

October 17, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District was held on Monday, October 17, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. at the Water District office, 1016 St. Mary Street, Thibodaux, LA

Present were: Hugh Caffery, Chairman
Gene Harrell, Vice-Chairman Eli Miles, Jr.
Greg Nolan, Secretary/Treasurer Ray Mayet
Lance Authement Chris Domangue
Donald Schwab Francis Richard
Judge Jimmy Gaidry

Absent: Jake Giardina, Ron Animashaun

Also present: Dustin Rabalais, T. Baker Smith; Barry Marionneaux, Attorney; John Lafargue, FOBL
Alma Robichaux, BTNEP; Ayad Taofik; Nick Porto; Henry Templet; Hattie Templet; Robert Mire
Ben Malbrough, Executive Director; Jana Langley, Administrative Assistant

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Commissioner Ray Mayet to dispense with the reading of the minutes, and approve the minutes of September 12, 2016. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell, seconded by Commissioner Ray Mayet to approve the accounts payable for September. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Greg Nolan, seconded by Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr. to approve the finance report for September. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Malbrough advised that last Wednesday there was a glitch in the power, and when we went to turn the pump station back on all the pumps came back on except the brand new pump with the eddy current drive. We are down to three pumps, which is greatly affecting the water surface elevation in Donaldsonville. The low river and grinding season is working against us also. We tried to troubleshoot a few things, and exhausted all of our options to get it up and running. Tomorrow the manufacturer is sending out a representative from Wisconsin to check the pump. He seems optimistic that it can be fixed in the field. We usually maintain the bayou in Donaldsonville at 8¼ ft. to 8½ ft. water surface elevation, and right now it is at 6½ ft.

Mr. Malbrough reported that the bayou crew has been spending time in Lockport with the saltwater control structure. They will go tomorrow to the Assumption water plant to help dig out a little of their intake basin to help facilitate them in getting more water from the bayou.

Mr. Malbrough requested that an item be added to the agenda as it relates to emergency declaration due to the pump being down at the pump station.

Moved by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell, seconded by Commissioner Francis Richard and unanimously approved to amend the agenda by two-thirds vote to add an item to the agenda to discuss an emergency declaration.

Mr. Malbrough advised that it is in our best interest to declare a state of emergency to allow the District to take action to make repairs to alleviate that situation without having to go through the full blown public bid process.

Moved by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell, seconded by Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr. and unanimously approved to adopt a resolution to declare a state of emergency to allow the District to take action and make repairs to the pump to alleviate the situation without having to go through the public bid process. The emergency declaration will include taking any action related to maintaining the integrity of the exposed banks, including no wake zone enforcement, reasonable withdrawal limitations, and develop a plan to offset the loss pumping capacity and/or maintain an adequate water surface elevation in the bayou. The declaration will expire December 31, 2016 unless notice is given by Ben Malbrough that the conditions relating to the state of emergency subsides.

Mr. Dustin Rabalais reported that Phase 2 and Phase 2a Dredge Project is complete. The substantial completion was received on September 8th, with the exception of a few miscellaneous punch list items. Mr. Rabalais requested that the board approve the substantial completion.

Mr. Rabalais advised that Sea Level Construction was the low bidder at \$740,880.80 for the Pedestrian Bridge project in Assumption Parish, and they were issued a Notice to Proceed on October 12th. Their contract will expire on December 26th.

Moved by Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Donald Schwab and unanimously approved to accept the substantial completion for Phase 2 and Phase 2a Dredge Project.

Mr. Malbrough reported that the Union Pacific Railroad Bridge Project is moving along fast. Their plan is to have a thirty-six hour window sometime around Thanksgiving to shut down. In that window, they will pull up all the existing tracks, and start putting in the pieces of the new bridge that have already begun to arrive on site.

Chairman Hugh Caffery asked if we could put together a video of the railroad bridge project, and Mr. Malbrough answered that Eric takes a picture every day of the progress of the construction. He advised that afterwards we will make a movie of all of the still shots during construction.

Mr. Malbrough advised that the Saltwater Control Structure Project is complete. The contractor submitted their substantial completion last week. They will have to test it four times. He advised that the guard rail is in place. Mr. Malbrough stated that he is coordinating with Lafourche Parish for a ribbon cutting ceremony tentatively for November 10th.

Mr. Malbrough advised that Stantec, consultants for the Pumping Capacity Improvement Project, is gathering information to get current and sediment data. Mr. Malbrough stated that a representative with CPRA will come her next Monday to look at the current situation that we are in at the pump station so they will understand why it is very critical for us to keep pushing forward with the construction of a new pump station.

Mr. Malbrough stated that the American Legion and the hot dog stand are two pieces of property that we will need for the new pump station. He advised that this may be presented to the Board next month.

Mr. Malbrough reported that the group health premium will increase 7½% in 2017. He asked the Board if they wanted to continue to provide the health insurance with no premium cost to the employees, and the Board agreed.

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Commissioner Ray May and unanimously approved to continue to pay 100% of the group health/life premium for all employees for year 2017.

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell to approve a permit for United Community Bank for the redevelopment of their property located at the corner of Canal Blvd. and LA 308. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Judge Jimmy Gaidry, seconded by Commissioner Francis Richard to approve a permit for Bayou Bridge Pipeline, LLC to bore a 24" crude line about forty feet below the bottom elevation of the bayou. This is part of the 163 mile pipeline that starts in Lake Charles, and ends in St. James. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Malbrough advised that we would need to move the December meeting back in order to adopt our budgets, and have them published within the timeline required. He recommended that the meeting be held December 12th. Mr. Malbrough stated that for the last several years they formed a budget committee, and he recommended that we do that again. Chairman Hugh Caffery asked who would like to be on the committee, and Judge Jimmy Gaidry, Francis Richard, Gene Harrell, and Chris Domangue responded that they would like be on the budget committee.

Mr. John Lafargue, President of Friends of Bayou Lafourche, advised that they hired Cyndi Guion as Director of Friends of Bayou Lafourche, and she will start November 1st. He stated that we will remain with the current CEA funding of \$6,000 per month for expenses.

Mr. Lafargue reported that they added an Ascension Parish representative to the Board, and his name is Lee Melancon. Mr. Melancon is in charge of the Donaldsonville Downtown Development District.

Mr. Lafargue advised that in the next ninety days they have a lot of homework to do as far as branding, creating a website for the Friends of Bayou Lafourche, etc. They also created an advisory committee.

Mr. Lafargue stated that he didn't know if the District is aware of the huge accomplishments that we do, and he hopes that they are involved in the movie we talked about earlier.

Commissioner Chris Domangue asked if the Board has to approve the Ascension Parish Board member for Friends of Bayou Lafourche, and Chairman Hugh Caffery answered yes, and asked for a motion for approval.

Moved by Commissioner Chris Domangue, seconded by Commissioner Donald Schwab to approve Lee Melancon as the Ascension Parish board member for Friends of Bayou Lafourche. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Hugh Caffery advised that there will be no executive session at this meeting.

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

Moved by Commissioner Donald Schwab, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell and unanimously approved the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Hugh Caffery, Chairman

Greg Nolan, Secretary/Treasurer

