

IBERIA PARISH LEVEE, HURRICANE, AND CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT REPORT

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DATE: Tuesday, March 15, 2011

TIME: Five-thirty (5:30) O'Clock P.M.

ATTENDANCE: Benson Langlinais, Ronald Hebert, Jr., James Landry, Scott Saunier, Frank Minvielle, William Patout, Ronnie Gonsoulin and James Stein.

ABSENT: Alfred 'Todd' Landry.

OTHERS: Representative Simone Champagne, Councilman Roger Duncan, Councilman M. Larry Richard, Marc Berard, Wayne Touchet and Vermillion Parish Officials, Jon Truixillo, Rickey Brouillette, Pat Landry, and Rick Dugas.

II. ACTIONS TO BE DISCUSSED

A. Election of Officers

(1) Chairman

A motion was made by Mr. Frank Minvielle, seconded by Mr. James Stein nominating Mr. Ronnie Gonsoulin as chairman for the following one year period.

The motion having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Benson Langlinais, Ronald Hebert, Jr., James Landry, Scott Saunier, Frank Minvielle, William Patout, Ronnie Gonsoulin and James Stein.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Alfred 'Todd' Landry.

And the motion was therefore passed on this 15<sup>th</sup> day of March 2011.

(2) Vice-Chairman

A motion was made by Mr. Frank Minvielle, seconded by Mr. James Stein nominating Mr. Alfred 'Todd' Landry as vice-chairman for the following one year period.

The motion having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Benson Langlinais, Ronald Hebert, Jr., James Landry, Scott Saunier, Frank Minvielle, William Patout, Ronnie Gonsoulin and James Stein.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Alfred 'Todd' Landry.

And the motion was therefore passed on this 15<sup>th</sup> day of March 2011.

B. Regular Meeting Dates/Times

A motion was made by Mr. Scott Saunier, seconded by Mr. Ronald Hebert, Jr., that the Boards regular meetings will be held on the second Thursday of every month at 6:00 p.m.

The motion having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Benson Langlinais, Ronald Hebert, Jr., James Landry, Scott Saunier, Frank Minvielle, William Patout, Ronnie Gonsoulin and James Stein.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Alfred 'Todd' Landry.

And the motion was therefore passed on this 15<sup>th</sup> day of March 2011.

Mr. Gonsoulin recognized Vermilion Parish Police Jury President Mr. Wayne Touchet and officials, who informed the Board that they are interested in working in conjunction with the Iberia Parish Levee, Hurricane and Conservation District to consider a regional District to include Iberia and Vermilion Parishes.

Mr. Gonsoulin questioned Representative Simone Champagne of the pros and cons of having Vermilion and Iberia Parish merged as a Regional Levee District. She stated that there are more pros than cons of being in the partnership, noting that the two have so much in common along the coast line. When acquiring funding, a regional effort is considered benefical. The two Parishes can be involved in one of two ways, as individual Districts entering into intergovernmental agreements with each other, or draft Legislation to create a combined Regional District.

It was also suggested that Subcommittees can be created with all the Parishes to work toward combination of efforts.

#### C. Creation Legislation

##### (1) Review of Members & Terms

Ms. Diane Phillips informed the members that a handout was given to them which lists all of the members contact information and term expiration dates.

It was questioned how many terms can a Commission member serve. State legislation will have to be reviewed on how many terms a member can serve. A legal opinion will be obtained.

##### (2) Selection of Official Domicile

A motion was made by Mr. Ben Langlinais, seconded by Mr. James Stein, that Iberia Parish, Louisiana, New Iberia be the Official Domicile of the Iberia Parish Levee, Hurricane, and Conservation District.

The motion having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Benson Langlinais, Ronald Hebert, Jr., James Landry, Scott Saunier, Frank Minvielle, William Patout, Ronnie Gonsoulin and James Stein.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Alfred 'Todd' Landry.

And the motion was therefore passed on this 15<sup>th</sup> day of March 2011.

(3) Discussion of proposed budget

Ms. Phillips explained that due to being a political subdivision of the State all minutes would need to be published. The Council would probably agree to pay through their budget. Ms. Phillips expressed that there will be several training sessions to attend, which require fees. She questioned the idea of requesting each agency to provide funding or solely approach the Iberia Parish Council for funding.

