

July 18, 2011

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District was held on Monday, July 18, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. at the Water District office, 1016 St. Mary Street, Thibodaux, LA

Present were:	Hugh Caffery, Chairman	Donald Arceneaux
	Gene Harrell, Vice-Chairman	Dr. Darby Chiasson
	Robert Thibodaux, Secretary/Treasurer	Larry Dugas
	Ron Animashaun	Jake Giardina

Absent: None

Also present were: Earl Paddock, Jerome Zeringue, Shannon Hanes, OCPR; Rep. Dee Richard Lee Showalter, CH2MHill; Dan Mahnke, Robert Lynn, Jerry Jones, F. Miller Stevie Smith; Rene Esneault; Jimmy Ledet, T. Baker Smith Ed Harlan, Bruno Deleo; Nick Porto; Stacy Sagona; Jerry Waguespack Eric Sanchez, Pump Station Foreman; Robert Mire; Doodie Mire Archie Chaisson, Jr., Director; Jana Langley, Administrative Coordinator

Lee Showalter, CH2MHill, gave a progress report on the dredge project:

- Reaches 1-5: Total: 363,479: 95%
- Reach 6 – Approximate # of Dredged Yardage Removed = 42,025 yd³ (37%)
- Total – Approximate # of Dredged Yardage Removed = 402,504 yd³ (82%)
- Note: Quantities shown above are as of 07/01/2011.
- Boat ramp to complete
- Sidewalks from RR Bridge to Boat ramp to complete
- Planting of tree's to complete
- Sewer line to complete
- Completion of Sonic Bridge riprap

Total work days scheduled: 660; Total work days to date: 413

Total days remaining to completion: 25

Chairman Hugh Caffery asked if the dredging is complete, and Mr. Showalter answered that they are not doing any new dredging. They have stopped to a certain point, and they have to clean up to that point to get that area within template.

Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell asked about field drain pipes. Mr. Showalter stated that they have a punch list of those that need to be done.

Commissioner Jake Giardina asked Mr. Showalter what the total distance is from the start to the where the dredging will have been finished, and Mr. Showalter answered roughly 5½ miles. Commissioner Giardina asked how long that piece is in the middle that has not been dredged, and Mr. Showalter answered roughly 3000 ft. Commissioner Giardina stated that we will have dredged upstream and lower stream, and we will have a 3000 ft. long plug in the middle. Mr. Showalter stated that a portion of that plug on the downstream side has been dredged. Commissioner Giardina stated let's say you have roughly 2000 ft. that will not be touched at all, and Mr. Showalter answered yes. Commissioner Giardina stated that not changing the cross section is a pretty serious matter.

Mr. Chaisson asked if the sidewalk design in the project could be relocated to put it along the edge of the road. It would be a lot easier on us for maintenance, and also would help reduce vehicle traffic on that green space. Chairman Caffery asked if we are compelled to put that sidewalk in place. Mr. Chaisson asked Mr. Shannon Haynes if that sidewalk could be totally dropped. Mr. Earl Paddock stated that a change order would be needed to eliminate the sidewalk.

Moved by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell, seconded by Commissioner Robert Thibodaux to request from the engineer what would be required to eliminate the sidewalk that is part of the plans and specs of the dredge project. Commissioner Larry Dugas asked for an amendment to the motion that any money that would be saved by eliminating the sidewalk would be redirected towards removing the plug that was not dredged. Commissioner Jake Giardina seconded the amendment to the motion. The original motion and amended motion was put to a vote, and motion passed unanimously. Chairman Caffery stated that Mr. Chaisson will write a letter to the engineer.

Vice-Chairman Harrell asked if we have any indication of when we will get the operational manual, or what will be required of the Board regarding maintenance. Mr. Haynes answered that this will be done after the contractor is finished. Chairman Caffery requested that a meeting be held between the District and the engineers to discuss the manual first before it is printed out.

Vice-Chairman Harrell asked if the property subsiding is being monitored, and he asked what will happen there. Mr. Showalter stated that he knows of three places and it will be taken care of at the end of the project.

