DRAFT

**PUBLIC MEETING**

**May 2, 2022**

The Board of Commissioners for the Lafourche Basin Levee District met this day in regular session at its official domicile at 21380 Highway 20 in Vacherie, Louisiana. The public was invited to attend via Teleconference and at the LBLD office in accordance with the Louisiana Governor’s Proclamation Number 17- JBE 2022 Renewal of State Emergency for COVID-19, Extension of Emergency Provisions, LBLD office will request all individuals to wear a face covering over the nose and mouth. You can refer to gov.louisiana.gov for guideline exceptions. The meeting was called to order by its President, Eric Matherne, at 6:00 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by President Eric Matherne.

The meeting opened with a prayer and the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Present: Commissioners… Craig Carter, Assumption Parish; Larry Sorapuru, St. John the Baptist Parish; Russell Loupe, St. Charles Parish; President Eric Matherne, St. Charles Parish; Michael McKinney, Sr., Ascension Parish; Arthur Bosworth IV, St. James Parish; Gary Watson, St. John the Baptist Parish; James P. Jasmin, St. James Parish; Jeffery Henry, Ascension Parish; Marlin Rogers, St. Charles Parish and Kevin Hebert, St. Charles Parish were present.

A quorum was present to conduct business.

Messrs. Spencer Long, Attorney; Donald Ray Henry, Executive Director; and Ms. Melanie Broden, Accounting Specialist, were present. Ivy Chauvin, Sr., Assistant Executive Director, was absent.

Commissioner Arthur Bosworth IV made the motion to adopt the agenda. There were no public comments. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Michael McKinney, Sr. President Matherne called for a roll call vote. Roll call vote thereon as follows:

YEAS:

* Michael McKinney, Sr.
* Arthur Bosworth IV
* Larry Sorapuru
* Russell Loupe
* Jeffery Henry
* Craig Carter
* James P. Jasmin
* Marlin Rogers
* Kevin Hebert
* Eric Matherne

NAYS: None

ABSENT:

* Gary Watson

ABSTAINED: None

By a roll call vote of 10 yeas, 0 nay, 1 absent and 0 abstained. The motion passed.

On motion of Commissioner Craig Carter, seconded by Vice-President Jeffery Henry, the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 6, 2022 be accepted and filed in the minutes of the Board. There were no public comments. President Matherne called for a roll call vote. Roll call vote thereon as follows:

YEAS:

* Michael McKinney, Sr.
* Arthur Bosworth IV
* Larry Sorapuru
* Russell Loupe
* Jeffery Henry
* Craig Carter
* James P. Jasmin
* Marlin Rogers
* Kevin Hebert
* Eric Matherne

NAYS: None

ABSENT:

* Gary Watson

ABSTAINED: None

By a roll call vote of 10 yeas, 0 nay, 1 absent and 0 abstained. The motion passed.

On motion of Commissioner Marlin Rogers, seconded by Commissioner Russell Loupe, the following cash available for distribution of the month of April 30, 2022 be accepted and filed in the minutes of the Board.

**FIRST AMERICAN BANK:**

**Checking account balance March $ 310,264.23**

**Deposits/Transfer In – April**

**Revenues/Refund 687,712.66**

**Interest on Checking 25.18**

**Funds transferred in 0.00 Operating Expenses/Other 405,247.73**

**Funds transferred out 0.00**

**TOTAL ACCOUNT BALANCE APR. 30, 2022 $ 592,754.34**

**LAMP**

**Account balance – March 5,499,991.58**

**Funds transferred in 123,996.10**

**Funds transferred out 0.00**

**Interest Income Earned 1,532.25**

**TOTAL ENDING BALANCE APR. 30, 2022 $ 5,625,519.93**

**INVESTMENTS: BNY**

**Discount Notes/T-Bills/Bonds 5,271,057.72**

**TOTAL CASH & INVESTMENTS AS OF APR. 30, 2022 $ 11,489,331.99**

No public comments were made. President Matherne called for a roll call vote. Roll call vote thereon as follows:

YEAS:

* Michael McKinney, Sr.
* Arthur Bosworth IV
* Larry Sorapuru
* Russell Loupe
* Jeffery Henry
* Craig Carter
* James P. Jasmin
* Marlin Rogers
* Kevin Hebert
* Eric Matherne

NAYS: None

ABSENT:

* Gary Watson

ABSTAINED: None

By a roll call vote of 10 yeas, 0 nay, 1 absent and 0 abstained. The motion passed.

