mr. Malbrough recapped last months discussion on the millage rates. After review with legal counsel, he recommended staying with the previously approved adopted millage rate of 2.11 for Terrebonne Parish, for tax year 2020.

Chairman Hugh Caffery discussed the Ascension, Assumption, and Lafourche Parish millage rate of 2.08 for tax year 2020 to be adopted.

Mr. Malbrough elaborated on the discussion of the Ascension, Assumption, and Lafourche Parish millage rate of 2.08 for tax year 2020 to be adopted.

Mr. Malbrough recommended amending the agenda to adopt Resolution No. 2020-03 for the Ascension, Assumption, and Lafourche Parish millage rate of 2.08 for tax year 2020.

Mr. Barry Marionneaux concurred with Mr. Malbrough's recommendation after reviewing the emails from the Assessor of Ascension Parish and speaking with Mr. Malbrough regarding his conversations with the bonding attorney on the terms of the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell to amend the agenda to adopt Resolution No. 2020-03 for the Ascension, Assumption, and Lafourche Parish millage rate of 2.08 for tax year 2020. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Malbrough read Resolution No. 2020-03, in full, to adopt the Ascension, Assumption and Lafourche Parish millage rate of 2.08 for the tax year 2020. Mr. Malbrough asked for any public comments on Resolution No. 2020-03 and there were none. Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell to adopt Resolution No. 2020-03. The roll was called, and the votes were as follows: Yeas 10; Nays 0; Abstained 0; Absent 2. Resolution No. 2020-03 was passed unanimously.

Mr. Malbrough reported the updates to the Pump Capacity Improvements Project (PCIP). We have received the final determination, from the Attorney General, on the bones that were discovered at the site as being “non-human”. Waiting on USACE to finalize their determination letter which will begin the 30 day consultation period.

Mr. Malbrough reported the progress on the North Water Control Structure Project. A Change Order No. 2 was submitted by Sealevel Construction and approved by Delta Coast Consultants, to modify the original design due to unforeseen soil parameters in the Bayou and an increase of 49 days in construction associated with modification.

Mr. Malbrough asked that the board approve Change Order No. 2 for the North Water Control Structure.

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Commissioner Jake Giardina to approve Change Order No. 2 to modify the original design due to unforeseen soil parameters in the Bayou and an increase of 49 days in construction associated with modification. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Malbrough stated that the project is now substantially complete and asked for acceptance of the Substantial Completion for the North Water Control Structure project.

Moved by Commissioner Ray Mayet, seconded by Commissioner Barry Soudelier to approve acceptance of the Substantial Completion for the North Water Control Structure project. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Malbrough discussed the progress on the Weir Removal Project. The project is out for bid. Some modifications are needed, so the bid date will be pushed back to late Oct – Early Nov.

Mr. Ernie Blanchard introduced himself and expressed his gratitude and appreciation to the Board regarding Bayou Lafourche maintenance and the North Water Control Structure.

Chairman Hugh Caffery thanked Mr. Blanchard for his kind words.

Capt. Jake Stahl inquired on some information regarding the Pump Station.

Mr. Malbrough stated that a permit application was submitted by Royce Breaux to replace an existing bulkhead properly permitted by BLFWD along Bayou Lafourche in Raceland, and he recommended approval of the permit.

Moved by Commissioner Barry Soudelier, seconded by Commissioner Ray Mayet to approve the permit application for Royce Breaux to replace an existing bulkhead properly permitted by BLFWD along Bayou Lafourche in Raceland. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Malbrough stated that a permit application was submitted by Rod Roddy to modify his existing dock along Bayou Lafourche in Thibodaux, and he recommended approval of the permit.

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell to approve the permit application for Rod Roddy to modify his existing dock along Bayou Lafourche in Thibodaux. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Malbrough stated that a permit application was submitted by Danny Ferreira, Sr. to construct a dock along Bayou Lafourche in Raceland, and he recommended approval of the permit.

Moved by Commissioner Dale Dennis, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell to approve the permit application for Danny Ferreira, Sr. to construct a dock along Bayou Lafourche in Raceland. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Malbrough stated that a permit application was submitted by Jake Giardina to install a floating dock along Bayou Lafourche in Thibodaux, and he recommended approval of the permit.

Moved by Commissioner Ray Mayet, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell to approve the permit application for Jake Giardina to install a floating dock along Bayou Lafourche in Thibodaux. Motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Jake Giardina abstained from vote on permit.

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

- Nicholls bayou side project in final design.
- Napoleonville Project awaiting Notice to Proceed from LRTP
- Kayak and paddle boat rental options being looked at along the Bayou
- St. Patrick's Day on the Bayou that was postponed, has been cancelled for 2020.

Mr. Malbrough stated in his executive report that Mrs. Jana Langley has officially retired on Sept 19, 2020. She will be missed and we look forward to when we can publicly express our gratitude to her.

Chairman Hugh Caffery asked for any public comments. There were none.

Moved by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell, seconded by Commissioner Jake Giardina to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Hugh Caffery, Chairman

Greg Nolan, Secretary/Treasurer