Commissioner Robert Thibodaux asked how much rip rap tonnage has been put back into the bayou on the improvements. Mr. Showalter answered 8700 tons. Commissioner Thibodaux asked how much restriction that has on the water flow, and Mr. Showalter answered he doesn't know. We would have to ask Tom Cancienne that. Chairman Caffery stated that he will send a letter to Mr. Haynes asking what profile they think we could flow by shortening the project, and by the placement of the rock. Mr. Paddock stated that he would take care of that.

Vice-Chairman Harrell asked Mr. Showalter how things have progressed with the Aucoin property with the retaining wall. Mr. Haynes stated that they are waiting for a response from Mr. Aucoin. Mr. Paddock stated that they will draft a letter and send to the District.

Mr. Bruno Deleo asked how much we are siphoning right now and Mr. Chaisson answered very little because of all the rainfall lately. Mr. Chaisson stated that on a regular day we run somewhere around 100cfs. A discussion was held regarding the big project down the road, and how much would be pumped at that time.

Commissioner Giardina stated that the plug in the middle negates a tremendous amount of what we've done downstream. Somehow we need to start looking at a solution to see about getting added funds to get that plug out, or what we've done downstream will be useless. We will get a lot of sediment in the upstream portion that has been dredged since we are not passing the velocity that was intended.

Mr. Earl Paddock stated that early on Reach 6 was not a part of the plan, and as soon as the funds are available they will continue dredging. He stated that he doesn't see a big impact.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Donald Arceneaux to deviate from the agenda to discuss new business "Bayou Lafourche Summit". Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Caffery stated that he sent to the commissioners the Bayou Lafourche Summit Master Plan explanation. Chairman Caffery stated that he wants to get as much input from the public as possible. The public being not only be the 300,000 people plus who get drinking water but different groups that the bayou serves, such as the water districts, towns, the representatives who have jurisdiction to represent the people we are talking about, some of the non-governmental organizations, and many different groups and organizations. He read the master plan as follows:

Bayou Lafourche Summit
Master Plan for the next 50 years

Format

This is a week-long summit to be held at Nicholls State University where the Bayou Lafourche Freshwater District Commissioners will have invited, hear from, and document the will of the people Bayou Lafourche serves. The Master Plan of what is done will be based on the results of this summit.

Schedule

- I. An initial meeting will bring together all the people the bayou serves. The history, recent work and current issues will be presented by BLFWD and its Facilitator.
- II. Separate meetings over the following week will have been set up to hear from the individual groups which represent all of the people the bayou serves;
- III. A summation meeting at the end will bring together all to discuss the findings.
- IV. This will be digested by the BLFWD in a "Retreat" of its own; then presented to the Joint Committee on Bayou Lafourche of the Louisiana State Legislature.

Chairman Caffery advised that once we get a plan and if some of that plan is outside of what is legally our authority, we may go to Rep. Richard and others on the joint committee and say we have been told we really need this but it is not within our current authority. We are asking you to put together legislation that would give us that authority. We would give the joint committee a full rendering of what the results of the summit. Chairman Caffery asked for comments regarding the master plan.

Commissioner Robert Thibodaux stated that we need to touch base with as many people as we can. He recommended that we have a meeting in Donaldsonville, Thibodaux, and down the bayou. Commissioner Thibodaux stated that the chairman made a good point that by holding it locally the people could congregate in one place.

Commissioner Thibodaux asked what will the summit cost us because every time we spend taxpayers money we need to be responsible and accountable. Chairman Caffery advised that we will form a committee to study the cost of it. Commissioner Thibodaux recommended that we put a limit to what we would spend.

Vice-Chairman Harrell stated that he is not sure that a week is necessary to do what we are talking about here but I guess that is something for the committee to look at, and also balance that with addressing Robert Thibodaux's concern about cost.

Commissioner Jake Giardina advised that he is 100% in favor of going ahead with something like this. Commissioner Giardina stated if you look at the bayou today you are probably siphoning close to almost zero. If you look at the weir today and yesterday it has been just one level bayou right on through. Even if you would have spent this \$30 million building a pump station there seems to be other work of necessity prior to building a pump station. Commissioner Giardina stated that if we are fortunate enough to get money it will be spent in the right direction.

