MINUTES OF MEETING

TECHE-VERMILION FRESH WATER DISTRICT

March 25, 2025

 The Board of Commissioners met on the above date at the Teche-Vermilion Fresh Water District office located at 315 South College, Suite 110, Lafayette at 9:00 a.m. Member’s present were: Mr. Edward Sonnier, Mr. Tommy Thibodeaux, Mr. Keith Hensgens, and Mr. Donald Segura. Member Absent: Mr. Samuel Grimmett. In addition, present were: Mr. Donald Sagrera, Ms. Wendy Dupuis, Mr. Larry Carmer, PE, PLS, Mr. Alex Lopresto, Mr. Ivy Thibodeaux, Mrs. Jody White, Mrs. Kristy Thibodeaux, Dr Whitney Broussard, Mr. Corey Hulin, and Mr. Gene Sellers Jr.

 At this time the Public meeting, the Chairman called for any public comment regarding the Agenda. There was no comment.

Upon motion by Mr. Thibodeaux and seconded by Mr. Segura, the minutes of the previous meeting of February 25, 2025, were accepted and approved. Motion unanimously carried.

Larry Carmer with Sellers and Associates presented an update on the Loreauville Canal Navigable Control Structure stating the structure has been dewatered and has a few minor leaks. He will be reevaluating the condition of the steel on the structure, will be removing timbers and inspecting metal behind them.

Larry Carmer with Sellers and Associates presented an update on the Ruth Canal Structure stating they are preparing to a detailed survey of the hydro work as well as coordinating the geotechnical investigation.

Stephen Lea with Schneider Electric presented an update on the Electrical upgrade stating they received all as built drawings from E.P Breaux and Sync Automation, LLC and need to be reviewed and approved.

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Upon motion by Mr. Segura and seconded by Mr. Hensgens, the Board moved to approve Substantial completion once all displays are working, and all punch list items have been completed. Motion unanimously carried.

Dr Whitney Broussard presented an update on the Bayou Amy Water Quality Study stating he and Teche-Vermilion Fresh Water District staff met with a YSI representative who instructed everyone on the meters that will be used in the Study.

Upon motion by Mr. Thibodeaux and seconded by Mr. Segura, the financial statements for the period ending February 28, 2025, have been approved and accepted. Motion unanimously carried.

Upon motion by Mr. Hensgens and seconded by Mr. Segura, the Board moved to approve payment of all bills for March 2025. Motion unanimously carried.

Upon motion by Thibodeaux and seconded by Mr. Hensgens, the board approved Alex Lopresto and the Executive Director to collaborate on the deposition for the lawsuit with Mark “Tiger” Pharr. Motion unanimously carried.

The District did not pump in February 2025.

The Director’s Report is attached.

 Upon motion by Mr. Thibodeaux and seconded by Mr. Hensgens, no further business was brought forth, therefore, the meeting adjourned.

Director’s Report for March 2025

1. We attended the Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association’s Spring meeting in Washington D.C. on March 10 and 11th. We were able to meet with the Chief Counsel and Projects Director for Senator Kennedy and the Chief of Staff for Congressman Higgins. We updated them on the excellent condition of the federally funded project that our district agreed to operate and maintain once built. We assured them that the project accomplished all the goals and dreams that were expected when the project was built in the 1970’s. We informed them that the district has been able to live up to the agreements that were made with the federal government to fund all operation costs including major replacement and repairs. We informed them that we have adopted a storm preparation plan that has been modeled by the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Flood Center to ensure the district is taking maximum steps to address excessive water in the watershed before, during and after a predicted storm event. We informed them that we are leading a multiagency water quality monitoring program and have data that demonstrates the benefits of the project to the watershed and that during the warm months maximum flow is critical to maintaining acceptable water quality. We also informed them about the request for additional flow in Bayou Amy during times of low flow and of the water quality study that the district is funding to address the request. We let them know that additional pumping capacity and a larger structure would be needed to provide additional flow.
2. Water quality monitoring was conducted on March 5, 2025.
3. Rain before sampling- 1.75” at Krotz Springs, 2.8” at Lafayette Airport.
4. Drainage status- Corps Structures open to full capacity.
5. Pumps running- None
6. Parameters compared to the previous 8-years for March.
7. Water Temperature- 56-60 degrees Fahrenheit. 5-6 degrees Fahrenheit cooler, near the previous low, Atchafalaya River 9+ degrees cooler than water in the watershed.
8. Dissolved Oxygen- 5-8 mg/l this is about average for most sites. This content is favorable for aquatic life. The cool water temperatures are helping.
9. Salinity as indicated by conductivity is low for all sites in Bayou Teche and the Vermilion River. The USGS Gauges at Lake Fearman and Cypremort Point indicate that salinity is well below average but still higher than acceptable for irrigation use.

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1. Turbidity as indicated by Secchi disk readings is above average meaning that water is less clear.
2. Analysis results by Element Lab for Fecal Coliform indicate the following for the 24 samples which were collected:

 Number above secondary contact threshold - 4

Number within secondary contact threshold (but above primary contact) - 12

 Within primary contact threshold- 8

It is not unusual to find that fecal coliform counts for some samples are above the secondary contact threshold following rainfall that results in stormwater runoff being present in our waterbodies as was the case on sample date.

1. We were requested to give a tour of our project to a Cub Scout group on April 12. There will be an adult present for each scout.
2. The supervisors at the pump station informed me that the trash rake for pump #4 broke on one side and was hanging in the water. We will need to figure out how to reconnect it and inspect it to see if it can be repaired or if it needs to be replaced. We will inspect the other rakes at the same time.
3. Pumping Report- The Corps of Engineers closed the Bayou Courtableau Drainage Structure on March 14 and the Bayou Darbonne Drainage Structure was closed on March 17 because the upper part of the watershed was drained sufficiently. On March 19, the elevation of Bayou Courtableau above the drainage structure dropped below threshold so we began supplementing flow by starting one pump. We have been running 1-2 pumps since then to hold the elevation at threshold. We have pumped 7 days so far this year.