There was no old business.

On motion of Commissioner James P. Jasmin, seconded by Commissioner Michael McKinney, Sr., the following resolution was proposed.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following millage(s) are hereby levied on the 2022 tax roll on all property subject to taxation by Lafourche Basin Levee District:

MILLAGE

Operation and Maintenance 3.88 mills

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper administrative officials of the Parishes of Ascension, Assumption, St. Charles, St. James and St. John the Baptist, State of Louisiana, be and they are hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to spread said taxes, as hereinabove set forth, upon the assessment roll of said Parish for the year 2022, and to make the collection of the taxes imposed for and on behalf of the taxing authority, according to law, and that the taxes herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject to taxation as herein set forth, and collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law.

There were no public comments. President Matherne called for a roll call vote. Roll call vote thereon as follows:

YEAS:

* Michael McKinney, Sr.
* Arthur Bosworth IV
* Larry Sorapuru
* Russell Loupe
* Jeffery Henry
* Craig Carter
* James P. Jasmin
* Marlin Rogers
* Kevin Hebert
* Eric Matherne

NAYS: None

ABSENT:

* Gary Watson

ABSTAINED: None

By a roll call vote of 10 yeas, 0 nay, 1 absent and 0 abstained. The motion passed.

On motion of Vice-President Jeffery Henry, seconded by Commissioner Larry Sorapuru, the following resolution was proposed.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners approve the Bright Minds Learning Academy, formerly known as Greater Grace Charter Academy, Inc., agreement with the Lafourche Basin Levee District to use our building as a safe refuge for the children and teachers of their academy in the case of a sudden emergency.

There were no public comments. President Matherne called for a roll call vote. Roll call vote thereon as follows:

YEAS:

* Michael McKinney, Sr.
* Arthur Bosworth IV
* Larry Sorapuru
* Russell Loupe
* Jeffery Henry
* Craig Carter
* James P. Jasmin
* Marlin Rogers
* Kevin Hebert
* Eric Matherne

NAYS: None

ABSENT:

* Gary Watson

ABSTAINED: None

By a roll call vote of 10 yeas, 0 nay, 1 absent and 0 abstained. The motion passed.

On motion of Commissioner Michael McKinney, Sr., seconded by Commissioner Arthur J. Bosworth, IV, the following resolution was proposed.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners approve the request from the US Corps of Engineers to conduct surveys, soil borings, hazardous, toxic and radiological waste, and environmental and cultural resources investigations in connection with the Mississippi River and Tributaries (MR&T), Lafourche Basin Levee District, Borrow Pits, ROE Surveys, Borings, HTRW, Environmental and Cultural Resources between levee B/L Sta. 2270+43.75 to B/L Sta. 2311+08.68.

There were no public comments. President Matherne called for a roll call vote. Roll call vote thereon as follows:

YEAS:

* Michael McKinney, Sr.
* Arthur Bosworth IV
* Larry Sorapuru
* Russell Loupe
* Jeffery Henry
* Craig Carter
* James P. Jasmin
* Marlin Rogers
* Kevin Hebert
* Eric Matherne

NAYS: None

ABSENT:

* Gary Watson

ABSTAINED: None

By a roll call vote of 10 yeas, 0 nay, 1 absent and 0 abstained. The motion passed.

On motion of Commissioner Arthur J. Bosworth, IV, seconded by Commissioner Michael McKinney, Sr., the following resolution was proposed.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners approve and authorize the Executive Director, Donald Henry, to execute the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the LA Department of the Treasury and the State of LA and the Lafourche Basin Levee District to secure the appropriation for the expenditure of State funds as specified in Act 119 of 2021 Regular Legislative Session of the LA Legislature, on behalf of LBLD.

