

March 19, 2012

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District was held on Monday, March 19, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. at the Water District office, 1016 St. Mary Street, Thibodaux, LA

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

Absent: None

Also present were: Duncan Loughridge and Stevie Smith, All South Engineers; Robert Mire Matt Ledet, T. Baker Smith; Nick Porto; Jerry Waguespack; Ed Harlan Archie Chaisson, Jr., Director; Jana Langley, Admin. Coordinator

Chairman Hugh Caffery stated that the update on the Bayou Lafourche Dredge Project consist of the status of payment from the State for the final invoice. Chairman Caffery advised that the State has found a clause in the contract to hold back enough money to cover the repairs to Mr. Don Guillot's property. Mr. Guillot had a separate agreement with F. Miller which was totally separate from us. We had an agreement with F. Miller to do the contract.

Mr. Chaisson advised that we will have the three clear lien certificates to send to the State by tomorrow asking for the retainage to be paid to F. Miller.

Mr. Duncan Loughridge, All South Engineers, gave a power point presentation on the Tree Replanting Project. He advised that the property assessment summary consists of 46 properties assessed as follows:

- 10 landowners want to participate totaling 49 cypress trees
- 31 property owners do not want to participate
 - 6 would consider if program offered trees other than cypress trees
 - Red maple trees were suggested as an alternative by a couple of residents
- Unable to make contact with 7 of the residents
- 5 outstanding inquiries- Landowners wanted to think over participation and have not called back to date

The contractors solicited were: Holly's Garden & Landscaping (Gonzales); Chackbay Nursery (Thibodaux); Trinity Tree Consultants (Gonzales); and Landscaping by Nicole (Houma). Mr. Loughridge advised that he received two estimates back from the contractors, and are waiting for the other two to respond.

A discussion was held regarding what type of cypress trees to purchase. Commissioner Giardina stated that the pond cypress has zero to almost nil in the knee producing area, and suggested that the pond cypress would be the best to plant. Commissioner Larry Dugas stated that the residents that wanted red maple trees should be contacted if they are the same price as the cypress.

Moved by Commissioner Robert Thibodaux, seconded by Commissioner Larry Dugas to dispense with the reading of the minutes, and approve the minutes of February 27, 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Greg Nolan to approve the accounts payable for February. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Caffery stated that the interrogatories have been responded to in the lawsuit. Mr. Chaisson stated that Mr. Marionneaux will draft a letter of agreement where the State has agreed to pay all the attorney's fees.

Chairman Caffery stated we need to present a proposal for Request for Qualifications by April 9th in order to get the CIAP funding. Chairman Caffery advised that he would like to form a committee, and agree on how we are going to do this. Vice-Chairman Harrell asked Mr. Caffery if he received the components needed for the proposal, and Mr. Caffery answered yes he has those. Mr. Chaisson recommended contacting Mr. Arthur DeFraités to help put the proposal together, and Chairman Caffery agreed to have Mr. Chaisson contact Mr. DeFraités.

Chairman Caffery stated that on the Operations & Maintenance Manual (O&M), he is particularly focusing on Section 8 where the cost is estimated. We need to give feedback to the State on it. Commissioner Larry Dugas advised that every recommendation they have has a price tag on it. Chairman Caffery asked the Board to review it, and then we need to respond to it.

Chairman Caffery stated that Robert, Archie, and he talked today about the tugboat we have to move around our excavator to cut trees. We moved the tugboat south of the weir to cut hydrilla, and the tree cutting stopped. Commissioner Robert Thibodaux suggested looking at another tug, and Mr. Chaisson thought of calling F. Miller because they had several push boat tugs that were smaller than our tugboat, but was adequate to push their excavator barge around.

Commissioner Thibodaux advised that Mr. Caffery and he discussed the issue of the tugboat. Commissioner Thibodaux agreed to go along with what the Board wants. Instead of building a new one, he recommended we could use a tug like F. Miller used. Commissioner Thibodaux stated that we need to put something on the north side of the bayou where we can continue cutting trees. Commissioner Thibodaux advised that Mr. Chaisson will check with F. Miller.

Chairman Caffery advised that there are recommendations in the Bayou Lafourche Master Plan, and has some comments on the Master Plan, which he would like to put in priority order as follows:

- 1) **Finish Dredge Program.** Change the wording to read "We finished dredging in the first five miles in 2011".
- 2) **Continue Dredge Program.** Change the wording to read "Determine where the next dredging phase should be that would allow the most flow at the lowest water elevation. We will get the study done, and follow the best advice we can get".
- 3) **Increase Flow Through Railroad Crossing.** Check on the right-of-way the railroad has, and whether or not they have the right to impede the flow.
- 4) **Renew Millage.** We should consider going longer than 10 years for the renewal.
- 5) **Update User Fees.** The District should also develop a multi-year plan to increase its fees gradually so as to be sensitive to the ability of the end user to afford these increases. Change the wording to read "The District should begin this program in 2013".

