

November 6, 2013

A committee meeting of the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District was held on Wednesday, November 6, 2013 at 4:00 p.m. at the Water District office, 1016 St. Mary Street, Thibodaux, LA.

Present were: Judge Jimmy Gaidry, Greg Nolan, Francis Richard, Jake Giardina  
Ben Malbrough, Executive Director

Absent: Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell

The committee meeting was held to review the 2014 Proposed Operational Budget.

Ben Malbrough, Executive Director, advised that he separated the budget in sections so it would be more applicable to review. He advised that Jana and he got together and put the numbers together.

Mr. Malbrough reviewed the summary of the expected revenues and recurring expenditures.

Mr. Malbrough reviewed the following proposed Capital Projects as follows:

- 1) **Modifications to Company Canal Structure - Allocated \$50,000.00** The only modification we would have to make is increase the size of the pin on the barge. Lafourche Parish is analyzing the structure to use it in Bayou Lafourche in a way that it could withstand the reverse head condition to where in an event of a spill in the river, or total failure at the pump station, that structure could be closed to hold water back as a reservoir in the bayou.
- 2) **Dredge of Sediment Trap (includes repairing boat launch) - Allocated \$200,000.00** Dredge sediment trap in Bayou Lafourche in Donaldsonville.
- 3) **Acquisition of properties in Donaldsonville – Allocated \$400,000.00** This is all the property between the discharge pipes and pump station that the State doesn't currently own, which will be used in the future to possibly build a new pump station.
- 4) **Evaluation of MRRBL Benefits – Allocated \$100,000.00** We would hire a firm to run some updated models, and prepare some maps. It is important that we have a new modified updated argument of the benefits of the Mississippi River Reintroduction into Bayou Lafourche project.
- 5) **Dredge Maintenance Plan - Allocated \$50,000.00** We would bring in an outside source to take a look at the situation we have with the sediment trap, and look at all the alternatives as far as the most efficient way to handle the sediment trap for a ten to fifteen year projection.
- 6) **Design of Weir Removal – Allocated \$200,000.00** We could have this project designed and sitting on the shelf waiting to go to construction. The idea here is strictly having a portion of the project that we can have shovel ready, and have all the other parameters put into place later.
- 7) **Vegetation Abatement Treatment- Allocated \$60,000.00** Ben has been consulting with herbicide professionals to find out some kind of solution to treat the vegetation problems in the bayou. They are looking at alternative treatment measures, other than just the mechanical removal of the vegetation.
- 8) **Remote Monitoring at Pump Station (alternative one) - Allocated \$6,500.00** Company would set up all the sensors and we would monitor it. It would set off alarms if things happen but it

would not give us the ability to shut down remotely. We would still have to man the pump station 24 hours per day in case of a spill, or any other situation.

**Remote Monitoring at Pump Station (alternative two) - Allocated \$200,000.00** A few contractors are putting prices together. We would have to change all the manual valves at the pump station to pneumatic valves to allow for not only remote monitoring and alarming, but also give the on-call guy the capability to shut the pump station down immediately.

**The recommendation was to not go with alternative two for right now, and go with alternative one for a cost of \$10,000.00 for the remote monitoring.**

**9) Updates to the Board Room – Allocated \$2,500.00.** Map of Bayou Lafourche to hang in the Board room. Build a podium and a few other upgrades to the Board room.

**10) Bayou Maintenance Equipment – Allocated \$1,500,000.00** This is the piece of equipment that Windell asked Ben to go down and see in South Lafourche. It is a multi-faceted piece of equipment, which has the capability to self-propel and it is low profile. It can do hydraulic dredge, and it has an excavator bucket, grappler, and vegetation rake. This piece of equipment could dredge the sediment trap, take trees down, and help with vegetation in the bayou.

Commissioner Jake Giardina stated that piece of equipment looks like, in his estimation, it would be a maintenance nightmare. He would like to remove this equipment from the list.

Commissioner Giardina advised that he would be very much in favor of looking at who has good firm right-of-ways on both sides of Lefort Canal, and maintenance of it. He feels that canal should be looked at as if it were part of Bayou Lafourche since Terrebonne Parish is now part of the district. Mr. Malbrough stated that he will look into this.

Commissioner Giardina stated that we had talked previously about planting cypress trees within the State right-of-way at the low water mark. He feels that if there was a line of cypress trees planted then everybody would know that this is where the property line is. He feels they should be planted along the Phase 1 project, and Phase 2. Ben stated that he would check with CPRA and State Lands to see if they would anticipate any major objections.

Mr. Malbrough stated that he would check with CPRA and State Lands before he presents this at the meeting, and if they have no major objections he will include \$50,000.00 to \$100,000.00 in the budget.

Mr. Malbrough stated that he adjusted the figures, and will send the Board a copy of the proposed budget with the Board packet.

The committee meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

---

Greg Nolan, Secretary/Treasurer

