

June 18, 2012

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District was held on Monday, June 18, 2012 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
Robert Thibodaux, Secretary/Treasurer
Ron Animashaun
Larry Dugas
Jake Giardina
Greg Nolan

Absent: Dr. Darby Chiasson

Also present were: Tia Barbera, CPA, Waguespack & Gallagher; Bruno Deleo; Nick Porto
Jerry Waguespack; Stacy Sagona; Henry and Mattie Templet; Robert Mire
Archie Chaisson, Jr., Director; Jana Langley, Administrative Coordinator

Ms. Tia Barbera, CPA, reviewed the 2011 fiscal year-end audit report. Ms. Barbera advised that the audit was clean with the exception of a finding regarding the dredge project budget amendment due to the inconsistency in collections from the State on the dredge project. The collection of revenues is difficult due to the fact that the money that was supposed to be collected before year end was not.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell to accept the 2011 fiscal year-end audit presented by Ms. Tia Barbera, CPA. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Ron Animashaun, seconded by Commissioner Jake Giardina to dispense with the reading of the minutes, and approve the minutes of May 21, 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Chairman Hugh Caffery advised that Thursday we are supposed to get a report from the State on the eight or less properties that are going to be engineered and worked on. They have been monitoring those sites, and have not seen a lot of movement.

Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell advised that Kiley Spano talked to him today, and has seen some more dropping in the back of his house. Mr. Chaisson stated that he will be up that way tomorrow, and will take some pictures of the property.

Chairman Caffery reported that the we passed our Master Plan, and there have been presentations at the Ascension Parish council meeting, and the Assumption Parish Board meeting. There are a few more scheduled this week.

Chairman Caffery advised that we need to develop our Executive Director job description for carrying out that Master Plan. He asked the Board to participate in drafting the job description for the Executive Director to carry out the Master Plan. Chairman Caffery asked everyone to e-mail him their ideas, and he will put it together in a document.

Chairman Caffery stated that we will soon have a draft of the intergovernmental agreement.

Chairman Caffery advised that the Operations and Maintenance manual has not been reviewed yet. Chairman Caffery stated that he and Archie talked about getting Mr. Arthur DeFraités to look at

that manual in detail, and give us some feedback on what he thinks we ought to be responding to the State on.

Mr. Chaisson advised that the bids are out on the sectional barge, and hydraulic thruster unit. The bid opening will be on July 9th at 2:00 p.m. at the office. Commissioner Jake Giardina asked if we included in the bid something that asks for experience in this. Mr. Chaisson stated that we included in the bid packet that the lowest bid price will be determined by the lowest responsible bidder.

Mr. Chaisson stated that he will meet with Jared Serigne when the weather permits to shoot a video of the dredge work that was done.

BAYOU OPERATIONS REPORT:

CREWS: The harvesters are closing in on Labadieville and once they reach there, we will move them back to Thibodaux and start cutting at the weir. The tug has been working the area between Thibodaux and N Raceland cutting hydrilla, and busting lily jams at the bridges and in the bayou. When weather has permitted, one crew has been spraying herbicides on the lilies and paspalum from Thibodaux to the St. Thomas area in Assumption parish. We will have to make several passes to get the majority of the hyacinth under control.

EQUIPMENT STATUS: Trucks: all operational; Boats: all operational; Harvesters: both operational.
Misc. equip.: operational

PUMP STATION REPORT:

RIVER STAGE: Beginning May: 9.34; Ending Month: 6.91; Current Stage: 4.11

PUMP OPERATION: No. Days Siphon: 0; No. Days Pumping: 31

STATION MAINTENANCE: General maintenance, yard work

Moved by Commissioner Larry Dugas, seconded by Commissioner Robert Thibodaux to accept the finance report. Motion carried unanimously.

Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell asked if we heard anything on the two lawsuits, and Mr. Chaisson answered that Mr. Marionneaux did not need an executive session at this meeting because there were no changes on the lawsuits.

Commissioner Ron Animashaun asked about the status of the flies that were put out to help with the hydrilla. Mr. Chaisson stated that the guy will probably be back down here in a couple of weeks to take some samples. Mr. Chaisson stated that another guy, Dr. Gregory, planted some vallisneria plants, which are a native aquatic vegetation. It competes with the hydrilla.

Commissioner Robert Thibodaux asked what the cost will be to repair the properties, and Mr. Chaisson stated that we will not know until the State gets a final design. Chairman Caffery advised if the State doesn't have the money, they will have to get it from somewhere.

Chairman Caffery reported that Wildlife & Fisheries sprayed, and you can tell. Mr. Chaisson stated that Wildlife & Fisheries sprayed from Thibodaux south. The District has been spraying from the Tiger Bridge north, and we still have a bunch to go.

Mr. Chaisson advised that the harvesters are closing in on Labadieville. Once they get to Labadieville, we will pull them and change the blades. The tugboat is still cutting south of the weir.

Commissioner Ron Animashaun asked about the drainage meetings, and Mr. Chaisson stated that it is the Lafourche Basin Levee District that is handling that.

Moved by Commissioner Ron Animashaun, seconded by Commissioner Robert Thibodaux and unanimously approved to open the public hearing at 6:05 p.m. on the 2012 Bayou Lafourche Dredge Project Budget.

Mr. Chaisson reviewed the line items for the 2012 Bayou Lafourche Dredge Project Budget.

Chairman Caffery asked three times for any comments on the 2012 Dredge Project Budget, and there were no comments.

Moved by Commissioner Larry Dugas, seconded by Commissioner Robert Thibodaux and unanimously approved to close the public hearing at 6:07 p.m. on the 2012 Dredge Project Budget.

Moved by Commissioner Larry Dugas, seconded by Commissioner Robert Thibodaux and unanimously approved to adopt the 2012 Bayou Lafourche Dredge Project Budget.

Moved by Commissioner Larry Dugas, seconded by Commissioner Ron Animashaun and unanimously approved the meeting adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

Hugh Caffery, Chairman

Robert Thibodaux, Secretary/Treasurer