

**ATCHAFALAYA BASIN LEVEE DISTRICT**

P. O. Box 170

Port Allen, Louisiana 70767-0170

Phone (225) 387-2249

Fax (225) 387-4742

Port Allen, Louisiana

May 4, 2011

A Regular Board Meeting of the Board of Commissioners for the Atchafalaya Basin Levee District was held at the Office of the Board in Port Allen, Louisiana at 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, May 4, 2011. President John Grezaffi called the meeting to order. Mrs. Janice Jarreau called the roll. The following members were present:

COMMISSIONER PARISH

Glenn Angelle Iberia

Gerald Alexander Ascension

Bill Flynn West Baton Rouge

John Grezaffi Pointe Coupee

Daniel Hebert Iberville

Karen Jewell Iberville

Stephen Juge Pointe Coupee

Moise LeBlanc St. Martin

Gerald LeGrand St. Martin

Harry Marionneaux Iberville

Earl Matherne Assumption

Barry Soileau St. Landry

Absent:

Cory Chustz West Baton Rouge

Also Present:

INDIVIDUAL REPRESENTING

Bruce Guidry Levee Board Police Captain

Cecil Tessier Assistant Executive Director

Richard Sparks Levee Board Operations Supervisor

Kristy Marcantel Human Resources Analyst

Peggy McCutcheon Accounting Technician

Crissi Canezaro Administrative Coordinator

Tiffany Weber Administrative Coordinator

Janice Jarreau Administrative Program Manager

Will Tyson Executive Director

Phil Porto WBR Parish Council

Sean Macinnis KLFY TV 10

Larry Hayes USACE Lafayette

Rick Dugas OCPR

Aubrey St.Angelo Iberville Sheriff’s office

Kade Chisholm National Pump and Compress

Kinney Benoit USACE Lafayette

Edward LeBlanc USACE -Lafayette

Clark Carroll USACE Lafayette

Riley Berthelot WBRP President

Jason Manola Chief of Administration WBR

Deano Moran WBR GOHSEP

Amanda Weathers GOHSEP

Barry Wilkinson Greater BR Port

Joey Normand Brusly

Clint Seneca Port Commission

Jay Hardman Port Commission

Derick Lewis City of Port Allen Mayor

Johnny Blancard Iberville Parish Sheriff’s office

Melanie Bueche P.C. Parish Police Jury

Mike Cazes WBR Sheriff’s office

Bud Toress PC Parish Sheriff’s office

Rob Marionneaux Senator

CBS Channel 9 News Andre Moreau

The Advocate

\* \* \* \* \*

Commissioner Barry Soileau moved, seconded by Commissioner Glenn Angelle

and unanimously carried that the minutes of the April 6, 2011 board meeting be

adopted, and that they be published in the Official Journal of this Board.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mr. Will Tyson advised the board that we will need to reject the bids for the excavator which were recently opened, and bid at a later date. Commissioner Barry Soileau moved, seconded by Commissioner Moise LeBlanc and unanimously carried to officially reject the bids for the excavator.

\* \* \* \* \*

President John Grezaffi asked Mr. Tyson to update the commissioners and those present on the condition of the levees in reference to the current river stage. Mr. Tyson said we are currently in Flood Fight Stage 1, and will go to Stage 2 tomorrow. He said we are patrolling the levee to find sand boils and seepage, and we have crews filling sandbags. Mr. Tyson said he met with the EOC in New Orleans relative to the Mississippi River elevations. He said their projected flow line showed us in good shape. There are a couple of places where we will need to take some additional elevation shots. President Grezaffi asked the sheriffs for their assistance in filling sandbags using prisoner labor.

Commissioner Gerald Alexander said that Mr. Tony Berthelot from Ascension Parish brought up a question that needs to be addressed. He asked who they should contact with the levee district if there is a problem. Commissioner Alexander informed those present they should contact Mr. Richard Sparks on his cell phone.

President Grezaffi said we know the river will be near the top of the levee; and we have limited staff for patrolling. Sheriff Bud Torres of Pointe Coupee Parish said they will have two deputies patrolling 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They will keep all traffic off the levee, unless necessary. Other sheriffs present agreed to help patrol the levees in their parish as well.