Mr. Jerome Zeringue, acting Director of OCPR, stated that what we are proposing is similar to what there are doing at the state level. He stated that they are required by the State to have a master plan every five years. It helps establish those guiding principles of what you want to shoot for in long term planning.

Chairman Caffery asked Mr. Zeringue if he would support some effort towards this and help us with maybe organizing it, and Mr. Zeringue answered sure they could give us some guidance. Mr. Zeringue stated that they have a planning section within the Coastal Restoration and Authority.

Commissioner Thibodaux asked why our elected officials can't take the time and effort to get some money to help improve Bayou Lafourche. He advised that he appreciates everything we get. Mr. Zeringue stated to Mr. Thibodaux that he understands, and he can assure us on behalf of this administration and the Governor we would be pleased to hear that in the next couple of weeks there will be another commitment to Bayou Lafourche because of the significant role that this bayou plays.

Representative Dee Richard advised that he thinks it's a great idea. Unfortunately, politically nobody wants to get involved unless it hits home. He suggested that the summit be held after 5:00 p.m. because after hours we could get the public more involved.

Chairman Caffery stated that he will form a committee and report back to the full commission what the recommendations are.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Dr. Darby Chiasson to dispense with the reading of the minutes, and approve the minutes of June 20, 2011 and June 24, 2011. Vice-Chairman Harrell stated that he thought at the meeting of June 20, 2011 when Mr. Earl Paddock gave his report that the recommendation was made at that time, and that we agreed with it that we would shut the dredging portion down, and that was not reflected in our minutes. Mr. Paddock asked if we were referring to the last Board meeting and Vice-Chairman Harrell answered yes. Mr. Paddock

stated at that time they didn't know that they would be shutting down the dredging. He stated he thinks his comments at the last meeting were leaning more towards looking at the budget seriously because we knew we were having some budget problems, and we had to evaluate what we could do to maintain under the \$20 million. At that point we realized that shutting down the dredging would be the only way to significantly keep the budget below the \$20 million.

Vice-Chairman Harrell stated that he had just thought we had discussed and we had agreed that we would shut down the dredging. Ms. Jana Langley stated that she would listen to the tape and type that portion of the meeting verbatim and e-mail it to Vice-Chairman Harrell. Vice-Chairman Harrell amended the motion to ask after Ms. Langley listens to the tape and it was discussed and agreed to shut the dredging down that this would be reflected in the minutes of June 20th. Commissioner Larry Dugas seconded the amended motion. The Chairman asked for a vote on the original and amended motion and the motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Dan Mahnke of F. Miller Construction stated that the part of the dredge project report as told at the June 20th meeting was incorrect. Chairman Caffery requested that he send a letter to the District to correct what was said and make it more factual. Mr. Chaisson stated that we will attach a copy of his letter to the minutes of June 20th.

Mr. Dan Mahnke stated that the plug was 3650 ft. Below the plug is 1800 ft. down to the 998 bridge. Just for reference on why that was done is basically when we started off on Reach 6 the area of the 998 Bridge was supposed to be state owned property for the boat ramp to be installed. We started on the top and continued our way down in order to get a head start on the boat ramp, and it gave us an opportunity to clean up the area which would give us an area to work to put in the boat ramp. At that point, it was found that the area was not state owned property and CH2MHill had to pull back and make a lease agreement with the private land owner. The lease was signed immediately by CH2MHill, and gave them the directive to go ahead and do the work there. This is why they started working at that area below the plug working their way up. At that point, they got the notice to stop working.

Moved by Commissioner Larry Dugas, seconded by Commissioner Jake Giardina to approve the accounts payable for June. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Caffery reported that a committee meeting was held June 24th regarding Archie Chaisson's contract. Mr. Chaisson asked the committee members if they received the e-mail he sent and they said no. Mr. Chaisson stated that he would re-send the e-mail to the full Board. Vice-Chairman Harrell reported that Mr. Chaisson's contract comes up at the end of this year. Some question was raised about whether there needs to be a contract. Also the direction the District might need to go from the standpoint of projected monies that might become available, and what is going to be needed in a Director. They asked at the committee meeting that Mr. Chaisson research information about the need for a contract, and we will wait for that information before we go further.

