

February 16, 2023

An emergency public meeting of the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District was held on Thursday, February 16, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at the Water District office, 1016 St. Mary Street, Thibodaux, LA

Present were: Hugh Caffery, Chairman Greg Nolan, Secretary/Treasurer
Gene Harrell, Vice-Chairman Lance Authement
Ray Mayet Chris Domangue
Barry Soudelier Dale Dennis
Francis Richard Jake Giardina

Absent were: Scott LeBlanc

Also present were: Capt. Jake Stahl; Robert Mire
Josh Bordelon; Barry Marionneaux, Attorney
Ben Malbrough, Executive Director

Chairman Hugh Caffery began the meeting at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Caffery stated that public comments can be made at any time in the meeting prior to action on any agenda item upon which a vote is to be taken.

Moved by Secretary/Treasurer Greg Nolan, seconded by Commissioner Francis Richard to approve the minutes of January 23, 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Secretary/Treasurer Greg Nolan, seconded by Commissioner Dale Dennis to approve the accounts payable report. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Barry Soudelier, seconded by Commissioner Dale Dennis to approve the finance report for January 2023. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Malbrough reported normal operations at the pump station.

Mr. Malbrough reported that the Bayou operations are normal and “green machine” should be delivered by end of month.

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell to enter into executive session to discuss the hiring of a new Executive Director and any/all other relevant matters in connection therewith. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Francis Richard and unanimously approved to return to regular session.

Moved by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell, seconded by Commissioner Lance Authement to hire Dustin Rabalais as BLFWD Executive Director and to authorize and direct Chairman Hugh Caffery to meet with Dustin Rabalais to determine his start date with the District, his salary and benefits and all other matters relative to the position of Executive Director, including but not limited to said issues discussed and finalized in the executive session. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Malbrough reported the updates to the Pump Capacity Improvements Project (PCIP).

Mr. Malbrough gave an update on the Phase 3 Permitting.

Mr. Malbrough gave an update on the Melodia Boat Launch Project. Permit application is complete and submitted for processing.

Moved by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell, seconded by Commissioner Dale Dennis to add a discussion about accrued leave by Ben Malbrough to be compensated above the threshold stipulated in the approved Standard Operating Procedures and Employee Policies, not to exceed 417.824 hours of annual leave, to the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Commissioner Ray Mayet to approve a resolution to compensate Ben Malbrough above the threshold stipulated in the approved Standard Operating Procedures and Employee Policies, not to exceed 417.824 hours of annual leave Motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Hugh Caffery asked for any public comments. There were none.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Barry Soudelier to adjourn the meeting at 6:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Hugh Caffery, Chairman

Greg Nolan, Secretary/Treasurer