IBERIA PARISH LEVEE, HURRICANE,

AND CONSERVATION DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Tuesday, December 5, 2017

TIME: Twelve (12:00) O’Clock P. M.

PLACE: Iberia Parish Courthouse, Council Chambers

300 Iberia Street – 4th Floor, New Iberia, LA 70560

ATTENDANCE: James Stein, James Landry, Benson Langlinais, Roy Pontiff, Patrick Broussard, and Ronald Gonsoulin.

ABSENT: Scott Ransonet, Edwin Leblanc, and Lauren Brown.

OTHERS: Executive Director Ray Fremin, Jr., Troy Comeaux, Mike Pugh, and Ralph Libersat.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman James Stein called the meeting to order.

PRAYER AND PLEDGE

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

None.

PERSONS TO ADDRESS

None.

SPECIAL BUSINESS

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON BUSINESS TO BE DISCUSSED

 (Comments accepted from the general public)

A motion was made by Ronald Gonsoulin, seconded by Patrick Broussard, that the Iberia Parish Levee, Hurricane, and Conservation District does hereby recess its Special Session and convene into Public Hearing to receive public comments on business to be discussed.

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

YEAS: James Stein, James Landry, Benson Langlinais, Roy Pontiff, Patrick Broussard, and Ronald Gonsoulin.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Scott Ransonet, Edwin Leblanc, and Lauren Brown.

And the motion was therefore passed on this 5th day of December, 2017.

Upon hearing no comments, a motion was made by James Landry, seconded by Benson Langlinais, that the Iberia Parish Levee, Hurricane, and Conservation District does hereby recess its Public Hearing and reconvene into Special Session.

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

YEAS: James Stein, James Landry, Benson Langlinais, Roy Pontiff, Patrick Broussard, and Ronald Gonsoulin.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Scott Ransonet, Edwin Leblanc, and Lauren Brown.

And the motion was therefore passed on this 5th day of December, 2017.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

1. Balance

Executive Director Ray Fremin, Jr. provided a budget report ending November 2017, noting that 65% of the funds budgeted are left to be spent. He then stated that the current balance is $118,704.01.

Upon questioning, Mr. Fremin noted that he’s yet to receive funding from Parish Government for the month of November and that he hasn’t issued a bill for the month of December.

Mr. Fremin and members of the District discussed that no additional funds beyond December will be coming from Parish Government as nothing was budgeted for the District. Upon continued discussion, Mr. Fremin noted that there are sufficient funds to continue current operations which includes his employment up until the months of April or May, but advised that he is unsure what would be done in that time frame.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion and action as necessary on the Levee District’s future plans.

Chairman Stein opened the floor for discussion and advised that each member could voice their opinion on the future plans of the District.

Mr. Stein stated that he plans to resign from the board after all necessary business is complete. He pointed out that both previous elections failed, and that a Resolution will be proposed in order to inquire about the wishes of the Legislative Delegation regarding the future of the Board. He then pointed out that should the current members of the District resign; there could be other individuals with different ideas that wish to serve. He commented that he feels that the Board has exhausted all available options, and that it is heart breaking to see all this gained knowledge go away.

Mr. Patrick Broussard also stated that he would not like to see all gained information lost. He questioned if the Delcambre gate can be handed over to Twin Parish. Mr. Langlinais stated that he was unsure how the process would work, but that the Board could pass along the gained information.

Members of the District then discussed what would happen to the projects on hand and the funding received.

Mr. Roy Pontiff and Mr. Patrick Broussard also advised that they plan to resign from the Board upon completion of all necessary business.

In regards to a final audit, it was discussed that the Board would have to meet in order to accept the audit and to distribute the funds back to the originators. It was noted that should the current members of the Board resign, the Board could remain active as other individuals may decide to serve.

Should Mr. Fremin find employment elsewhere, Mr. Patrick Broussard requested that the Board consider hiring him as a consultant on a case by case basis until all necessary business is final. Mr. Pontiff advised that he is unsure if this would be possible.

Mr. Stein pointed out that the Legislative Delegation may have other ideas for the Board, but that he hadn’t received any calls from any of the delegates on the future of the Board.

Several members of the audience which included Ralph Libersat, Mike Pugh, and Troy Comeaux voiced their opinions and expressed their thoughts on the failure of the election and the future direction of the District.

Mr. Fremin reminded the members of the Board that the District needs to put together their final comments on the H & H Study to be submitted to CPRA.

Members of the District then discussed that they would not send a Resolution to the La. Legislative Delegation at this time.

A motion was made by Ronald Gonsoulin, seconded by Roy Pontiff, that the Iberia Parish Levee, Hurricane, and Conservation District does hereby expand the agenda in order to discuss the authorization of a final audit of the District.

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

YEAS: James Stein, James Landry, Benson Langlinais, Roy Pontiff, Patrick Broussard, and Ronald Gonsoulin.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Scott Ransonet, Edwin Leblanc, and Lauren Brown.

And the motion to expand was therefore passed on this 5th day of December, 2017.

A motion was made by Roy Pontiff, seconded by Ronald Gonsoulin, that the Iberia Parish Levee, Hurricane, and Conservation District does hereby adopt a Resolution authorizing the Executive Director of the District to have a final audit completed by March 1, 2017 if the auditors are able to complete the task by that time. And a method for returning any remaining funds to the contributing entities. Following the liquidation of the bank account the account will be closed. (Resolution No. 2017-18)

This Resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: James Stein, James Landry, Benson Langlinais, Roy Pontiff, Patrick Broussard, and Ronald Gonsoulin.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Scott Ransonet, Edwin Leblanc, and Lauren Brown.

And the Resolution was therefore passed on this 5th day of December, 2017.

CORRESPONDENCE

None.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

* Jan 4, 2017- Please note that this meeting will be to canvas the results of the November 18 election.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, a motion was made by Ronald Gonsoulin, seconded by Roy Pontiff, that the District does hereby adjourn.

All members present voted affirmatively and the motion carried unanimously.

I hereby certify the fore going to be exact and true:

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Ray Fremin, Jr., Executive Director

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