**REGULAR MEETING**

**DRAFT**

**July 1, 2020**

 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 per Proclamation 58-JBE-2020 and 59-JBE-2020 by Governor John Bel Edwards. By order of LA State Fire Marshal, H. “Butch” Browning, Jr., 44 is the maximum persons allowed due to the 50% capacity rule. Due to these circumstances, some persons may be turned away at the door. All in-person attendees will be required to wear a mask, observe social distancing and sanitize. The meeting was called to order by its President, James P. Jasmin, at 6:00 P.M.

 The meeting was called to order by President James P. Jasmin.

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

 A quorum was present to conduct business.

Messrs. Larry Buquoi, Attorney; Donald Ray Henry, Executive Director; Ivy Chauvin, Sr., Assistant Executive Director; along with Ms. Melanie Broden Accounting Specialist and Mrs. Astrea Jupiter, Administrative Assistant 5 were present.

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

 President James Jasmin introduced the two new Commissioners to be appointed to the Board, Arthur Bosworth IV and Larry Sorapuru.

 Adoption of the agenda was motioned by Commissioner Michael McKinney, Sr. and seconded by Commissioner Craig Carter. President Jasmin 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
* Eric Matherne
* Kevin Hebert
* James P. Jasmin

NAYS:

* Marlin Rogers

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None

By a roll call vote of 10 yeas, 1 nay, 0 absent and 0 abstained. The motion passed. During the roll call vote to adopt the agenda, Commissioner Marlin Rogers stated he voted no because there are things on the agenda that was not on the Committee Meeting agenda.5

 There were no Public comments in reference to agenda items.

 On motion of Vice-President Craig Carter, seconded by Commissioner Gary Watson, the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 3, 2020 be accepted and filed in the minutes of the Board.

President Jasmin 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
* Eric Matherne
* Marlin Rogers
* Kevin Hebert
* James P. Jasmin

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None

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

 On motion of Commissioner Jeffery Henry, seconded by Commissioner Michael McKinney, Sr., the following cash available for distribution of the month of June 30, 2020 be accepted and filed in the minutes of the Board.

**FIRST AMERICAN BANK:**

 **Checking account balance May 2020 $ 244,223.28**

 **Deposits/Transfer In – June**

**Revenues/Refund 79,825.75**

 **Interest on Checking 11.73**

 **Funds transferred in 141,750.77**

 **Operating Expenses/Other 322,666.14**

 **Funds transferred out 0.00**

 **TOTAL ACCOUNT BALANCE APR. 30, 2020 $ 143,145.39**

**LAMP**

 **Account balance – June 2,650,984.61**

 **Funds transferred in 1,615,000.00**

 **Funds transferred out 141,750.77**

 **Interest Income Earned 1,394.35**

 **TOTAL ENDING BALANCE MAY 31, 2020 $ 4,125,628.19**

**INVESTMENTS: BNY**

 **Discount Notes/T-Bills/Bonds 5,831,280.60**

**TOTAL CASH & INVESTMENTS AS OF APR. 30, 2020 $ 10,100,054.18**

 President Jasmin 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
* Eric Matherne
* Marlin Rogers
* Kevin Hebert
* James P. Jasmin

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None

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

On motion of Commissioner Marlin Rogers, seconded by Commissioner Eric Matherne, the following resolution was proposed and unanimously adopted .

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners the 30th Annual Independence Day Celebration on July 3, 2020 at the West Bank Bridge Park in Luling, LA, St. Charles Parish.

President Jasmin 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
* Eric Matherne
* Marlin Rogers
* Kevin Hebert
* James P. Jasmin

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None

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

On motion of Vice-President Craig Carter, seconded by Commissioner Gary Watson, the following resolution was proposed.

 BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners approve to purchase equipment (computers) for Levee District and Commissioners to utilize for teleconference and video conference meetings amid the Covid-19 state of emergency and all other Board related business.

