

May 16, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District was held on Monday, May 16, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. at the Water District office, 1016 St. Mary Street, Thibodaux, LA

Present were:	Hugh Caffery, Chairman	Ron Animashaun
	Gene Harrell, Vice-Chairman	Francis Richard
	Greg Nolan, Secretary/Treasurer	Ray Mayet
	Judge Jimmy Gaidry	Chris Domangue
	Jake Giardina	Donald Schwab

Absent: Eli Miles, Jr., Lance Authement

Also present: Dustin Rabalais, T. Baker Smith; Barry Marionneaux, Attorney; Ayad Taofik; Nick Porto Alma Robichaux, BTNEP; Shruti Saini, The Advent Group; Hattie Templet; Henry Templet Ben Malbrough, Executive Director; Jana Langley, Administrative Assistant

Moved by Commissioner Judge Jimmy Gaidry, seconded by Commissioner Jake Giardina to dispense with the reading of the minutes, and approve the minutes of April 18, 2016. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Francis Richard, seconded by Commissioner Ray Mayet to approve the accounts payable for April. Motion carried unanimously.

Moved by Commissioner Greg Nolan, seconded by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell to approve the finance report for April. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Ben Malbrough reported that he sent the Board a pumping summary, and advised that even though we are pumping more the bayou is still about a foot lower than it normally is due to the increased capacity from the dredging, the water reduced by the dredge, and Pump #4 is still in the process of being repaired.

Mr. Dustin Rabalais reported that the Phase 2 dredge project is on contract day 306, and there are 144 days remaining to complete Phase 2 and Phase 2a. He showed pictures of the various disposal sites and the status of each site. He advised that weather permitting Phase 2 should be complete in thirty days.

Mr. Rabalais advised that he is happy to say that Thursday he got the permit in hand for Phase 2a. The contractor mobilized in the equipment to build the containment Saturday evening. He was able to get with the last two landowners Friday night and they started Saturday morning. He showed pictures of the two disposal sites for Phase 2a.

Mr. Malbrough reported that bids were received on May 3<sup>rd</sup> for the Union Pacific Railroad bridge replacement. The bids were evaluated for a few days. The price came back at \$4.3 million which is less than our five million dollar estimate. We still have not received the construction agreement but were promised that we will have a draft form of the construction agreement for Barry and him to begin to look at while they finalize our agreement.

Mr. Malbrough advised that a change order was issued on the saltwater control structure project in amount of \$250,000 to make the modifications to utilize it as a weir structure. It added forty-two days to the schedule, and the new schedule completion date is August 8<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Malbrough advised that we have Amendment #4 to the T. Baker Smith professional services contract to add the Napoleonville pedestrian bridge replacement portion of Phase 2a. We had talked about modifying the pedestrian bridge in Napoleonville to allow us to get our equipment through there.

Moved by Commissioner Ron Animashaun, seconded by Commissioner Chris Domangue to approve Amendment #4 to the T. Baker Smith professional services contract in amount of \$60,000 for the design and construction administration for the Napoleonville pedestrian bridge of Phase 2a. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Malbrough stated that he attended the Lafourche Parish Council meeting, and spoke regarding our objection to the Coastal Use permit for the Dugas Canal project. Mr. Malbrough advised that at the council meeting he said that our commission voted to oppose the project on the grounds that 80% of the consumption of water that comes out of Bayou Lafourche used for potable water is done by the two water purification facilities that strongly oppose the project.

Commissioner Chris Domange asked what is the next steps regarding the Dugas Canal effort, and Mr. Malbrough answered the first thing is they want to fix the leaking of the structure from the bayou into the forty arpent now. The other major component is they want to look at the internal drainage in the Country Club. They believe that a lot of the culverts and basins over the years when they filled in the open ditches may have not been adequate size back then, and certainly not adequate size now. They will spend considerable time and effort identifying where those issues may be.

Commissioner Chris Domangue stated in the news they talked about water testing, and asked what they were trying to accomplish with that. Mr. Malbrough advised that there is a lot of concerns with not only the type of water that would physically be pumped into the bayou but the effects of that quantity of water being pumped in the bayou, and what it would do to the water quality. He advised that they asked to have the water tested in the drainage basin. Mr. Malbrough stated that even if they tested the water today in Dugas Canal the water quality will be much different than if we have a fifty year storm event, and the water is six feet higher than it is normally. They decided not to do the testing.

Chairman Caffery advised that Ben is being proactive, and responsive to all those who are asking about the Dugas Canal issues. It is not our responsibility for drainage but we want to be open with all we are responsible for, and use our authority only when needed and wisely. He commended Ben for doing that.

Chairman Hugh Caffery asked for a status report on the efforts on the Friends of Bayou Lafourche. Mr. Malbrough advised that since our last meeting the Board of the Friends of Bayou Lafourche adopted the by-laws, and formalized everything to send off to get 501c(3) status. They will hire a director to handle the day-to-day duties of the organization. He advised that Jeanne Murphy, Vice-President of the Board, is heading up the search committee.

Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell asked for the status of the sediment trap, and Mr. Malbrough answered that the contractor remobilized to the site and they are expecting to be there less than forty days. Once they mobilize out, we have a plan already to go out for prices to repair the boat launch.

Chairman Hugh Caffery asked for any public comments. Mr. Henry Templet said the weather is killing them regarding their rowing.

Mr. Ayad Taofik stated that they didn't get the Donaldsonville pump station project but at the time he had made an offer for the Board to visit some of the pump stations that they had constructed in the New Orleans area. He said the offer is still on the table if anyone would like to take a tour. Chairman Caffery asked which ones they constructed, and Mr. Taofik answered the pump station off I-10 and 610. Chairman Caffery thanks Mr. Taofik for his offer.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Ray Mayet and unanimously approved to go into executive session at 5:40 p.m.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Ray Mayet and unanimously approved to return to regular session.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Judge Jimmy Gaidry to hire Terra Con to go in and immediately start analyzing the compiled data of rainfall and water surface elevation to better determine what might be causing bankline concerns in the Phase 1 dredging project area, and to expend up to \$25,000.00.

Moved by Commissioner Jake Giardina, seconded by Commissioner Judge Jimmy Gaidry and unanimously approved the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

---

Hugh Caffery, Chairman

---

Greg Nolan, Secretary/Treasurer