December 12, 2011

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District was held on Monday, December 12, 2011 at 5:00 p.m. at the Water District office, 1016 St. Mary Street, Thibodaux, LA

Present were:	Hugh Caffery, Chairman	Larry Dugas	
	Gene Harrell, Vice-Chairman	Jake Giardina	
	Robert Thibodaux, Secretary/Treasurer	Greg Nolan	
Absent: Ron Animashaun; Dr. Darby Chiasson			
Also present we	ere: Earl Paddock, OCPR; Stevie Smith	Earl Paddock, OCPR; Stevie Smith, All South Consulting Engineers	
	Tom Cancienne, Michelle Robert	, Alice Abney, CH2MHill; Stacie Sagona	
	Leo Sternfels, Arthur J. Gallagher	Insurance; Matt Ledet, T. Baker Smith	
	Alma Robichaux, Kerry St. Pe', BT	NEP; Nick Porto; Jerry Waguespack	
	Donald Arceneaux; Robert Mire;	Tim Harper, OCPR; Joel Tillery, CH2MHill	
	Eric Sanchez, Pump Station Forer	nan; Archie Chaisson, Jr., Director	
	Jana Langley, Administrative Coo	rdinator	

Leo Sternfels, Arthur J. Gallagher Insurance, distributed the insurance proposal to the Board members. Commissioner Robert Thibodaux asked what the fungus, wet rot, dry rot, and bacteria pertains to. Mr. Sternfels answered that is coverage under our Commercial Property Package. Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Robert Thibodaux to approve insurance proposal for the January 1, 2012 renewal. Motion carried unanimously.

Earl Paddock, OCPR, advised that there is \$1.3 million left in the dredge project budget with a \$700,000 buffer for unforeseen circumstances. Mr. Paddock stated that BTNEP will be handling the tree planting. The District could engage BTNEP to do the tree planting, and the State would reimburse the District for the expenses. Chairman Hugh Caffery stated that he wants to form a committee, consisting of Larry Dugas, Gene Harrell and himself, to empower the committee to make decisions on the tree planting issues.

Moved by Commissioner Robert Thibodaux, seconded by Commissioner Jake Giardina and unanimously approved to form a committee, consisting of Larry Dugas, Gene Harrell and himself, to empower the committee to make decisions on the tree planting issues.

Michelle Robert, CH2MHill, stated that one of the major pieces of the operational manual is water elevations. They are going through the pumping test with higher flows and measuring down the bayou so that way they will have all those points, and be able to update the operations manual. Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell asked if we can see a copy of what is put together.Ms. Robert stated that they will finish the pumping test first. Mr. Cancienne stated that the operations manual should be wrapped up by the end of the year.

Mr. Cancienne stated that right now they are doing a pulse test. We are running three pumps to see what those upper limits are with the pump test. We will then try with four pumps running. Commissioner Larry

Dugas asked if we were running three pumps today when the water came up to the road, and Mr. Cancienne answered yes.

Mr. Cancienne reviewed the pump test data with the Board. They are getting range of flows and water surface elevations every stage down the bayou. The first phase was done between November 30th and December 4th with two pumps running for four days, and tested samples on the fifth day. Today they ran with three pumps starting at 8:30 a.m. and they watched the water rise. Mr. Cancienne showed maps of where all the stages are located, and water surface elevations. He showed the time lapse of water surface in the bayou from Donaldsonville to Thibodaux. There is a 3 ft. rise between the Jackson Street and Hwy. 1247 in over nine miles, and only a 1½ ft. rise in twenty five miles. A discussion was held regarding the cause of the water rise.

Mr. Cancienne showed film of a boat ride they took in the bayou today between Jackson Street and the weir. He showed all the hydrilla and algae all the way across the bayou. Ms. Robert stated that there is significant vegetative material that is causing restriction in that area.

Commissioner Larry Dugas stated that they ran three pumps for five hours today, and the water came up to the road in Donaldsonville. Ms. Robert stated that the whole pumping test is to push it to the limits to see what we can pump, and what the water level reaction was going to be. Specifically, Hwy. 308 is an issue and also St. Patrick's. Commissioner Dugas advised that he cannot see how we can turn on four pumps for any length of time. Ms. Robert stated that they will bring the water levels down as low as they can, and then they will do a pulse test. They will monitor those critical points.Mr. Kerry St. Pe' asked how far down the water remains turbid. Mr. Cancienne answered about Hwy. 1010, and then clears up at Hwy. 1247.

Moved by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell, seconded by Commissioner Jake Giardina to dispense with the reading of the minutes, and approve the minutes of November 14, 2011. Vice-Chairman Harrell requested that the motion be amended to correct the spelling of the word master on page 3, the last sentence in paragraph 5. Ms. Langley stated she would correct the spelling, and the amended motion was unanimously approved.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Larry Dugas to approve the accounts payable for November. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Chaisson advised that the Company Canal structure will be closed tomorrow due to saltwater intrusion. Mr. Dirk Barrios at the Lafourche Parish Water District requested that it be closed due to a peak in chloride levels at the water plant.

BAYOU OPERATIONS

<u>CREWS</u>: The harvesters are working north of the St John Bridge in heavy hydrilla. Second crew is working with the tug clearing hydrilla south of Thibodaux. The crew also ran the Company Canal structure. <u>RIVER STAGE</u>: Beginning November: 4.55; Ending Month: 11.98; Current Stage: 14.56

PUMP OPERATION:No. Days Siphon: 0; No. Days Pumping:

STATION MAINTENANCE: General maintenance, yard work, and painting. T Baker Smith shooting elevations for staff gauges at bridges. Plumbers are working on bathroom.