 President Jasmin informed the Board that this item has been discussed before and one of the Commissioners asked to place it on the agenda again. Vice-President Craig Carter made the motion to approve the purchase. It was seconded by Commissioner Gary Watson. Commissioner Marlin Rogers commented that the Board did not pass this two months ago and that this is ridiculous. He stated that we are not video conferencing now amid Covid-19. We are here, right now, in person amid Covid-19. The computers are not needed, in his opinion and a waste of money. He asked President Jasmin how is this transparency, to get the agenda Tuesday afternoon. They were not shown decency or respected them enough to put all the items on this agenda on the Committee Meeting agenda. Commissioner Rogers stated that President Jasmin once said that the Board shouldn’t hash it out in front of everyone and should be done in Committee. Yet here we are, about to hash it out again. It’s wrong. Last minute, behind our backs…hahaha…we got them this time, because you have your two new posts now. The two votes that you needed. President Jasmin stated that he shouldn’t make that kind of open statement about having the votes now. That was implied. Commissioner Gary Watson stated that the way things are going, we may be going back to phase 1 for Covid-19. He also thought that the advice from the attorney, as he interpreted it, for the Commissioners to have use of Levee Board technology instead of using personal computers or emails, was a good idea. He feels that it’s time to move on with the times and for those that don’t want a computer, they shouldn’t get one. Commissioner Eric Matherne stated that if the Board will get laptops, then every Commissioner should get one. President Jasmin agreed. Commissioner Rogers asked if it was in the budget. Executive Director Donald Henry confirmed that it was. Commissioner Kevin Hebert welcomed the two new commissioners. He asked if they had been sworn in. It was confirmed that they have been. Commissioner Hebert stated that the Board receives emails once or twice a week. He does not understand the need for laptops, and if everyone gets one, he does not want it because he does not want to be responsible for it. He feels it’s a waste of money. He thinks they should draft a policy on the usage of the laptop, on personal usage or lack thereof. They need to make sure there is cyber insurance on the insurance policy. They should be for Levee Board business only. He is not sure why they need to spend $12,000 to $15,000 on laptops just to read emails. Commissioner Larry Sorapuru stated that technology is important in moving forward. Computers aren’t just for checking emails. There is so much information out there to access. There are free training classes out there that pertains to hurricane protection and other areas. When he was a council member, he had a phone and a computer issued to him and it still felt as if there wasn’t enough time. Commissioner Hebert agreed that yes that probably was a full-time position. But in his opinion, everyone should have their own. The Commissioners need to drive to the meetings, but that doesn’t mean the Board has to provide cars. Commissioner Sorapuru stated technology is necessary. If a major disaster happens, everyone should have access to cutting edge technology. Technology provides knowledge, and knowledge is power.

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

YAYS:

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

NAYS:

* Russell Loupe
* Marlin Rogers
* Kevin Hebert

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None

By a roll call vote of 8 yeas, 3 nays, 0 absent and 0 abstained. The motion passed.

President Jasmin asked Commissioner Hebert if can help Mr. Henry with the laptops to make sure everything is okay. Commissioner Hebert stated he did not have a problem with that.

On motion of Commissioner Jeffery Henry, seconded by Commissioner Gary Watson, the following resolution was proposed and unanimously adopted.

 BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners approve to purchase an engine for the 2012 Ford F-250 super cab, mileage 100,00. Repairs are to change engine at Coy’s for approximately $12,000.

 President Jasmin 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
* Eric Matherne
* Marlin Rogers
* Kevin Hebert
* James P. Jasmin

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None

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

On motion of Commissioner Jeffery Henry, seconded by Commissioner Gary Watson, the following resolution was proposed and unanimously adopted .

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners approve to purchase a boom mower and tractor on state contract (in budget).

President Jasmin 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
* Eric Matherne
* Marlin Rogers
* Kevin Hebert
* James P. Jasmin

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None

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

On motion of Commissioner Jeffery Henry, seconded by Commissioner Michael McKinney, Sr., the following resolution was proposed and unanimously adopted .

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners approve to advertise for bids for a new 2020 F-250 4x4 crew cab (in budget).

