

September 12, 2016

The regular monthly meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District was held on Monday, September 12, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. at the Water District office, 1016 St. Mary Street, Thibodaux, LA

Present were: Hugh Caffery, Chairman
Gene Harrell, Vice-Chairman Eli Miles, Jr.
Greg Nolan, Secretary/Treasurer Ray Mayet
Lance Authement Chris Domangue
Donald Schwab Francis Richard

Absent: Jake Giardina, Ron Animashaun, Judge Jimmy Gaidry

Also present: Dustin Rabalais, T. Baker Smith; Barry Marionneaux, Attorney; John Lafargue
Dan Grandal, Stantec; Joe Cancienne, Tetra Tech; Alma Robichaux, BTNEP
Jason Kennedy, Delta Coast; Nick Porto; Jerry Waguespack; Robert Mire
Ben Malbrough, Executive Director; Jana Langley, Administrative Assistant

Moved by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell, seconded by Commissioner Chris Domangue to dispense with the reading of the minutes, and approve the minutes of August 22, 2016. Motion carried unanimously.

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

Moved by Commissioner Greg Nolan, seconded by Commissioner Lance Authement to approve the finance report for August. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Malbrough reported that everything is moving along as normal. The work in Plattenville for the tornado response is complete. We are working with the North Lafourche Levee District to assist us in moving the mats and house them at their location. He advised that the pump station is operating as normal.

Mr. Malbrough advised that Robert Mire, bayou foreman, plans to retire after the first of the year. We will advertise for that position to bring someone on to give us time for that person to work with Robert.

Mr. Dustin Rabalais, T. Baker Smith, reported that the contractor requested substantial completion on August 26th. They had a project walk through on September 8th. The final punch list was delivered today. The will recommend to accept the substantial completion at the next meeting for Phase 2 and 2a. Mr. Rabalais advised that disposal sites 1-6 are complete, and there are a few punch list items for disposal sites 7-8.

Mr. Malbrough advised that he made a site visit last week to the Union Pacific Railroad bridge project. He is meeting Wednesday with the superintendent from San Antonio, Texas to get an update on the project cost.

Mr. Malbrough reported that the Saltwater Control Structure project is on schedule to be completed at the end of this month. He is meeting with Lafourche Parish Government tomorrow for a progress meeting. Mr. Malbrough advised that Lafourche Parish wants to do a ribbon cutting.

Mr. Malbrough advised that he sent to the Board a proposal from Stantec, who is a primary consultant for the Mississippi River Pumping Capacity Improvements project. The proposal for \$558,241.00 is to expand their contract to include field exploration tasks to be funded through the CIAP program.

Chairman Hugh Caffery asked that Dan Grandal with Stantec give a brief status of the work they have done so far, and what they expect to do with the expanded contract. Mr. Grandal advised that with the original authorization they did all the records research, reviewed all the reports and studies available, and summarized them in the report they submitted to Ben to review. They also did an inventory, met with the Sewage & Water Board, and met with the Corps of Engineers.

Mr. Grandal stated that the proposal they are submitting now is field work that has to be done. Mr. Grandal reported that they will do survey of the site and over the levee all the way to the bayou, and of the Mississippi River to figure out what the bottom looks like. They will do geotechnical work, borings, wetlands delineation, 3D model of the river, and a sedimentation analysis of the bayou when they put the extra flow into the bayou.

Moved by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell, seconded by Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr. and unanimously approved to amend the existing contract with Stantec for the Mississippi River Pumping Capacity Improvements Project to allow for the addition of \$558,241.00 to be funded through the CIAP program. The amendment to the contract will expand the scope of their contract to include the field exploration tasks, which will include survey, wetland delineation, water and sediment analysis, 3D model, and geotechnical work.

Mr. Malbrough advised that the bid opening for the Pedestrian Bridge was held on September 1, 2016 at 2:00 p.m., and six bids were received. The engineer's estimate was \$562,900.23. The apparent low bidder was Sea Level Construction at \$740,880.80 to demolish the existing bridge and replace it with a new bridge. Mr. Malbrough recommended awarding the contract, and advised that it will be funded through the CIAP program. Commissioner Chris Domangue asked why the bid was over the engineer's estimate, and Mr. Rabalais answered it was the amount of effort to demolish the bridge.

Moved by Commissioner Chris Domangue, seconded by Commissioner Francis Richard and unanimously approved to award the Pedestrian Bridge project to Sea Level Construction in the amount of \$740,880.80 to demolish and replace the pedestrian bridge in Assumption Parish, and will be funded through the CIAP program.