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

Mr. Stevie Smith, All South Consulting Engineers, reported that the Bayou Lafourche Summit final report has been distributed to the Board for review. The report includes many of the recommendations and results of the summit. It also includes action items of what the Fresh Water District should consider. There is a spreadsheet that is organized according to subject area, and the other spreadsheet is organized with five year capital budget numbers. The budget assumes a lot of things, and it is worth the knowledge and experience that his team put into it. Mr. Smith asked that the Board take the report under advisement, review it, and offer some changes to it. The final report is just for the Board to review at this time.

Mr. Smith stated that the Fresh Water District has asked him to share the results of this summit with a variety of groups, and he has attended meetings to present the results of the summit. Commissioner Giardina asked that Mr. Smith give a presentation to the Thibodaux Rotary Club, and Mr. Smith stated he would. Chairman Caffery asked for a list of some of the meetings he has attended so far.Commissioner Giardina suggested that the pictures of the hydrilla that Mr. Cancienne presented tonight be e-mailed to Mr. Smith to be included in the presentations he gives to various groups.

Chairman Caffery asked the Board to take the report and read it, and come back at our January meeting with any comments or changes. We will then offer this report to the public.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Robert Thibodaux to approve the Equal Employment Opportunity Policy effective January 1, 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Alma Robichaux, BTNEP, advised that she is asking for money from the District to help with the mail out for the "Bayou Lafourche cleanup" which will be held March 31st. The mail out will be in late January to bayouside residents and businesses. In the mail out, they will be announcing the cleanup, the homeowner sewer system classes from DHH, sending a survey about residents' use of Bayou Lafourche, including a pledge to protect the bayouside. She requested that the BLFWD include an overview of the summit report in the mail out, and Mr. Smith advised that he would prepare a summary to include in the mail out. Ms. Robichaux stated that they have 6500 addresses on the list.

Moved by Commissioner Robert Thibodaux, seconded by Commissioner Greg Nolan and unanimously approved to contribute \$5,000 to BTNEP to help cover the printing and postage cost for the mail out for the "Bayou Lafourche cleanup". A summit flyer will be included in the mail out. A cooperative endeavor agreement will be developed between the District and BTNEP for the contribution for the mail out.

Ms. Robichaux advised that they were approached to help with the replacement of the trees. They are proposing to do the whole project from start to finish by March 31st. They have the addresses and phone numbers of all the property owners. There are 27 properties that were affected and 220 trees. Chairman Caffery commented that they formed a committee for an oversight of the tree planting. Ms. Robichaux stated that they are estimating \$60,000 for the tree planting. A discussion was held regarding what type of trees will be used for the planting.

Ms. Robichaux stated that she understands that the trees will be planted on State property, and she was told no that the trees will be planted on the landowners property. Mr. Paddock stated that they did not get too far with that discussion with BTNEP. Ms. Robichaux stated that they will have to do site visits to figure out

where the best place would be to plant the trees. A lengthy discussion was held regarding how it will be handled as far as where the trees will be planted.

Joel Tillery, CH2MHill, gave a presentation on the rehabilitation of the Walter LeMann Pump Station. He advised that they have a draft report submitted to CPRA on November 30th, and gave a presentation to them with their recommendations. He showed a recap of eight different alternatives. The basics were replacing two pumps, purchasing a stand-by generator, and looking at adjustable speed drives to the pumps. Their recommendations are on what they think the facility can handle. They are not changing any of the piping. They have a limited budget through the CDBG grant of \$2.9 million.

Mr. Tillery stated that one alternative they recommended is in-kind replacement of the two pumps, and purchase of the stand-by generator which will fit within the budget. The second alternative they recommended is replacement of the two pumps and increase the size of the motors slightly to give a little more capacity, purchase of the stand-by generator, and the adjustable speed drives. Mr. Tillery advised that the sub alternatives are the Magna Drive, Adjustable Frequency Drive, and Eddy Current Drive pumps. Mr. Tim Harper advised that they have a complete report if the Board will like to review it, and they could answer any questions. Mr. Harper stated that Archie has a PDF of the report.

Commissioner Giardina advised that for 300 h.p. they could put an Allison engine in there for \$20,000, and get five different speeds. Commissioner Giardina stated that hydraulic drives have come a tremendously long way. Mr. Harper stated that they didn't look at hydraulic drives. Mr. Tillery advised that Magna Drive is the newer technology. Mr. Harper stated that they will do some research on those suggestions.

Chairman Caffery advised that the Terrebonne Parish Council passed a resolution to approve an election sometime in 2012 for their inclusion in the District. He stated that it would be to our betterment to renew our millage election. Chairman Caffery and Archie have been looking at alternatives for election dates. Chairman Caffery stated we will have to decide before the January meeting if we want to have an election in April.

Commissioner Giardina asked if anyone has low profile tugs, and Mr. Chaisson answered the only one he knows about was at Suard's. Commissioner Giardina asked Archie to try and find another tug to rent, and Archie answered he would check into it. Commissioner Giardina stated we could use two low profile tugs and get a small diameter anchor chain and pull through to rake the hydrilla off the bottom.

Moved by Commissioner Larry Dugas, seconded by Commissioner Greg Nolan and unanimously approved to change the January meeting date to Tuesday, January 17th due to the regular meeting falling on a holiday.

Moved by Commissioner Robert Thibodaux, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell and unanimously approved the meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Hugh F. Caffery, Chairman

Robert Thibodaux, Secretary/Treasurer