President Jasmin 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
* Eric Matherne
* Marlin Rogers
* Kevin Hebert
* James P. Jasmin

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners approve to change the monthly Board meetings, starting in the month of August, as follows:

Regular Board Meeting on the 1st Wednesday of the month

Finance Meeting on the 1st Monday following the Regular Meeting

Committee Meeting on the Wednesday of the same week as the Finance Meeting

Agenda item 13 asks for the Board to decide to leave the meeting days as is, Regular Meeting on the 1st Wednesday of the month, Finance Meeting on the 2nd Wednesday, and Committee on the 3rd Wednesday or to change it to Regular Board Meeting on the 1st Wednesday of the month, Finance Meeting on the 1st Monday following the Regular Meeting, and Committee Meeting on the Wednesday of the same week as the Finance Meeting. Commissioner Marlin Rogers made the motion to leave the meetings as is. Commissioner Eric Matherne seconded his motion. Vice-President Craig Carter made a second motion to change the meeting days. Commissioner Larry Sorapuru seconded his motion. Commissioner Matherne asked who requested this item for the agenda. Commissioner Jeffery Henry stated that he did. Commissioner Matherne asked what was wrong with the way things are now. Commissioner Henry stated he would like the rest of the month free for his family, just as others would like that as well. Commissioner Matherne wanted to know what would happen when other Commissioners couldn’t make the second meeting. Commissioner Henry stated that is what the laptops can be used for. Commissioner Rogers stated that this looks like it is trying to be a permanent change. He thinks that it should stay the way it is because that is how its always been. Commissioner Hebert asked if the Finance and Committee Meetings be put on the same night instead of two separate nights. He feels that would be best, and the meetings don’t take long, and the Commissioners will still have the rest of the month off. President Jasmin stated they are going by the choices on the agenda. Commissioner Matherne asked if he can make a motion to table it until they get more information. President Jasmin stated that there are two motions on the floor, one to keep the meetings as is and one to change the meetings. Attorney Larry Buquoi stated that there is a motion to table it as well. Commissioner Marlin Rogers seconded that motion to table it. Mr. Buquoi informed the Board that they have to vote on tabling the item first. If it does not pass, then vote on changing the meetings.

President Jasmin called for a roll call vote on tabling the item. Roll call vote thereon as follows:

YEAS:

* Russell Loupe
* Eric Matherne
* Marlin Rogers
* Kevin Hebert

NAYS:

* Michael McKinney, Sr.
* Arthur Bosworth IV
* Larry Sorapuru
* Gary Watson
* Jeffery Henry
* Craig Carter
* James P. Jasmin

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None

By a roll call vote of 4 yeas, 7 nays, 0 absent and 0 abstained. The motion failed.

 President Jasmin called for a roll call vote to change the meetings. Roll call vote thereon as follows:

YEAS:

* Michael McKinney, Sr.
* Arthur Bosworth IV
* Larry Sorapuru
* Gary Watson
* Jeffery Henry
* Craig Carter
* James P. Jasmin

NAYS:

* Russell Loupe
* Eric Matherne
* Marlin Rogers
* Kevin Hebert

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None

By a roll call vote of 7 yeas, 4 nays, 0 absent and 0 abstained. The motion passed.

Commissioner Matherne asked if there was a rule in the By-laws that said they would have to wait 30 days before changing the meetings. President Jasmin asked Mr. Buquoi to inform the Board of what the By-laws state for this item. Mr. Buquoi informed the Board that the Board of Commissioners shall hold a regular meeting, said meetings to be held at such time and place as may be designated by the President from time to time. It does not say you have to wait a designated time. President Jasmin stated that it would start on Monday for the Finance Meeting. Commissioner Matherne asked about letting the State know. President Jasmin confirmed. It was brought to the Board’s attention that the office will be closed Monday for the holiday. Commissioner Matherne stated it would make more sense to start in August. Commissioner Gary Watson made the motion that the Board meeting changes will go into effect starting in August. Commissioner Jeffery Henry seconded his motion.

President Jasmin 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
* Eric Matherne
* Marlin Rogers
* Kevin Hebert
* James P. Jasmin

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None

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

 On motion of Commissioner Gary Watson, seconded by Commissioner Michael McKinney, Sr., the following resolution was proposed and unanimously adopted .

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners approve the Board/staff to attend the Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association’s 39th Annual Fall Legislative Meeting on September 26-30, 2020 in Washington, DC.