There were no public comments. President Matherne called for a roll call vote. Roll call vote thereon as follows:

YEAS:

* Michael McKinney, Sr.
* Arthur Bosworth IV
* Larry Sorapuru
* Russell Loupe
* Jeffery Henry
* Craig Carter
* James P. Jasmin
* Marlin Rogers
* Kevin Hebert
* Eric Matherne

NAYS: None

ABSENT:

* Gary Watson

ABSTAINED: None

By a roll call vote of 10 yeas, 0 nay, 1 absent and 0 abstained. The motion passed.

On motion of Commissioner Marlin Rogers, seconded by Commissioner Kevin Hebert, the following resolution was proposed.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners approve an additional $25,000 per year increase for a total of $50,000 per year to the office of Ricky L. Babin, District Attorney, for services rendered.

There were no public comments. Commissioner Marlin Rogers spoke to the District Attorney about the new invoicing price. The District Attorney decided to drop the total price from $60,000 to $50,000. Commissioner Larry Sorapuru stated that he feels that the price should have stayed at the original request because of the work they perform. Executive Director, Donald Henry, stated that his position was that if Commissioner Rogers wanted to call the District Attorney, he was in his right to do so as a commissioner. Mr. Henry asked Commissioner Rogers when he made the call and received the documentation. Commissioner Rogers responded that it happened earlier today. Mr. Henry stated that was perfect because it wasn’t in enough time to place it on the agenda. Commissioner Rogers made a substitute motion to approve an additional $25,000 per year increase for a total of $50,000 per year to the office of Ricky L. Babin, District Attorney, for services rendered. Commissioner Kevin Hebert seconded his motion. Mr. Henry asked attorney, Spencer Long, if it was ok to vote on the substitute motion and make changes to the agenda. Mr. Long said it was ok. Commissioner Sorapuru stated he doesn’t like the professionalism of how this was handled and believes that Mr. Henry should have been informed. Commissioner Rogers stated he was told this item was discussed in Florida without everyone being informed. Mr. Henry denied that. He informed the Board that when he spoke with the District Attorney about replacing the Board’s attorney, the District Attorney mentioned that a salary increase would probably be submitted soon.

President Matherne called for a roll call vote. Roll call vote thereon as follows:

YEAS:

* Michael McKinney, Sr.
* Arthur Bosworth IV
* Russell Loupe
* Gary Watson
* Jeffery Henry
* Craig Carter
* Marlin Rogers
* Kevin Hebert
* Eric Matherne

NAYS:

* Larry Sorapuru
* James P. Jasmin

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None

By a roll call vote of 9 yeas, 2 nay, 0 absent and 0 abstained. The motion passed.

On motion of Commissioner Larry Sorapuru, seconded by Commissioner Craig Carter, the following resolution was proposed.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners approve the amended contract with CSRS, LLC to employ contractors, FTN and Stantek. The Total Not to Exceed fees shall increase by $500,000 to a new Total Not to Exceed Fee of $750,000.

There were no public comments. President Matherne called for a roll call vote. Roll call vote thereon as follows:

YEAS:

* Michael McKinney, Sr.
* Arthur J. Bosworth IV
* Larry Sorapuru
* Russell Loupe
* Gary Watson
* Jeffery Henry
* Craig Carter
* James P. Jasmin
* Marlin Rogers
* Eric Matherne

NAYS:

* Kevin Hebert

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None

By a roll call vote of 10 yeas, 1 nay, 0 absent and 0 abstained. The motion passed.

On motion of Commissioner Craig Carter, seconded by Commissioner Michael McKinney, Sr., the following resolution was proposed and unanimously approved.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners approve to renew insurance with Tommy Landry and Luke Landry with Arthur J. Gallagher.

There were no public comments. President Matherne called for a roll call vote. Roll call vote thereon as follows:

YEAS:

* Michael McKinney, Sr.
* Arthur J. Bosworth IV
* Larry Sorapuru
* Russell Loupe
* Gary Watson
* Jeffery Henry
* Craig Carter
* James P. Jasmin
* Marlin Rogers
* Kevin Hebert
* Eric Matherne

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None

By a roll call vote of 11 yeas, 0 nay, 0 absent and 0 abstained. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

On motion of Commissioner Arthur J. Bosworth IV, seconded by Commissioner James P. Jasmin, the following resolution was proposed and unanimously approved.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners approve the renewal of Wayne Theall’s, External Accountant, contract; contract terminates on May 31, 2022.