BAYOU OPERATIONS

CREWS: Harvesters are cutting heavy hydrilla in the vicinity the Grainer Center and Labadieville. Hydrilla growth has exploded in the area from Labadieville to Raceland. It is extremely heavy immediately south

of the weir that it has backed up the water level over the weir. I have only seen this once before in 2000-2001. Second crew is working with the tree removal between the 3185 and St. John bridges. They have completed the 308 bank and will be switching to the LA 1 bank this week.

TREE COUNT No. Days worked: 15	TOTALS Small (12" & under) 223
Small (12" & under)	Medium (13-20) 237
Medium (13-20")	Large (21" above) 106
Large (21" above)	

Area Completed: Total LA 308 bank from LA 3185 Bridge to St. John Bridge. They are ready to reverse course and come back down from St. John Bridge to the 998 boat launch property.

Mr. Chaisson stated that while surveying the bayou for paspalum, I rode from Thibodaux to Belle Rose. From Hwy 70 to Belle Rose there is a two mile stretch of bayou that resembles what was in the Donaldsonville area prior to dredging. I would like to have several of the commissioners out in the area to look it over in advance of any discussion with the State on the additional grant monies.

MONTHLY PUMP STATION REPORT

River Stage: Beginning June: 31.37; Ending Month: 20.12; Current Stage: 19.60

PUMP OPERATION: No. Days Siphon: 30; No. Days Pumping: 0

Station Maintenance

Ordered and installed new Day Tank Gear Pump on #4 Diesel. Removed old shower in bathroom. Poirrier Construction out for measurements on office roof project. Training new employee Jason Moreau who started on 6-27. General maintenance, painting, and yard work.

Mr. Chaisson stated that Eric Sanchez got a quote from Weber Marine for about \$2,000 to repair one the dolphins alarm. Something lodged between one of the access ladders and twisted it off.

Ms. Jana Langley advised that three CD's matured July 13th and called for rates. The rates are still low so the CD's were redeemed and deposited in our account. Moved by Commissioner Larry Dugas, seconded by Commissioner Robert Thibodaux to approve the finance report. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Chaisson reported that the Mississippi River Commission will have their annual low water tour of the Atchafalaya River on August 18th.

Mr. Chaisson advised that Nicholls has gotten back to us on the GPS and they are willing to work with us. The major discrepancy is they don't have the transportation for access onto sites, and Mr. Chaisson stated that we can arrange transportation. Chairman Caffery asked what is it going to cost us. Mr. Chaisson answered nothing. Dr. Balaji has reviewed everything and he is willing to forward it to the contracting folks at Nicholls. Chairman Caffery asked Mr. Chaisson to find out whom to call at the contracting office at Nicholls to get the status and a timeframe.

Mr. Chiasson stated that he got an hourly rate \$250.00 from Matt Ledet from T. Baker Smith for a crew to do the GPS readings. This would be for a professional land surveyor. Chairman Caffery stated that the District would not pay for it because we do not offer that service. The public would have a company they could go to in order to get an idea of what it will cost in their budget.

Commissioner Jake Giardina stated that we have these lines drawn on the maps and we have the coordinates. He asked why not give the person the coordinates, and they can hire whatever surveyor they want to put the point on the ground, and that way we would not have any expenditure.

Chairman Caffery advised that it would be limited to someone asking for a permit because then it becomes really important to know where that state line is as to whether that permit should be granted or not.

Chairman Caffery asked if we are going to put that in our ordinance stating that we are requiring them to show us where state property is. We will supply the coordinates to them, and will require them to stake it out the property. Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell advised that we need to let Mr. Block know what our thinking is on this because that is going to hinge on how he writes the ordinance.

Chairman Caffery asked Mr. Chaisson if he is aware of what he needs to do to provide an applicant the specific coordinates for their application. Mr. Chaisson answered that he will have to get with Dr. Balaji and Mr. Ledet to make sure we have the correct program.

Mr. Chaisson asked if we should proceed with Nicholls, and Chairman Caffery answered that we should go forward with that. Commissioner Donald Arceneaux stated that it would be good training for the Nicholls students. Commissioner Giardina advised if they put that line in the wrong place then who would be responsible.

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

Hugh Caffery, Chairman

Robert Thibodaux, Secretary/Treasurer

