DRAFT

**PUBLIC HEARING/ MEETING**

**October 2, 2024**

The Board of Commissioners for the Lafourche Basin Levee District met this day in a Public Hearing at its official domicile at 21380 Highway 20 in Vacherie, Louisiana. The public was invited to attend at the LBLD office. The hearing was called to order by its President, James P. Jasmin, at 6:00 P.M.

A public hearing will be held to consider levying increased millage rates after reassessment and rolling forward millage rates not to exceed the maximum

authorized by law.

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Article 7, Section 23(C) of the Louisiana Constitution and R.S. 47:1705(B) that a public hearing of Lafourche Basin Conservation Levee and Drainage District in St. James Parish will be held at its regular meeting place located at 21380 Highway 20, Vacherie, LA on October 2, 2024, at 6:00 p.m. to consider levying additional or increased millage rates without further voter approval or adopting the adjusted millage rates after reassessment and rolling forward to rates not to exceed the prior year’s maximum. The estimated amount of tax revenues to be collected in the next year from the increased millage is $6,069,078.62, and the amount of increase in taxes attributable to the millage increase is $210,737.01.

Commissioner Eric Matherne made a motion to adjourn and Commissioner Jeffery Henry seconded his motion.

The Board of Commissioners for the Lafourche Basin Levee District met this day in public session at its official domicile at 21380 Highway 20 in Vacherie, Louisiana. The public was invited to attend at the LBLD office. The meeting was called to order by its President, James P. Jasmin, immediately following the public hearing.

The meeting opened with a prayer and the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Present: Commissioners… Craig Carter, Assumption Parish; Arthur Bosworth IV, St. James Parish; Eric Matherne, St. Charles Parish; President James P. Jasmin, St. James Parish; Jeffery Henry, Ascension Parish; Russell Loupe, St. Charles Parish; Larry Sorapuru, St. John the Baptist Parish; Gary Watson, St. John the Baptist Parish, were present. Marlin Rogers, St. Charles Parish, was absent.

A quorum was present to conduct business.

Messrs. Donald Ray Henry, Executive Director; Spencer Long, Attorney; Ms. Melanie Broden, Accounting Specialist, Ms. Astrea Jupiter, Administrative Assistant, Mrs. Sara Long, Human Resource Specialist, and Mrs. Yolanda Brown, Administrative Assistant, were present.

President Jasmin asked for a motion to adopt the agenda. Vice-President Arthur J. Bosworth, IV made the motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Jeffery Henry seconded his motion. There were no public comments on the agenda items. President Jasmin called for a vote. Roll call vote thereon as follows:

YEAS:

* Arthur Bosworth IV
* Larry Sorapuru
* Russell Loupe
* Gary Watson
* Jeffery Henry
* Craig Carter
* Eric Matherne
* James P. Jasmin

NAYS: None

ABSENT:

* Marlin Rogers

ABSTAINED: None

By a roll call vote of 8 yeas, 0 nay, 1 absent and 0 abstained. The motion passed.

On motion of Commissioner Gary Watson, seconded by Commissioner Craig Carter, the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 4, 2024 be accepted and filed in the minutes of the Board. There were no public comments on the agenda item. President Jasmin called for a vote. Roll call vote thereon as follows:

YEAS:

* Arthur Bosworth IV
* Larry Sorapuru
* Russell Loupe
* Gary Watson
* Jeffery Henry
* Craig Carter
* Eric Matherne
* James P. Jasmin

NAYS: None

ABSENT:

* Marlin Rogers

ABSTAINED: None

By a roll call vote of 8 yeas, 0 nay, 1 absent and 0 abstained. The motion passed.

On motion of Commissioner Jeffery Henry, seconded by Vice-President Arthur J. Bosworth, IV, the following cash available for distribution of the month of September 30, 2024 be accepted and filed in the minutes of the Board.