At this time, we are trying to get as much information as possible. President Grezaffi said he had been with the Governor and the Colonel at the Morganza structure earlier today. They said the Bonnet Carre’ Spillway will be opened tomorrow. They are projecting a crest of 47.5 feet. They are doing some elevation shots; and we will use sandbags to strengthen those areas where needed. The Morganza Spillway will also be opened, and it should give us some relief.

Mr. Johnny Blanchard said he is adding patrols to the levees. Senator Rob Marionneaux addressed the group. He said he stands prepared to do whatever he can do to assist.

Commissioner Steve Juge advised the group that we ordered two sandbagging machines. One has been delivered and the other will be in this week. They should be a big help.

Mr. Joey Normand of Brusly asked if we have a current profile of the levees. President Grezaffi said the one we have is three years old, and we have an LSU Engineer who will be running a profile of the levees starting tomorrow.

A representative from the Port of Greater Baton Rouge offered equipment and trucks if needed. Mayor Derrick Lewis of Port Allen asked for clarification on the restriction of foot traffic on their levee.

Col. Ted Eilts of the Corps of Engineers reported the Mississippi River is now at 70% of capacity going to New Orleans. He said we are about to open the Bonnet Carre’ Spillway, and after the Morganza Spillway is opened, we will divert 70% down the Mississippi and 30% down the Atchafalaya. He reported the Red River Landing is at 65.5' and its previous high was 61.6'. He said the Corps’ predictions have been extremely good in the past.

The river should crest at the Red River Landing and Baton Rouge on May 23rd. We are currently at 54% capacity at the Old River Complex. It is just now going over 53' and will have 12 more feet on top of that. Baton Rouge flow is 68% of its capacity at this time.

Crest projections are made based on the calculations of the river to date, plus a 24 hour projection of what will occur based on rain fall. It is a moving number, based on actual data plus 24 hour projection.

Mr. Larry Ardoin of DOTD said when the Morganza Spillway is opened, it will cover the farm land, but it will be covered by flood insurance. The DOTD approach road will go under water tonight. The bridge will open tomorrow at 10:00 am. He said DOTD will be available to help the Levee Districts and the Corps. The Plaquemine Ferry will continue running for now. DOTD is preparing for possible road closings, and has stopped the foundation work repairs on Hwy. 90 just East of the River for now.

Mr. Tyson said he will direct our employees to work with sheriffs throughout the district. He said we have already taken action and will do everything possible to keep people safe.

Commissioner Gerald Alexander made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Harry Marionneaux and unanimously carried to authorize the President and Executive Director of the Levee Board to take whatever action necessary during this time of emergency without having to receive approval from the other board members.

President Grezaffi thanked those present for attending. He said he is confident this will be a collaborated effort. He said we will be sending out a letter to all landowners to remove all cattle from the levees.

Those present arranged to get all contact information for the Sheriffs and parish officials so that the appropriate person could be notified in case of an emergency.

\* \* \* \* \*

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of Commissioners for the Atchafalaya Basin Levee District was held on Wednesday April 13, 2011, at the Board Office in Port Allen, Louisiana. Chairman Steve Juge called the meeting to order. The following members were present:

Steve Juge, Chairman

Harry Marionneaux, 2nd Vice Chairman

Moise LeBlanc, Member

Barry Soileau, Member

Bill Flynn, Ex-Officio Chair

John Grezaffi, Ex-Officio Chair

Absent:

Daniel Hebert, 1st Vice Chairman

Also Present:

Commissioner Glenn Angelle

Commissioner Karen Jewell

Commissioner Gerald LeGrand

Commissioner Earl Matherne

Don Savoie, Simmons & Savoie Insurance

Janice Jarreau, Administrative Program Manager

Kristy Marcantel, Human Resource Analyst

Tiffany Weber, Administrative Coordinator

Crissi Canezaro, Administrative Coordinator

Peggy McCutcheon, Accounting Technician

Cecil Tessier, Assistant Executive Director

Richard Sparks, Levee Board Operations Supt.

William Tyson, Executive Director, Levee Board

1. Presentation by D. Savoie on Worker’s Compensation credit - Mr. Don Savoie

of Simmons and Savoie Insurance presented a worker’s compensation dividend

check in the amount of $15,568.00. He stated that LWCC is doing a good job.