President Jasmin informed the Board that this is the delegation trip the Board has been taking in the Fall. It is unsure of what the state of the union will be at the time of the trip, but they can vote on the item so that the Board can prepare, even though it will be played by ear. Commissioner Gary Watson made the motion to attend the Legislative meeting. Commissioner Michael McKinney, Sr. seconded his motion. Commissioner Rogers asked about the dates and why the Board leaves on a Saturday. Mr. Donald Henry informed him that it is usually cheaper to fly out on Saturday than Sunday. Commissioner Rogers asked if the Commissioners actually attended the meetings. President Jasmin informed him that the trip isn’t a holiday. Commissioner Hebert stated he doesn’t think anything is wrong with visiting the legislative. He asked what other meetings are there to attend? President Jasmin stated when he has gone, it was always to talk to the Congressmen and Senators. He is sorry that some Commissioners don’t understand that networking is a part of getting funds for their projects. Commissioner Hebert says he agrees and understands, but if they don’t actually attend the actual meeting then the agenda should read just visiting the legislative delegates. Commissioner Gary Watson made the motion to attend the Fall Legislative meeting. Commissioner Michael McKinney, Sr. seconded his motion.

President Jasmin 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
* Eric Matherne
* Marlin Rogers
* Kevin Hebert
* James P. Jasmin

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None

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

 On motion of Commissioner Michael McKinney, Sr., seconded by Commissioner Gary Watson, the following resolution was proposed.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners approve to amend the original employment contract of Donald Ray Henry, was approved by the Board on June 7, 2017 with an effective date of 7/1/2017 and as amended by the Board on September 4, 2019, from a seven (7) year contract for services to a contract for services that will terminate at the end of the present term of the Governor of the State of Louisiana.

Commissioner Rogers asked why are they doing this now. Why didn’t it go to Committee? President Jasmin informed the Board that he spoke with the attorney to take corrective action towards Mr. Donald Henry’s contract. President Jasmin asked Mr. Buquoi to explain. Mr. Buquoi stated that back in 2017, when Mr. Troy Brown was Senator, the Attorney General said that the contract was void because it had a greater term of the Governor. Commissioner Hebert stated that so now that there are four years left in the Governor’s term left, they say let’s amend this contract. we weren’t worried about it before, but it matters now. Yall are too much. Why is it happening tonight? President Jasmin asked for common courtesy to the attorney and let him finish talking. Commissioner Hebert stated common courtesy was not being shown to them by springing this on them the night before the meeting so why should they show common courtesy. Back to your old shenanigans. Mr. Buquoi stated one of the sentences at the end says that members of the Lafourche Basin Levee District serves at the pleasure of the Governor. Hence the governing authority of the District not enter into contract for a term beyond the term of Governor. That was the language from the Attorney General that made that contract void. When you change the term to the term of the Governor, the contract becomes valid. President Jasmin stated that when it came to his attention that the contract was not valid, he sought what to do to make it valid. Commissioner Hebert said that was a lie because it was know for three years. Commissioner Rogers stated that this should have been transparent and should have been discussed in the Committee Meeting without everyone here. Suppose the Board wanted to change some of the contract? If Mr. Henry signed an invalid contract, what does that mean? Mr. Buquoi stated that it’s not illegal, just voided. It has no effect, according to the Attorney General. Commissioner Hebert asked why is it being changed. Mr. Buquoi responded by saying to make it valid. Mr. Henry stated that he signed a contract that is legal. Commissioner Michael McKinney, Sr. made the motion to amend the contract. commissioner Gary Watson seconded his motion.

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

YEAS:

* Michael McKinney, Sr.
* Arthur Bosworth IV
* Larry Sorapuru
* Gary Watson
* Jeffery Henry
* Craig Carter
* James P. Jasmin

NAYS:

* Russell Loupe
* Eric Matherne
* Marlin Rogers
* Kevin Hebert

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None

By a roll call vote of 7 yeas, 4 nays, 0 absent and 0 abstained. The motion passed.

Commissioner Hebert stated he don’t understand how they expected the new commissioners to vote for this at their first meeting if they got their agendas at the same time as they did, unless they were coached, which is likely. How is it even fair to ask them to vote on this?

 On motion of Commissioner Gary Watson, seconded by Vice-President Craig Carter, the following resolution was proposed.

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners approve the recommended 4% merit performance salary increase for the Executive Director Donald Henry.

Commissioner Matherne stated that he thinks the Governor put a freeze on state employees’ raises. President Jasmin stated that in the last three years, all commissioners had a chance to evaluate the Executive Director. Every year since he been the Director, he passed the audit and performance evaluation. Everything has been in compliance. He thinks Mr. Henry is doing a good job and that everyone should consider giving him a 4% merit raise. Commissioner Gary Watson motioned to give the Executive Director a 4% merit raise. Vice-President Craig Carter seconded the motion.