**FIRST AMERICAN BANK:**

**Checking account balance June 2024 $ 792,937.97**

**Deposits/Transfer In – July**

**Revenues/Refund 78,430.89**

**Interest on Checking 25.40**

**Funds transferred in**  **0.00 Operating Expenses/Other 565,607.70**

**Funds transferred out 0.00**

**TOTAL ACCOUNT BALANCE JULY 31, 2024 $ 305,786.56**

**LAMP**

**Account balance – June 3,117,420.54**

**Funds transferred in 0.00**

**Funds transferred out 0.00**

**Interest Income Earned 13,942.91**

**TOTAL ENDING BALANCE JULY 31, 2024 $ 3,131,363.45**

**INVESTMENTS: BNY**

**Discount Notes/T-Bills/Bonds 5,286,234.25**

**TOTAL CASH & INVESTMENTS AS OF JULY 31, 2024 $ 8,723,384.26**

No public comments were made. President Jasmin called for a vote. Roll call vote thereon as follows:

YEAS:

* Arthur Bosworth IV
* Larry Sorapuru
* Russell Loupe
* Gary Watson
* Jeffery Henry
* Craig Carter
* Eric Matherne
* James P. Jasmin

NAYS: None

ABSENT:

* Marlin Rogers

ABSTAINED: None

By a roll call vote of 8 yeas, 0 nay, 1 absent and 0 abstained. The motion passed.

There was no old business to discuss.

On motion of Vice-President Arthur J. Bosworth, IV, seconded by Commissioner Gary Watson, the following resolution was proposed.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the LAFOURCHE BASIN CONSERVATION LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT of the Parishes of ASCESNION, ASSUMPTION, ST. CHARLES, ST. JAMES, AND ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, Louisiana, in a public meeting held on OCTOBER 2, 2024, which meeting was conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Law and the additional requirements of Article VII, Section 23(C) of the Louisiana Constitution and R.S. 47:1705(B), that the following adjusted millage rates be and they are hereby levied upon the dollar of the assessed valuation of all property subject to ad valorem taxation within said Parish for the year 2024, for the purpose of raising revenue:

MILLAGE

LAFOURCHE BASIN CONSERVATION LEVEE

& DRAINAGE DISTRICT 3.75 mills

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Assessors of the Parishes of ASCESNION, ASSUMPTION, ST. CHARLES, ST. JAMES AND ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, shall extend upon the assessment roll for the year 2024 the taxes herein levied, and the tax collector of said Parish shall collect and remit the same to said taxing authority in accordance with law.

There were no public comments on the agenda items. President Jasmin called for a vote. Roll call vote thereon as follows:

YEAS:

* Arthur Bosworth IV
* Larry Sorapuru
* Russell Loupe
* Gary Watson
* Jeffery Henry
* Craig Carter
* Eric Matherne
* James P. Jasmin

NAYS: None

ABSENT:

* Marlin Rogers

ABSTAINED: None

By a roll call vote of 8 yeas, 0 nay, 1 absent and 0 abstained. The motion passed.

On motion of Vice-President Arthur J. Bosworth, IV, seconded by Commissioner Gary Watson, the following resolution was proposed.

BE IT RESOLVED, by the LAFOURCHE BASIN CONSERVATION LEVEE AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT of the Parishes of ASCESNION, ASSUMPTION, ST. CHARLES, ST. JAMES AND ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, Louisiana, in a public meeting held on OCTOBER 2, 2024, which meeting was conducted in accordance with the Open Meetings Law and the additional requirements of Article VII, Section 23(C) of the Louisiana Constitution and R.S. 47:1705(B), that the taxing district voted to increase the millage rate(s), but not in excess of the prior year’s maximum rate(s), on all taxable property shown on the official assessment roll for the year 2024, and when collected, the revenues from said taxes shall be used only for the specific purposes for which said taxes have been levied. Said millage rate(s) are:

Adjusted Rate 2024 Levy

LAFOURCHE BASIN CONSERVATION LEVEE

AND DRAINAGE DISTRICT 3.75 mills 3.88 mills

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Assessors of the Parishes of ASCESNION, ASSUMPTION, ST. CHARLES, ST. JAMES, AND ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, shall extend upon the assessment roll for the year 2024 the taxes herein levied, and the tax collector of said Parish shall collect and remit the same to said taxing authority in accordance with law.

There were no public comments on the agenda items. President Jasmin called for a vote. Roll call vote thereon as follows:

YEAS:

* Arthur Bosworth IV
* Larry Sorapuru
* Russell Loupe
* Gary Watson
* Jeffery Henry
* Craig Carter
* Eric Matherne
* James P. Jasmin

NAYS: None

ABSENT:

* Marlin Rogers

ABSTAINED: None

By a roll call vote of 8 yeas, 0 nay, 1 absent and 0 abstained. The motion passed.

