

May 16, 2011

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District was held on Monday, May 16, 2011 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  
Donald Arceneaux  
Dr. Darby Chiasson  
Larry Dugas

Absent: Jake Giardina

Also present were: Lee Showalter, CH2MHill; Shannon Haynes, OCPR  
Earl Paddock, OCPR; Clay Breaud, GSE Associates  
Alma Robichaux, BTNEP; Matt Ledet, T. Baker Smith  
Bruno Deleo; Nick Porto; Stacy Sagona; Jerry Waguespack  
Archie Chaisson, Jr., Director; Jana Langley, Admin. Coordinator

Lee Showalter, CH2MHill, gave a progress report on the dredge project:

- Reaches 1 & 2 – 100%; Reach 3 – 98.9%; Reach 4 – 93.9%; Reach 5 – 99%
- Reach 6-Total # of dredged yardage removed 8,025
- Total approximate # of dredged yardage removed -371,504
- Stump Removal – Reaches 1-6 Complete
- Relo/Demo – 30 of 40 planned structures - 95%. Remaining DP-1 and DP-36
- Contractor has been given “issues log” of items to complete in Reaches 1,2,3,4,5.
- Substantial dredging in Reach 4 and Reach 5 has been completed.
- Hydroseeding continues throughout project limits.
- Dredging operations continue in Reach 5 and have begun in Reach 6.
- Grubbing operations in Reach 6 are complete.
- Design of City of Donaldsonville sanitary sewer line relocation is complete and contractor is in process of receiving bids.

Mr. Showalter advised that the project schedule is 343 days complete with 317 days left as of May 16<sup>th</sup>. The project is 71% complete with 29% remaining.

Mr. Showalter showed some photos of encroachment within the bayou. He also showed a list of the amounts of rip rap placed to date in different areas. Chairman Caffery asked if this includes Café Lafourche and Mr. Showalter answered no.

Commissioner Robert Thibodaux asked if any work was done yet on the sewer line replacement. Mr. Showalter stated that they are waiting for the contractor to get his bids in.

Chairman Caffery asked if everything is okay with the Chevron Pipeline crossing and Mr. Showalter stated that he has not heard anything on that.

Chairman Caffery stated that the contractor was sent the letter advising them to order the mats for the project, and Mr. Showalter stated that the contractor has not responded regarding the mats.

Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell asked if we will be getting figures soon on the Café Lafourche repair. Mr. Showalter answered that they are in the process of getting that.

Chairman Caffery asked Mr. Showalter how many suspect areas they are monitoring for problems, and Mr. Showalter answered that he is looking at three areas. Chairman Caffery asked if they are taking survey shots and how often, and Mr. Showalter stated that they do that usually daily. Mr. Showalter stated that residents are talking to them as well.

Mr. Jerry Waguespack asked if they are going to knock the hill down behind his daughter's house, and Mr. Showalter answered yes that it will be knocked down.

Mr. Bruno Deleo asked what will happen when all the equipment leaves after the project is done and we get high water from a big rain. Mr. Deleo asked that if the bayou comes up about four feet and all at once it drops, who will be responsible if property starts caving in. Chairman Caffery answered that it would depend on that situation.

Commissioner Ron Animashaun asked Mr. Deleo about the electrical lines that are running underneath the bayou. Mr. Deleo stated that they looked at it and the lines are still there. Mr. Deleo stated that the switch is turned off and there is a piece of tape over it.

Moved by Commissioner Larry Dugas, seconded by Commissioner Dr. Darby Chiasson to dispense with the reading of the minutes, and approve the minutes of April 18, 2011. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Robert Thibodaux, seconded by Commissioner Ron Animashaun to approve the accounts payable for April. Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Caffery advised that a new committee was formed to look at the director's contract. The committee is Ron Animashaun, Gene Harrell, Jake Giardina and Hugh Caffery. The committee will meet sometime in June perhaps before the June meeting.

### **BAYOU OPERATIONS**

**Crews:** Harvesters are cutting between the LA 3185 and St John Bridges. Second crew is working with the tree removal on the Hwy 308 side in the vicinity of Greenwood Plantation .

**Equipment Status:** Trucks: all operational; Boats: all operational; Harvesters: both operational.

**Personnel Strength:** Present: 6; Annual: None; Sick: None

### **PUMP STATION**

**RIVER STAGE:** Beginning April: 25.15; Ending Month: 23.20; Current Stage: 29.82

**PUMP OPERATION:** No. Days Siphon: 30; No. Days Pumping: 0

**STATION MAINTENANCE:** Ordered and repaired 4-WD linkage on Dodge P/U. General maintenance, painting and yard work.

**PERSONNEL STRENGTH:** Annual: 0: Sick: One man –16hrs. & 14 hrs. –Accident/Incidents: 0

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Chaisson advised that he sent the Board a copy of the GSE report regarding the new pump station office building. Mr. Clay Breaud of GSE prepared a rough estimate which is basically \$353,000. We have \$300,000 in the budget for the pump station project. Chairman Caffery stated that he did not see a copy of that, and Mr. Chaisson gave him a copy. Mr. Chaisson stated he would like to recommend to the Board for approval is to have GSE do a formal set of plans and specs, and a refined construction estimate. Chairman Caffery asked Mr. Chaisson if he wants GSE to give us a more formal quote than this. Mr. Chaisson answered that he would like GSE to do a complete set for plans and specs which would be about \$30,000.