- 6) **Support the Terrebonne Parish Referendum.** Terrebonne Parish is the largest user of fresh water resources the District provides.
- 7) **Control Vegetation.** The most crucial problem facing the District on a daily basis is controlling hydrilla. The District should investigate other options for controlling vegetation.
- 8) **Communication with Customers.** Include just paragraph 2: “The District should develop a communication strategy to keep its customers, partners, and other interested groups informed and involved in the bayou”. Include in this recommendation the telephone number 1-855-ONMYBAYOU.
- 9) **Modify BLFWD Mission.** What is the District’s role in trash, pollution, permitting docks, and use of the bayou.
- 10) **Increase flow to 1000 CFS.** The District should pursue a program to increase the flow down the bayou to 1000 CFS. This is a high priority but it is a long time in coming.
- 11) **Additional Access to Bayou.** Acquire additional access points in to the bayou.
- 12) **Remove Thibodaux Weir.** The weir slows the flow of the bayou, allowing material in the water column to settle out, and increase the bottom elevation.

Channel Operation and Maintenance Plan. Chairman Caffery stated that this was discussed earlier in the meeting. The Board will review the Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Manual, give feedback to the State, and then approve the manual.

Chairman Caffery advised that he didn’t find in the recommendations a funding mechanism to get these projects done. Mr. Stevie Smith stated that in the summit report that was a separate action item. Mr. Smith advised that he will make the revisions to the Master Plan, and will present the final report to the Board at the April meeting.

BAYOU OPERATIONS

CREWS: The harvesters were pulled in Labadieville, and one started working at the weir. The second was sent to Wetlands for repairs to the front bucket and rear conveyor support racks. That machine is back in operation as of 8 March. We are alternating the second crew between cutting the hydrilla with the tug, and getting the new shop building ready to move in.

EQUIPMENT STATUS: Trucks: all operational; Boats: all operational; Harvesters: both operational.

PUMP STATION REPORT

RIVER STAGE: Beginning February: 17.33; Ending Month: 13.09; Current Stage: 12.55

PUMP OPERATION:No. Days Siphon: 28; No. Days Pumping: 1

STATION MAINTENANCE: New flooring installed on Office Building. General maintenance, yard work.

Mr. Chaisson reported that the new employee, Damian Anastasio, started work today at the pump station.

Moved by Commissioner Larry Dugas, seconded by Commissioner Jake Giardina to approve the finance report. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Chaisson advised that it was our understanding at the meeting with Lafourche Parish that we would only supply the pump for them to use to spray lilies, and they would have the personnel, boat, and chemicals. We received the agreement and it was swapped around that the parish would only supply the chemicals, and the District would supply the personnel, boat, and pump. If we use our personnel, we would have to cut two people to spray. Chairman Caffery suggested sending a letter to

Kerry Babin at Lafourche Parish stating what our understanding was, and ask them for a written response as to what has changed.

A discussion was held regarding possibly opening the Valentine Bridge to let the lilies flush through. Mr. Chaisson stated they are on their own schedule, and we don't have any control over that bridge.

Mr. Chaisson advised that he spoke to Alma at BTNEP regarding the District funding part of the Bayou Lafourche cleanup. Mr. Chaisson asked for a Board commitment of funds up to \$5,000.

Moved by Commissioner Robert Thibodaux, seconded by Commissioner Dr. Darby Chiasson and unanimously approved to fund up to \$5,000 for the Bayou Lafourche cleanup, and to get supporting documentation from BTNEP on what the money is spent on.

Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell asked where we stand on the USGS gauge at Marchand Bridge, and Mr. Chaisson answered that they are ordering the equipment now and should be a couple of weeks.

Moved by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell, seconded by Commissioner Jake Giardina and unanimously approved to amend the agenda by two-thirds vote to approve the AT&T permit application to place a crossing right at the curve in Lockport by the fire station. They are going down to a-46ft. which is well below any dredge depth that we will ever have in that region.

Commissioner Larry Dugas advised that he wants to make everybody aware, especially Archie, that on each side of the Marchand Bridge there are two new pizza businesses going up. Commissioner Dugas wanted to make sure that they are not putting anything behind it.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Larry Dugas and unanimously approved the meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Hugh Caffery, Chairman

Robert Thibodaux, Secretary/Treasurer