There were no public comments. President Matherne called for a roll call vote. Roll call vote thereon as follows:

YEAS:

* Michael McKinney, Sr.
* Arthur J. Bosworth IV
* Larry Sorapuru
* Russell Loupe
* Gary Watson
* Jeffery Henry
* Craig Carter
* James P. Jasmin
* Marlin Rogers
* Kevin Hebert
* Eric Matherne

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None

By a roll call vote of 11 yeas, 0 nay, 0 absent and 0 abstained. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

On motion of Commissioner Larry Sorapuru, seconded by Commissioner James P. Jasmin, the following resolution was proposed and unanimously approved.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners to hire an Administrative Assistant 2.

Mr. Donald Henry stated this position will train in all three areas on a daily basis learning all jobs. For example, if Ms. Melanie Broden retires, she can’t easily be replaced. This person will already have training to fill in the gap. All three secretaries do a great job helping each other out, but there’s barely enough time to train in other positions. Commissioner Rogers asked if Ms. Broden said she wanted to retire. Mr. Henry replied everyday for the past two years. Commissioner Hebert asked how the position will be advertised. Mr. Henry stated through the civil service website and newspapers. Commissioner Larry Sorapuru made the motion to hire an Administrative Assistant 2. Commissioner James P. Jasmin seconded his motion. There were no public comments. President Matherne called for a roll call vote. Roll call vote thereon as follows:

YEAS:

* Michael McKinney, Sr.
* Arthur Bosworth IV
* Larry Sorapuru
* Russell Loupe
* Gary Watson
* Jeffery Henry
* Craig Carter
* James P. Jasmin
* Marlin Rogers
* Kevin Hebert
* Eric Matherne

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None

By a roll call vote of 11 yeas, 0 nay, 0 absent and 0 abstained. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

On motion of Commissioner Arthur J. Bosworth IV, seconded by Commissioner Michael McKinney, Sr., the following resolution was proposed and unanimously approved.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners to purchase 3 John Deere FC15R Flex Wing mowers on state contract.

There were no public comments. President Matherne called for a roll call vote. Roll call vote thereon as follows:

YEAS:

* Michael McKinney, Sr.
* Arthur Bosworth IV
* Larry Sorapuru
* Russell Loupe
* Gary Watson
* Jeffery Henry
* Craig Carter
* James P. Jasmin
* Marlin Rogers
* Kevin Hebert
* Eric Matherne

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None

By a roll call vote of 11 yeas, 0 nay, 0 absent and 0 abstained. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

Mr. Elliot Boudreaux with CSRS, Inc. gave the highlights on the Upper Barataria Project. **Segment 2 – Sunset Levee**

* + Project is ready to begin bid process. CPRA to advise on bid process timeline and notice to proceed.
  + GIS has existing TO for bid process and construction administration. Notice to proceed from LBLD to be issued after CPRA approval.
* **Segment 3 – Bayou des Allemands Flood Gate**
  + Permitting (Greenup): Budget approved by LBLD board. Greenup drafting permitting scope
  + Flood Gate Design (GIS): GIS budget approved by LBLD board and Notice to Proceed has been issued for determining design criteria and 65% design submittal.

Capital Outlay Funds

* + Project manager has been assigned. LBLD coordinating Professional Services contract to secure funds.

USACE/CPRA MOA Discussions for UBRR

* + LBLD and design team to coordinate further with agencies while simultaneously progressing with further design measures

UBRR Segment 2-5B Final Phase

* + CPRA has requested further consideration for alternative alignments
  + CSRS/BKI developing SOW for conceptual alternative analysis
  + LBLD and St. Charles Parish met on 5/2 to discuss public input and stakeholder awareness.

Mr. Kyle Galloway also updated the Board.

Vice-President Jeffery Henry made a motion to adjourn and Commissioner Craig Carter seconded his motion.

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

PRESIDENT

AJ

05/09/2022