Mr. Gounsoulin questioned if funding can come from the Mosquito Control/Drainage Fund. Ms. Phillips stated that a legal opinion will need to be obtained regarding such funding sources.

Ms. Phillips noted that she will run a request by the legal department and then present to the Iberia Parish Council for consideration.

Mr. Marc Berard informed the Board on training activities, such as a conference at the end of every year in New Orleans for several days and additional seminars throughout the year. Mr. Berard noted that \$50,000 in funding for travel and office expenses would be just a starting point.

Mr. Berard reminded the Committee that from a technical standpoint an additional person than himself would be needed to perform District activities, whether it be the Chairman or someone on the Board. He pointed out that they may need to get grant writers to try to get grant funding, as well as, hiring consultants. The more money obtained, the better off the Board will be, allowing you to move forward.

Mr. Rick Dugas with the Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration of Lafayette informed the Committee that there will be a Levee Certification Course taking place in April in Baton Rouge at the Chase Towers on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor with no cost. It's incumbent upon the members to attend and be certified once every four years, with a certification good for five years.

Mr. Berard stated that there will also be a two day workshop on May 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> in Baton Rouge at the Crown Plaza, which will cover levee issues and operation maintenance. Ms. Phillips noted that she submitted an email to this organization requesting further information, which she will send out as soon as it is received.

Ms. Phillips suggested requesting \$50,000, as a starting point where a request can be made. This will give a dollar figure to present to the Council to start a budget, thereafter requesting a legal opinion on properly appropriating money. She also stated that she will further discuss publication fees with the Council.

(4) Discussion of clerical services

Ms. Phillips stated that the Iberia Parish Council will currently provide clerical services to take minutes, etc.

(5) Discussion of legal services

Ms. Phillips noted that she spoke with Mr. Eric Duplantis, Assistant District Attorney, regarding negotiations for the

Districts legal services. It was suggested that Mr. Ronnie Gonsoulin to meet with the District Attorneys Office prior to the next meeting to address details of legal services.

Mr. Rickey Broulliette, Mr. Pat Landry, and Mr. Rick Dugas, with the Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration addressed the Board. Mr. Broulliette stated that they are here to offer their support and answer any questions for the Board. His office interacts with Levee Districts across the state, at multiple levels.

#### D. Review of Engineer's Information

Mr. Berard provided an update to the Board on previous documentation provided. He stated that Mr. Ben Malbrough would try to attend the meeting to give an update on the four CIAP projects. He reminded the Board to particularly read the suggested items applying to Iberia Parish in the master plan book handed out prior. He noted that the book will be updated soon, but currently still has valuable information.

Mr. Berard gave updates from last year. He attended the Save Our Coast Conference in Baton Rouge for several days. He shared knowledge obtained where individuals gave summary reports and presented studies from all over the world. In the event he realized many studies were done for Iberia Parish that he hadn't known of their existence. Several flood protection studies and land lost studies have been completed for Iberia Parish through the education system which need to be obtained.

Mr. Jon Truxillo with the Office of Coastal Management came forward noting that in December of 2009 Parish President Ernest Freyou sent a letter stating that the Advisory Committee would like to be a part of the Coastal Zone Management Program, which issues permits. A letter in return was sent to Parish President Ernest Freyou on Jan 21, 2011 from Mr. Gregory Ducote. Mr. Truxillo offered his services as well as giving a presentation on the benefits of having a Local Coastal Program.

Mr. Berard stated that he would like to have Mr. Malbrough of The Shaw Group attend the next meeting to discuss developing plans, illustrating their capabilities.

Several members then further expressed their thoughts on the options and ideas of where and what they should pursue first.

#### III. OTHER BUSINESS

The Board discussed its next agenda. The following was suggested; (a) Budget issues, (b) Requesting an official from the District Attorney's Office present to discuss legal options, and (c) Inviting officials from The Shaw Group, Inc. to attend and discuss options to develop a Parish Plan.

Mr. Gonsoulin clarified that the next official meeting will be held on Thursday, April 14, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

#### IV. ADJOURN

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Ronald Hebert, Jr., seconded by Mr. William Patout, that the Iberia Parish Levee, Hurricane, and Conservation District Board members present does hereby adjourn.

All members present voted affirmatively and the motion carried unanimously.

I hereby the fore going to be exact and true:

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Ronnie Gonsoulin, Chairman