Commissioner Rogers stated that every year since he been on the Board, the Levee Board passed its audit. Passing the audit is a good thing. What does it look like that he gets a raise and no one else does? Mr. Ivy Chauvin is usually on the same agenda for his raise. Again, it wasn’t discussed at the Committee meeting. Who put it on the agenda? President Jasmin stated he does not stop any commissioner from adding what they want to the agenda. Commissioner Rogers stated that there was a phone meeting that the Mr. Henry was late for. The engineers had to call him to remind him. Mr. Henry stated that he was working here in the office. There are 4-5 things going on with this Levee Board, and it slipped his mind because he was busy at the time. He was the person to set up the phone meeting, but just this one time that he was late. Commissioner Hebert stated that it has been discussed before about meetings Mr. Henry did not attend, or meetings President Jasmin didn’t attend. On December 2nd, Mr. Henry missed a CPRA meeting. Mr. Henry was seen going in Target instead. Mr. Henry disagreed with

Commissioner Hebert’s statement about being in Target. Mr. Henry stated he did not attend the meeting because Mr. Sreenivasulu Bollu had received a call from C.P.R.A. and stated that wanted to have a limited number of people attending the meeting. They had a preference. Mr. Michael Chopin asked Mr. Henry if he would allow himself and Mr. Bollu to attend, and he would brief Mr. Henry following the meeting. Mr. Henry agreed to his request. Commissioner Hebert stated that Mr. Henry is the Project Manager, he should be attending meetings.

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

YEAS:

* Michael McKinney, Sr.
* Arthur Bosworth IV
* Larry Sorapuru
* Gary Watson
* Jeffery Henry
* Craig Carter
* James P. Jasmin

NAYS:

* Russell Loupe
* Eric Matherne
* Marlin Rogers
* Kevin Hebert

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None

By a roll call vote of 7 yeas, 4 nays, 0 absent and 0 abstained. The motion passed.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners approve to allow the Executive Director, Donald Henry, to resume the Bayou Verret/Bayou Napoleon dredging with funding by the Lafourche Basin Levee District.

President Jasmin stated that the Board set aside money for this project. He spoke to the accountant, who confirmed the money was still there for usage. He is asking the commissioners to reconsider continuing the project. It’s not right to continue some projects and ignore others. Vice-President Craig Carter made the motion to continue the project. commissioner Michael McKinney seconded the motion.

Commissioner Matherne stated that he was fortunate enough to tour the area for the project. He definitely feels this project needs to get done, but he feels if we don’t clean the canal east of the bridge, then we are wasting our time. He thinks the project should get started clearing that section first. President Jasmin stated right now, nothing is getting done and he would like to see it get started. Commissioner Rogers stated that he still doesn’t understand why this didn’t go to Committee. He asked how much was put aside in the budget for this project. President Jasmin stated $435,000. Commissioner Rogers stated that if that is what is in the budget for this project, then no more than that should be used for the project. Commissioner Hebert asked about the money set aside for the project by the state. Mr. Henry stated that everyone thought the money could be used, but it would have been only directed to certain expenditures for the project. Commissioner Hebert asked again how is fair to the new commissioners to vote on this item. They have not been apprised of the project, unless someone behind the scenes is prepping them up. Commissioner Sorapuru stated that when Commissioner Stanley Folse was alive, they had numerous conversations pertaining to this project so he was already informed. Commissioner Matherne asked about the piece of equipment that was approved for this project. Mr. Chauvin explained that the epidemic slowed things down. It is built and they are waiting to come and mount it to the equipment.

President Jasmin 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
* Eric Matherne
* Marlin Rogers
* Kevin Hebert
* James P. Jasmin

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAINED: None

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

Mr. Henry Picard with BKI gave an update on the Upper Barataria Project. Field operations are still on hold and awaiting direction from CPRA. CPRA responded to the comments. Greenup Industries will prepare a response. BKI and GIS will provide information on the required ROW lines for Sunset Levee. Design of Segment 3 of the Barge Gate is essentially done. Team is on schedule to deliver preliminary plans mid-August. Letters were sent out to each parish president concerning the Watershed Initiative. Mr. Sam Scholle gave an update.

Commissioner Gary Watson made a motion to adjourn and Commissioner Michael McKinney, Sr. seconded his motion.

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 PRESIDENT

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07/07/2020