**Committee Meeting**

**September 14, 2022**

**The Board of Commissioners for the Lafourche Basin Levee District met as a Committee of the Whole this day at its official domicile at 21380 Highway 20 in Vacherie, Louisiana. The public was invited to attend via Teleconference and at the LBLD office in accordance with the Louisiana Governor’s Proclamation Number 219-JBE 2021 Renewal of State Emergency for COVID-19, Extension of Emergency Provisions, LBLD office will continue to recommend all individuals to wear a face covering over the nose and mouth, unless the person has been fully vaccinated with a Covid-19 vaccine. You can refer to gov.louisiana.gov for guideline exceptions. The meeting was called to order by its President, Eric Matherne, at 6:00 P.M.**

**The following Commissioners were in attendance: Craig Carter, Assumption Parish; Larry Sorapuru, St. John the Baptist Parish; Eric Matherne, St. Charles Parish; Marlin Rogers, St. Charles Parish; Arthur J. Bosworth, IV, St. James Parish; Gary Watson, St. John the Baptist Parish; Russell Loupe, St. Charles Parish; James Jasmin, St. James Parish; Jeffery Henry, Ascension Parish and Kevin Hebert, St. Charles Parish. Donald Henry, Executive Director were present. Spencer Long, Attorney was absent.**

**Commissioner Arthur Bosworth made the motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Jeffrey Henry seconded his motion. The motion passed.**

**There were no comments from the audience on the agenda items.**

**Personnel Committee Report: Marlin Rogers, Chairman**

**Commissioner Rogers had nothing to report.**

**Building Committee Report: Larry Sorapuru, Chairman**

**Commissioner Sorapuru reported that Joseph Savoie was supposed to be in attendance. He then directed to Donald Henry and asked “Is there anything you would like to say or has Joseph giving you an update. Donald Henry responds, “we can inform the board that we had a mock showing Tuesday to make sure everything was going as planned and it is. We discovered that the back of the building didn’t have any lights so the electrician came and put the wiring for the lights. The sheetrock seems to be 80% complete. We have a few things to do. We are in the process of talking to the technology people to deal with the technology and what we are going to have according to hat you all gave us permission to do. They should be bringing us some quotes back. I thought you all had suggestions on the technology package, it would be ashamed for us to spend more than a million dollars and we don’t have video conference calling. Kevin Hebert asks Donald Henry, “how much is in the budget for that” Donald Henry responds, “$130,000” Kevin Hebert says, “we should be able to do a lot with $130,000”. Vice President Jeffrey Henry intervenes and asks everyone to please speak in the mic so the minutes can be recorded properly. Donald Henry continues on, “we did have a stellar package but I thought it was overwhelming so I told them to cut it back a little bit because it’s almost the same thing pentagon had, it’ll take us a month to do training, it has voting machines, we vote with the button and it shows up. It’s good, I’m ready for the board to see the final package they prepared for me. We have enough to do everything we need, the main thing is, if we have another Pandemic, we want to be able to have meetings where if we call in, we can see you on the screen and you can see us. President Eric Matherne says, “I’m sure we would be able to put that on the laptops we have”. The conversation continues with them discussing the camera features on the laptop. Mr. Henry advises, “we are waiting on DOTD to give us a permit. We have a verbal permit but we need it in writing and being able to put a culvert where the tree is from across the road to the new building. I made calls so it could be expedited. As soon as that is completed, the work you all approved could be done. Commissioner Larry Sorapuru reiterated what Donald Henry also said. Commissioner Marlin Rogers asked, “is the state paying for the culvert”. Mr. henry responds, “no that is for the Levee District to pay, we pay for everything which I think is already in what’s approved.**

**Safety Committee Report: Arthur J. Bosworth, IV, Chairman**

**Commissioner Bosworth reported that there were no lost time accidents. The Safety Meeting for the Maintenance Department was held on Monday, September 12, 2022 and started at 6:00 AM. Three films from the National Safety Council were discussed. They were as follows:**