Mr. Malbrough recommended acceptance of the Sediment Trap Dredging Project. Moved by Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr., seconded by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell and unanimously approved to authorize acceptance of the Sediment Trap Dredging Project with the punch list items to be completed.

Mr. Malbrough advised that employees evaluations were completed, and recommended a four percent pay increase effective October 1, 2016.

Moved by Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr., seconded by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell to authorize a four percent pay increase for all employees effective October 1, 2016. Chairman Hugh Caffery asked for any discussion.

Commissioner Ray Mayet asked if the pay increase is based on a grading scale that determines the pay increase, and Mr. Malbrough answered that we have the liberty to do that now. A discussion was held regarding possibly developing a grading scale in the future for the pay increases. Commissioner Francis Richard stated that he would help Ben develop a comprehensive merit system.

Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr. amended the pay increase motion, and Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell seconded the motion to include that Ben Malbrough develop within the next few months for next year a comprehensive performance merit criteria for pay increases. The original and amended motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Malbrough advised that we are now coming close to hiring a director for Friends of Bayou Lafourche. We have it narrowed it down to two people. Originally, when we kicked this off we were trying to see what kind of commitment it would take from the Bayou Lafourche Fresh Water District to get it funded for the first year, and he feels we came up short on committing enough money for the non-salary overhead expenses for this person. We had originally approved up to \$6,000.00 per month from BLFWD and in order to get this kicked off and be successful, it looks like the commitment for the first year should be \$9,000.00 per month.

Mr. John Lafargue gave background information on the potential candidates that he felt would be an asset to the Friends of Bayou Lafourche organization. He stated that the potential candidate they are interested in grew up on the bayou, he is well recognized in the marketplace, and his references are extremely positive. His compensation would be higher than the other potential candidate. The second candidate is extremely qualified, and has a lot of administration but not quite the personality for sales approach.

Commissioner Donald Schwab asked if we were having an executive session to discuss more on the increase for Friends of Bayou Lafourche, and Mr. Barry Marionneaux the district's attorney answered no that this would have to be discussed in open session because it doesn't fall under executive session criteria.

Mr. Lafarge advised that the Friends of Bayou Lafourche would be able to take in donations so they would have another funding source for improvements on the bayou which the Fresh Water District cannot do as a public entity.

Chairman High Caffery stated that this would be a full time person, and we will give them a year commitment to this funding, and are expecting beyond that they will have raised enough money to pay for their own expenses.

Moved by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell, seconded by Commissioner Greg Nolan and unanimously approved to amend the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement to increase the funding for Friends of Bayou Lafourche expenses from \$6,000 per month to \$9,000 per month.

Mr. Malbrough reported that he sent information to the Board for the boat launch repair. Mr. Malbrough advised that the estimate to repair the boat launch would be between \$20,000 and \$30,000. Mr. Malbrough asked for approval not to exceed \$35,000.

Moved by Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr., seconded by Commissioner Ray Mayet and unanimously approved to authorize Ben Malbrough to obtain a cost to repair the boat launch in Donaldsonville not to exceed \$35,000. Chairman Hugh Caffery asked for any comments on the motion.

Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr. asked Ben Malbrough if the existing slab on the ramp is six or eight inches, and Mr. Malbrough answered that he would have to check. Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell asked if they are looking at changing the slope of how that ramp comes up and then it goes to the road. Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell stated that what happens is that when you drive up the boat launch and get to the top you drag your trailer bad if you are not very careful. Mr. Malbrough answered no they would not be adjusting anything because they would have to cut that whole section out.

Commissioner Eli Miles, Jr. stated that ramp is not right from the beginning. He advised that first of all that ramp should have never been flat and down because you will bottom out before. They should have taken off from the

street about five feet and go straight to the bottom. Chairman Hugh Caffery asked if there is a way to fix what we have, and Commissioner Eli Miles Jr., answered the only way to fix it is to take it out and replace it. He stated that there should never have been that sharp of a turn. It should have gone back twenty feet radius and angle out.

Chairman Hugh Caffery asked if we should spend \$30,000 to fix a bad boat launch, or should we look at what Mr. Eli Miles and Mr. Gene Harrell are talking about and maybe see what that might cost, and Mr. Malbrough answered that we could do that. Mr. Malbrough recommended to table the repair for now.

Moved by Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell, seconded by Commissioner Ray Mayet and unanimously approved to table the motion for the repair of the boat launch in Donaldsonville in order to see what it would cost to repair it correctly with the suggestions made by Commissioner Eli, Miles, Jr. and Vice-Chairman Gene Harrell.

Moved by Commissioner Donald Schwab, seconded by Commissioner Francis Richard and unanimously approved the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Hugh Caffery, Chairman

Greg Nolan, Secretary/Treasurer