On motion of Vice-President Arthur J. Bosworth, IV, seconded by Commissioner Larry Sorapuru, the following resolution was proposed.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners approve execution of the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the State of Louisiana to receive Capital Outlay funding for the Westbank and Vicinity Western Tie-in, Planning and Construction project (FP&C Project No. 36-L03-24-01), as well as approving the Executive Director, Donald Henry, to sign the CEA.

There were no public comments on the agenda items. Mr. Oneil Malbrough, GIS, discussed the CEA and Capital Outlay. Mr. Norby Chabert discussed the CEA and Capital Outlay. President Jasmin called for a vote. Roll call vote thereon as follows:

YEAS:

* Arthur Bosworth IV
* Larry Sorapuru
* Russell Loupe
* Gary Watson
* Jeffery Henry
* Craig Carter
* Eric Matherne
* James P. Jasmin

NAYS: None

ABSENT:

* Marlin Rogers

ABSTAINED: None

By a roll call vote of 8 yeas, 0 nay, 1 absent and 0 abstained. The motion passed.

On motion of Commissioner Craig Carter, seconded by Commissioner Russell Loupe, the following resolution was proposed.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners approve Change Order No. 2 to Onshore Materials construction contract for the Sunset Levee and Des Allemand Boat Launch Surcharge project, adding $298,325 and 58 calendar days, pending written confirmation from St. Charles Parish approving the scope and costs to be borne by the Parish.

There were no public comments on the agenda items. President Jasmin called for a vote. Roll call vote thereon as follows:

YEAS:

* Arthur Bosworth IV
* Larry Sorapuru
* Russell Loupe
* Gary Watson
* Jeffery Henry
* Craig Carter
* Eric Matherne
* James P. Jasmin

NAYS: None

ABSENT:

* Marlin Rogers

ABSTAINED: None

By a roll call vote of 8 yeas, 0 nay, 1 absent and 0 abstained. The motion passed.

On motion of Commissioner Eric Matherne, seconded by Commissioner Russell Loupe, the following resolution was proposed.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners approve Amendment No. 2 to GIS’ Task Order 6-B to increase the budget for construction administration of the Sunset Levee Lift Project by $72,015.

There were no public comments on the agenda items. President Jasmin called for a vote. Roll call vote thereon as follows:

YEAS:

* Arthur Bosworth IV
* Larry Sorapuru
* Russell Loupe
* Gary Watson
* Jeffery Henry
* Craig Carter
* Eric Matherne
* James P. Jasmin

NAYS: None

ABSENT:

* Marlin Rogers

ABSTAINED: None

By a roll call vote of 8 yeas, 0 nay, 1 absent and 0 abstained. The motion passed.

On motion of Commissioner Jeffery Henry, seconded by Commissioner Gary Watson, the following resolution was proposed.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners approve Amendment No. 1 to Greenup Industries’ Task Order 6-F to increase the budget to add a Senior QA Inspector two days per week (weather permitting) to assist with oversight on the Sunset Levee Lift Project by $ 34,640.

There were no public comments on the agenda items. President Jasmin called for a vote. Roll call vote thereon as follows:

YEAS:

* Arthur Bosworth IV
* Larry Sorapuru
* Russell Loupe
* Gary Watson
* Jeffery Henry
* Craig Carter
* Eric Matherne
* James P. Jasmin

NAYS: None

ABSENT:

* Marlin Rogers

ABSTAINED: None

By a roll call vote of 8 yeas, 0 nay, 1 absent and 0 abstained. The motion passed.

Mr. Stokka Brown, CSRS, Inc., gave the highlights on the Upper Barataria Project.