Chairman Caffery stated that the way he feels about it is he has not talked to Mr. Chaisson or discussed with anybody else about this big expense. Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell asked if we have to go through the Corps to get a permit, and Mr. Chaisson answered yes. Chairman Caffery asked if the space is needed for meetings and office space. Mr. Chaisson stated that the roof is beginning to leak.

Chairman Caffery advised that he would like to form a committee regarding the pump station office building. The committee will consist of Robert Thibodaux, Gene Harrell, Larry Dugas and himself. Chairman Caffery advised that he would ask Jake Giardina if he would like to serve on the committee.

Commissioner Larry Dugas asked if the tank at the pump station is in danger of high water. Mr. Chaisson showed a photo of the diesel tank and stated that they are saying the water level will crest at 33½ ft., and it would bring the level up just to the bottom of the tank.

Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell asked if we are experiencing any problems with the dolphins alarm system in the river, and Mr. Chaisson answered not yet.

Mr. Chaisson stated that he spoke to Wetlands Equipment and they are still working on the harvester design. Hopefully we will have something for the June meeting.

Mr. Chaisson advised that Nicholls is still working on the high/low water survey. He sent them a rough draft of a cooperative endeavor agreement. Chairman Caffery stated that Matt Ledet is here today and he is a graduate of that program. He asked Mr. Ledet if he knows Dr. Balaji and Mr. Ledet answered yes. A discussion was held regarding the legal aspects of the survey that Nicholls will do.

Mr. Chaisson advised that the Cancienne Canal connects directly to Lake Verret at Bayou Crab and the bayou crew checked the Cancienne Canal structure elevation. We have good easy access off of Hwy. 1 if we need to get to that area to put sandbags.

Mr. Chaisson stated that the West Theriot Canal gate structure has an upper elevation of about 8½ ft.

Mr. Chaisson advised that a letter was received from our attorney Mr. Bill Eroche regarding the August Bradford property dispute discovery pleadings that was filed in December 2008. Mr. Eroche stated in his letter that the law provides that a case which is not prosecuted for three years is automatically dismissed. The Bradford case would be dismissed automatically if no further pleading or conspicuous action is taken prior to December 9, 2011. Mr. Chaisson recommended letting it expire on its own, and the Board agreed to let it expire.

Moved by Commissioner Dr. Darby Chiasson, seconded by Commissioner Robert Thibodaux to approve the permit for Henry Punch, Jr., 114 Plaisance Street, Lockport, La. to install a private bulkhead and boat ramp on private property in Lockport. The project is located directly across from Mossy Oak Lane in Lockport. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Chaisson advised that the Board was sent a few days ago for review a revised draft of Ordinance No. 5 from Mr. Harold Block. Commissioner Robert Thibodaux questioned a section in the ordinance regarding publishing names of persons in violation of the ordinance in the legal notice section of the newspaper, and asked if that can be done. Mr. Chaisson stated that the names can be published. Mr. Chaisson asked the Board to review the ordinance over the next month, and it will be put on the agenda when the Board is ready to vote on the amendment.

Mr. Chaisson stated that we need to start considering again water usage from the bayou. He received a call from an engineering firm in Assumption Parish that is looking at using one million gallons plus of water per day from the bayou.

Mr. Chaisson advised that he spoke to Rep. Harrison briefly the other day and HB 474 will affect the district. The House Natural Resources and Environmental committee meeting is this Wednesday at 9:00 in Baton Rouge, and Mr. Chaisson stated that he will attend that meeting to see if it passes or not. He will give the Board an update on that.

Commissioner Donald Arceneaux asked what is the intent of HB 474. Mr. Chaisson stated that it will bring us in line with the other levee districts.

Moved by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell, seconded by Commissioner Ron Animashaun to approve the finance report. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Nick Porto asked if the high/low water marks will be available for the public to view. Chairman Caffery stated that the documents for the high/low water marks are only coordinates.

On motion by Commissioner Larry Dugas, seconded by Commissioner Dr. Darby Chiasson and unanimously approved the meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

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Hugh Caffery, Chairman

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Robert Thibodaux, Secretary/Treasurer