He complimented the district’s staff for doing such a good job with timely

filing of claims.

2. Discuss health insurance for Open Enrollment - Mr. Tyson advised the committee

that after looking at all statistics, he would recommend continued coverage with Blue Cross for our health insurance. Commissioner John Grezaffi asked that we put a memo in our employees package to let them know that the savings we earned from the good work that they have done relative to workers compensation claims, has helped us offset the increases in health insurance coverage. A benefits comparison sheet was included for each Commissioner to review. The difference between Blue Cross and the newest insurance is approximately $14,953.00. Motion by Commissioner Soileau, seconded by

Commissioner Marionneaux and unanimously carried to continue coverage

with Blue Cross.

3. Discuss the Henderson Barn Facility - Commissioner LeGrand informed the

committee that Pat Huval asked if, instead of putting a fence all the way across

the south side of the Henderson Barn, that the fence be connected to the corner

of the building. This would allow the doors to be open, allowing better access

for our equipment. Commissioner LeGrand advised that he discussed this with our attorney, Steve Marionneaux, and he said there was no problem doing this.

Motion by Commissioner LeBlanc, seconded by Commissioner Soileau and

unanimously carried to allow Mr. Huval to connect the fence to the corner

of the building at the Henderson Barn.

4. Discuss the potential sale or lease of the Belle River Boat Landing - Commissioner

Matherne discussed the possibility of leasing or selling the Belle River Boat Landing.

Mr. Tyson said that in reviewing the numbers after the expansion that was done in 2000, he advised that he didn’t think this would be a good investment. If we lease it instead of selling the facility, we are still subject to the problems, because we would still own it. After a brief discussion, Commissioner Marionneaux moved, seconded by Commissioner LeBlanc and unanimously carried that this matter be tabled.

5. Discuss the division and potential sale of property in Pointe Coupee Parish. Also,

discuss sending a letter to DOTD and the P.C. Police Jury concerning drainage

problems with property - President Grezaffi requested that we send a letter to the

Pointe Coupee Police Jury and DOTD to request assistance with drainage problems

on the property we are proposing to sell in Pointe Coupee Parish. Commissioner

Angelle asked if we could put a minimum dollar amount per acre to sell. The committee agreed. The property has to be divided into three sections. President Grezaffi asked if we had to provide a right-of-way. Our attorney has stated previously that we do not have to provide access to a public road, but we should provide access between the three tracts. Commissioner Soileau suggested that we confer with the abstractor to decide on how to divide the property. Commissioner Marionneaux moved to sell the property in two tracts of 160 acres, with the remainder in the third tract. It was noted, we should wait until we see what the surveyor says before placing the property for sale. Motion by Commissioner Marionneaux, seconded by Commissioner LeBlanc, and unanimously carried to check with the abstractor to see how to divide the property at this time.

6. Discuss permanent status of J. Kelly, H. Noel, and C. Worley - Motion by Commissioner

Marionneaux, seconded by Commissioner Soileau and unanimously carried to grant

permanent status to Chad Worley in April and Jesse Kelley and Herbert Noel in June.

7. Discuss reallocation for J. Kelley and C. Worley - Motion by Commissioner Marionneaux, seconded by Commissioner LeBlanc and unanimously carried

to approve the reallocation of Jesse Kelley and Chad Worley from Mobile

Equipment Operator 1 to Mobile Equipment Operator 2 in June.

There being no further business to come before the committee, upon motion by Commissioner

Barry Soileau, and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/Steve Juge, Chairman /s/Harry Marionneaux, 2nd Vice Chairman

/s/Moise LeBlanc, Member /s/Barry Soileau, Member

/s/Bill Flynn, Ex-Officio Chairman

After review, upon motion by Commissioner Steve Juge, seconded by Commissioner Harry Marionneaux and unanimously carried the minutes of the Executive Committee meeting of April 13, 2011 were approved as presented.

\* \* \* \* \*

There being no further business to appear before the board, upon motion by Commissioner Karen Jewell and unanimously carried, the meeting adjourned.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Janice Jarreau, Secretary John Grezaffi, President

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Linda E. Alwood, Contract Stenographer