August 19, 2013

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District was held on Monday, August 19, 2013 at 5:00 p.m. at the Water District office, 1016 St. Mary Street, Thibodaux, LA

Present were:	Gene Harrell, Vice-Chairman	Larry Dugas
	Greg Nolan, Secretary/Treasurer	Windell Curole
	Ron Animashaun	Francis Richard
Absent: Hugh Caffery, Chairman and Jake Giardina		
Also present were: Barry Marionneaux, Attorney; Dustin Rabalais, T. Baker Smith		
Stevie Smith, All South Consulting Engineers; Alma Robichaux, BTNEP		
Gasper Chifici, CPRA Project Manager; Denise Chifici		
	Henry Templet; Stacy Sagona; Nick Porto; Jerry Waguespack; Robert Mire	
	Ben Malbrough, Executive Director; Jana Langley, Administrative Assistant	

Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell announced that Hugh Caffery could not attend the meeting today.

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Commissioner Larry Dugas to dispense with the reading of the minutes, and approve the minutes of July 18, 2013. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Ron Animashaun, seconded by Commissioner Francis Richard to approve the accounts payable for July. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Ben Malbrough advised that he e-mailed the pumping summary to the Board. The river has dropped pretty low, and we are running all three pumps now. We are putting between 280-300 cfs in the bayou, and are still keeping the water level in Donaldsonville below the 8½ ft. to 9 ft. range. The culverts are cleaned out and are working well for us, and once we get the sediment trap cleaned out, that will work well for us also.

Commissioner Francis Richard asked the status of getting the sediment trap cleaned out. Mr. Malbrough answered that CPRA is going to do the plans and specs for us. Unfortunately, we are kind of held captive by their schedule, and they are bogged down right now. Mr. Malbrough stated that it is not extremely pressing that we get it done immediately. It certainly needs to be taken care of but, in order to save \$15K to \$20K in engineering fees, it is best to let them handle it.

Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell asked if Ascension Parish is still going to remove that dirt that was dredged out of the culverts, and Mr. Malbrough answered yes they are drafting a release for us to sign.

Mr. Malbrough stated that we are still fighting the grass in the bayou. Luckily, these recent storm events have raised the water level, and are pushing a lot of the water hyacinths out pretty quick. If they keep the bridge open in Valentine for us for a while a lot of that will get out of here.

Moved by Commissioner Windell Curole, seconded by Commissioner Greg Nolan and unanimously approved to amend the agenda by two-thirds vote to discuss the damage to the dolphin alarm system, which was hit by a tugboat barge last year.

Mr. Barry Marionneaux advised that in September of last year a tugboat barge hit and caused damage to the dolphin alarm system in the river. We need to file a lawsuit before the prescribed period of September 16th or 17th. Mr. Marionneaux requested that the Board adopt a resolution authorizing him to file a Petition for Damages regarding the damages to the dolphin.

Moved by Commissioner Windell Curole, seconded by Commissioner Francis Richard and unanimously approved to adopt a Resolution authorizing BLFWD legal counsel, F. Barry Marionneaux, to file a Petition for Damages before the prescribed period against D & S Marine Service, LLC arising out of its vessel colliding with the BLFWD dolphin. **RESOLUTION ATTACHED**

Mr. Malbrough advised that the Board had a special meeting on August 8th. T. Baker Smith is finalizing the Data Analysis and Recommendation Report. They will submit the report to Mr. Gasper Chifici with CPRA, and they will review it. They will flip it around so that we can be authorized to proceed into the preliminary design phase.

Mr. Malbrough stated that last week Dustin Rabalais and he went to the Assumption Parish Police Jury meeting and gave them the news about the decision to dredge in the Belle Rose area. They were extremely excited.

Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell asked if the pipeline crossings have been worked out. Dustin Rabalais answered that they have one that will be in the way, and they have already made contact with them. Mr. Rabalais advised that they have what they think is their official permit that states from the Dept. of Public Works that any relocation has to be done at their expense.

Mr. Barry Marionneaux showed a power point of an overlay of the proposed site of the new pumping station eventually. The new pumping station will operate a little closer to the Mississippi River, at least conceptually right now. The new pipelines will be on the south side of the old pumping side. The existing pipelines were underneath the Sonnier property prior to him buying it in the 90's. There are six pipelines that are proposed to cut across the back little triangular part of the Sonnier property. We are in the process of contacting T. Baker Smith, and whoever their consultant is, relative to following federal regulations on contacting Mr. Sonnier. We are going to need, at the very least, a right-of-way for the new six pipelines.

Mr. Malbrough advised that a certified letter was mailed to Mr. Robert Rome regarding the blighted building on the bayou side. The letter was returned undeliverable because he was never there to sign for the certified letter. We also found out through the post office that Mr. Rome does not have a mail receptacle at his home address. He still has not yet been notified that we would like to set up a meeting to discuss the building. Mr. Malbrough stated that he will try to contact him another way.

Mr. Malbrough stated that he spoke to the surveyors this morning that are working on the postconstruction surveys. These are the properties of concern along the bayou in Phase 1. We got some surveys done on the cross sections of the properties so we could overlay it on top of the postconstruction surveys to see if the land shifted. We should start to see some of that data coming back anytime now.

Commissioner Greg Nolan asked how the tree planting worked out. Mr. Stevie Smith stated that the trees that were removed in the Phase 1 dredging were replaced with new ones for the landowners who wanted the trees planted. Commissioner Greg Nolan stated since we have not heard any complaints everything must have been alright.

Mr. Malbrough stated that the guy who will configure the Board table to accommodate the four new Terrebonne Parish commissioners will be in the office in the next couple of days to do that work.

Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell advised that there will be no executive session because there is no new information to report regarding the litigation.

Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell asked for public comments, and there were none.

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Windell Curole and unanimously approved the meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Gene Harrell, Vice-Chairman

Greg Nolan, Secretary/Treasurer