Segment 2 Sunset Levee Construction Project

Progress Update

Progress Update (GIS to provide more detail)

* Construction – Onshore
  + Pay Applications approved to date $1,105,208.63
  + Reimbursement Request 3 – submitted to SCP $347,152.80
* Monitoring and Inspection – Greenup Industries
  + Reimbursement Request 5 – processing with CSRS, LBLD $29,286.00
* Access Agreements
  + CIVIX is tracking access agreement expirations versus completion of Onshore construction and the remaining segment to Paradis Canal Floodgate
* Amendments (on 10/2/2024 Agenda)
  + Onshore Change Order No. 2 adding $298,325 and 58 calendar days (costs borne by St. Charles Parish)
  + GIS Amendment No. 2 adding $72,015
  + Greenup Industries Amendment No. 1 adding $34,640

Next Steps

* Ongoing construction effort
* Expected to start on construction of levee this week

Schedule

* Onshore scheduled substantial completion *(un)*officially Feb 2025

Segment 3 – Floodgate

Progress Update

* Independent Technical Review comments provided for MEP 65% Design 6/12/2024
  + BKI addressing comments following completion of Segment 4 Report
* H&H modeling - Olsson
  + Completed antecedent rainfall analysis – finalizes Reverse Head and Wave Design Criteria
  + Revised scope with no change in cost to support Segment 3+4 HMIA permit
    - Currently evaluating induced flooding (expected completion by the end of October)
* Segment 3 permitting is underway (combined with Segment 4)
* CPRA committed $90.0M in the 2025 Annual Plan for the floodgate with tentative completion by July 2028

Next Steps

* Complete H&H modeling to inform Structural 95% and MEP 95% Designs
  + Induced flooding evaluation
* Confirm completion of USACE ADCIRC modeling
* MEP 65% Design revisions per comments of Independent Technical Review for
* USACE (SAR) Safety Assurance Reviews development and coordination
* Structural 95% Design kickoff workshop to address critical 65% design comments prior to continuing design

Segment 4 – Floodgate to Hwy 90

Progress Update

* Opinion of Probable Construction is ~$75 million
* Task Order 10-A Alternatives Analysis
  + BKI finalizing report (completed by the end of the week)
* Task Order 10-B Alternatives Analysis – Environmental
  + Greenup to provide final draft deliverable
* Segment 4 permitting is underway (combined with Segment 3)

Next Steps

* Complete Alternatives Analysis Environmental Scope of Services
* Finalize Alternatives Analysis report
* Provide CPRA results and identify path forward

UBRR USACE Status Update

Progress Update

* Currently Finalizing 10% Design
  + H&H Modeling
    - HEC RAS Model has been completed
    - ERDC is finishing their internal review of the storm surge model
* Current Status
  + Value Engineering Study complete May 2024
  + ADCIRC model nearly complete
  + Field Investigation nearly complete
  + Initiating 35% design
* Implementation of strategy to accept LBLD design efforts as independent utility for community stake holders
* LBLD coordination strategy implementation
  + Coordination of plans and alternatives with CORP, State, and LBLD

Mr. Kyle Galloway, GIS, gave an update on the Sunset Levee. The culvert installation is complete. The access road is complete except for the final grading. The surcharge is 99% complete. The new finish date is set for February 4, 2025.

Mr. Rodney Greenup gave an update. He informed the Board that the website is still being worked on. The staff pictures and retakes are scheduled for October 8th. Photos and drone videos of Sunset construction are scheduled. The final information was sent out for the permitting process. Sunset construction is ongoing. For Segments 3 and 4 permitting, the revised plats were submitted. We also received additional comments from the agencies. Currently waiting for HMIA results from FTN. The next submittal will include HMIA results and revised plats showing potential dredge material deposit sites for mitigations. Mr. Donald Henry asked Mr. Greenup to give a monthly update on the permit to the Board.

Mr. Rene Chopin, BKI, gave an update. He informed the board that they are working on finalizing report by the end of the week. Once done, it will be sent out to everyone.

Mr. Domoine Rutledge, CSRS, stated that there is a need to revisit with all Parish Presidents to highlight areas of concern for the masterplan.

Mr. Sam Scholls, St. Charles Parish, gave an update. He informed the board that the parish was at the meeting with CPRA & the Corps. The Parish is supportive of the barge gate and Segment 4. They recognize the issue of back flooding. The Parish would like the levee district to stay vigilant with the drainage issue. They would like the levee district to consider moving forward with the engineering on the pump station and deciding where to place it. The Parish is asking that the levee board comes up with a plan.

Commissioner Jeffery Henry made a motion to adjourn and Commissioner Craig Carter seconded his motion.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

PRESIDENT

10/07/2024