

September 18, 2017

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District was held on Monday, September 18, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. at the Water District office, 1016 St. Mary Street, Thibodaux, LA

Present were: Hugh Caffery, Chairman	Donald Schwab
Gene Harrell, Vice-Chairman	Scott LeBlanc
Greg Nolan, Secretary/Treasurer	Eli Miles, Jr.
Francis Richard	Chris Domangue
Ray Mayet	Lance Authement

Absent: Jake Giardina

Also present: Stevie Smith, All South Engineers; Alma Robichaux, BTNEP; Ryan Perque; FOBL; John Lafargue, FOBL Henry Templet; Hattie Templet; Josh Bordelon; Robert Mire; Nick Porto; Jerry Waguespack Barry Marionneaux, Attorney; Ben Malbrough, Executive Director; Jana Langley, Admin. Assistant

Moved by Commissioner Donald Schwab, seconded by Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr. to dispense with the reading of the minutes, and approve the minutes of August 28, 2017. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell, seconded by Commissioner Ray Mayet to approve the accounts payable for August. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Scott LeBlanc, seconded by Commissioner Francis Richard to approve the finance report for August. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Malbrough reported that he sent the pumping report to the Board, and everything is operating as normal. We are monitoring the bayou closely with grinding starting. Everything on the bayou is fine.

Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell asked Ben if he had a chance to look at the area where the sandbar is, and Ben answered yes, and stated that he will get a survey crew out there to figure out what is going on in that area.

Mr. Malbrough advised that the Pump Capacity Improvements Project, and the Water Control Structure Project is moving forward. He spoke to the engineers on the Water Control Structure project, and they will have an alternative analysis report to us by the next meeting.

Chairman Hugh Caffery asked if anybody would have a problem with moving next month's meeting to October 23rd, it was agreed to move the meeting to October 23rd.

Mr. Malbrough reported that they have the jurisdictional determination on the Permitting Phase 3 Project on all of the disposal locations, and the dredging within the bayou. It was put on hold because we do not want to get our permit too soon because it has an expiration date.

Mr. Malbrough advised that the public hearing on the proposed amendment to Ordinance No. 5 will be postponed until the next meeting on October 23rd. He stated that when Barry and he were working on the revisions to Ordinance No. 5 there was a lot of language in the ordinance relating to derelict vessels. They decided to pull the derelict vessels language out of Ordinance No. 5. We will have a public hearing on a new proposed Ordinance No. 7 as it relates to derelict vessels.

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Commissioner Lance Authement and unanimously approved to publish a notice for a public hearing to be held on October 23, 2017 to propose amendments to Ordinance No. 5 as it relates to permitting structures along Bayou Lafourche, and removing language relating to derelict vessels.

Moved by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell, seconded by Commissioner Scott LeBlanc and unanimously approved to publish a notice for a public hearing to be held on October 23, 2017 to propose new Ordinance No. 7 as it relates to derelict vessels.

Mr. Malbrough advised that he distributed to the Board a spreadsheet regarding employees pay increases. He stated that employees previously got a 4% pay increase for “successful” and “exceptional” performance ratings.

Mr. Malbrough recommended that the employees get a 2% Cost of Living (COL) increase. He also recommended that they also get either a 2% pay increase for a “successful” job performance rating, or a 4% pay increase for “exceptional” job performance rating. Mr. Malbrough advised that the pay increase does not include Josh or himself because his evaluation comes up in January, and Josh’s comes up in April.

Commissioner Francis Richard asked what the total employee benefits package is, and a discussion was held regarding the percentage the District contributes for employee health and retirement benefits.

Moved by Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Lance Authement and unanimously approved to grant employees a 2% Cost of Living (COL) increase. They will also get either a 2% pay increase for a “successful” job performance rating, or a 4% pay increase for “exceptional” job performance rating. The pay increases are effective October 1, 2017.

Mr. Ryan Perque, Executive Director of Friends of Bayou Lafourche, gave an update on the Friends of Bayou Lafourche as follows:

- Continuing to meet with elected officials and organization leaders to let them know he is here, and what Friends of Bayou Lafourche is doing. Also, letting them know about some of our prospective projects, and also informing them of what the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District is doing.
- Developed a membership program and are waiting on that documentation to come in that has been ordered. We will start sending that information out once received.
- Thanked Chris for reaching out and letting him know about the Rougarou Festival next month, and that he will be there to represent the Friends of Bayou Lafourche as well as Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District at that event. He asked the Board to let him know of any events that they think he needs to be present at to represent us.
- They have identified seven areas from Labadieville down to Valentine that they are currently evaluating to either build new access points, or improve upon what is already there.
- The Leighton launch west of here is one they are looking at hard. He had some preliminary discussions with multiple representatives of Lafourche Parish Government, City of Thibodaux, and adjacent property owners to talk about what we can potentially do to increase accessibility, and esthetics at that access.
- The Nicholls bayouside improvement project is their top priority right now. They are in discussions with Nicholls concerning the cooperative endeavor agreement with them. We have a meeting scheduled with the

administration on Friday. They were told verbally that despite the change in presidency at Nicholls, it still seems to be a promising project.

- The timeline is contingent on securing the cooperative endeavor agreement with Nicholls, and after that is done we will go into the project assessment phase. There will be a steering committee of Nicholls, Friends of Bayou Lafourche, Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District, and recreational leaders in the community to put together the project assessment which will take a month.
- Public participation will be key in how we form up that master plan, and that will take another month. It will be split it up into phases, and that will take about two months. Once the master plan is developed, along with the budgets for every phase, then we will then go out for funding from the public, foundations that we will submit grants for, and private partnerships that we hope to utilize for the funding of the Nicholls bayouside park.

Chairman Hugh Caffery thanked John Lafargue and board member Mr. Henry Templet because they have done a lot of work behind the scenes to try to make all these programs fit together and work. He stated that many of the other board members of Friends of Bayou Lafourche have been involved.

Chairman Hugh Caffery asked what are they thinking about doing at the Leighton launch, and Mr. Perque answered that it would be improving the access, potentially building a bulkhead on the side, and a floating dock to help with the non-motorized boat access. Mr. Perque stated that they met with the parish planner this morning and discussed a few remedies and options that we have there to eliminate potential dumping.

Chairman Hugh Caffery asked about the boat launch in Donaldsonville, and Mr. Malbrough answered that he got a call today from Moose Pearce, who is the west side coordinator for parish president Matassa. Mr. Pearce talked to both parish president Matassa and their attorney, and has instructed Ben to reach out directly to their legal advisor. Mr. Malbrough advised that he and Mr. Marionneaux talked about it, and they will set up a meeting in Gonzales to sit down and talk about working up the language to get that done.

Mr. Malbrough advised that Stevie Smith told him that the capital outlay Donaldsonville Drainage Improvements project permit applications will be ready to be submitted. Once those are done and we get permits in hand, the project will be ready to go to construction.

Mr. Malbrough stated that we purchased the American Legion building, and in front of the building is a brick pedestal that they had constructed with some plaques and a flag pole. We do not have any use for them, and the board agreed that they can take those plaques back.

Chairman Hugh Caffery asked for public comments, and there were none.

Moved by Commissioner Scott LeBlanc, seconded by Commissioner Francis Richard and unanimously approved the meeting adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Hugh Caffery, Chairman

Greg Nolan, Secretary/Treasurer