**INDUSTRIAL FIRE EXTINGUISHER TRAINING & USE (SS1054FE)**

**FALL PROTECTION (M260F)**

**STOP & THINK (AP3202E)**

**The next safety meeting is scheduled for Monday, October 10, 2022 at 6:00 A.M. This concludes my report.**

**Equipment Committee Report: Michael McKinney, Sr., Chairman**

**Commissioner Henry reported that as of today, all equipment is either located on their respective job sites or here at the maintenance shop. Unless there are any other questions, this concludes my report. Eric Matherne asks, “the new machine we had on backorder, do we have a timeline on that”? Donald Henry replies, “yes, its going to be in soon”.**

**Upper Barataria Project Committee Report: Eric Matherne, Chairman**

**Vice-President Matherne reported that on the Sunset Project we are having a conference with JSRS tomorrow at 2:30 to go over with whatever they talked to CPRA. He continued to give an update and advised the rest of the Commissioners that once that meeting is done, he would give them a further update. As for Upper Barataria, we are going to Washington to see if we can get some dollars. Are there any questions for me, he concluded? Larry Sorapuru asks, “Sunset, there is 45 days for a decision to be made”? Eric Matherne clarifies and responds with “as far as I know, that has been confirmed. We are having a meeting tomorrow to find out more information on what took place> Larry Sorapuru continued the conversation about the placement of the pump stations. While President Eric Matherne demonstrated on how placement would take place. Donald Henry then intervenes, “so the bid came in over 2 million dollars over the budget but I wanted to remind the board that the 3.5 million dollars was never for construction. The conversation continued. We got the bid in; Kyle and I spoke with the bidder and they met with him. They had a conversation that would probably lessen the bill by 1 million dollars. One, they will be taking out the pump station which is a big part of the cost. Sam talked to the president, so we working on that. Whatever we come up with, we have to pass it through CPRA. They have to tell us if it’s acceptable. I’ve spoken to you all about all this even before the bid came in. For years, we used to pay 1.5-2.5 million dollars for engineering and we haven’t done that in 3 years so we kind of save some of that easily and we haven’t spent some of that money that we would’ve normally spent. If a million is what it cost us to do it, then we can afford to do it. I’ve looked at the budget and we just would have to use it. We have 45 days to come to a decision and all involved parties are talking diligently and we are trying to get it expedited. We will come back to the board after tomorrow and let everyone know. Lately, it has been hard to communicate with CPRA. Donald Henry continued the conversation by including more info on what has already been discussed with CPRA and Greenup Industries. Commissioner Larry Sorapuru, asks about some land in the right of way. President Eric Matherne responds, “the only things that would change is the Upper Barataria project, as far as the Sunset project, that’s all done”. There were no other questions.**

**Commissioner Arthur J. Bosworth, IV made the motion to approve the 2023 per diem rate of $117.75 per meeting to, which will start on October 20, 2022.Commissioner Jeffery Henry seconded his motion. President Eric Matherne called for a vote. The vote thereon was unanimous with yeas. The motion passed to be placed on the October agenda. Donald Henry asks everyone to look at the documents that were given. He explains about the current projects that’s current. He says, “I’m operating as if we are responsible to complete these tasks so I’m looking into different ways to make sure everything is in place. We are going to need GIS, the board and along with myself to be on ne accord. Also, there are conversation’s that needs to take place with CPRA for money. The core, we need to meet with them and find out the details about what needs to be done. The paper work that you all have is what I’ll like for you all to look at so we can make ways on getting this done”. President Eric Matherne gives a few details that’s already been mentioned. Commissioner Larry Sorapuru asks about whether or not Mr. Sam has confirmed of work being done?” Donald Henry and Eric Matherne advised that no date was giving. Larry Sorapuru acknowledge that it has passed from the time he spoke with Mr. Sam.**

**There were no additional committee matters to discuss, Commissioner Russell Loupe moved to adjourn and was seconded by Commissioner Jeffery Henry.**

**Executive Director**