

IBERIA PARISH LEVEE, HURRICANE, AND CONSERVATION  
DISTRICT REPORT

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DATE: Thursday, November 3, 2011

TIME: Six (6:00) O'Clock P.M.

ATTENDANCE: James Landry, Ronnie Gonsoulin, William Patout, Frank Minvielle, James Stein, Alfred "Todd" Landry, Ben Langlinais, and Ronald Hebert, Jr.

ABSENT: Scott Saunier.

OTHERS: Pat Landry - La. Office of Coastal Restoration and Protection, Oneil Malbrough and Glenn Ledet - Shaw Group, Jacques Cousin - Legal Counsel, Hilary Thibodeaux, Bill Hidalgo, and JP Hebert - St. Mary Levee District, and Laura Bentley - Iberia Parish Communications District.

I. ROLL CALL

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. William Patout, seconded by Mr. Frank Minvielle, that the minutes of the October 13, 2011 Iberia Parish Levee, Hurricane, and Conservation District be approved.

And the motion was therefore passed on this 3rd day of November 2011.

II. ACTIONS TO BE DISCUSSED

A. Association of Levee Boards Annual Conference

Chairman Gonsoulin stated that hotel rooms have been reserved for the 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting for the Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana, which includes two nights on December 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. This conference is being held at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside. Room cost and registration fee will be paid by the District for each member attending, but meals and mileage will be left for the individual to pay. Also, registration and hotel will be paid by the District for Mr. Marc Berard, District Engineer.

A motion was made by Mr. Alfred "Todd" Landry seconded by Mr. Ben Langlinais, authorizing payment for the cost of hotel rooms for Iberia Parish Levee, Hurricane, and Conservation District members attending the 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana.

And the motion was therefore passed on this 3rd day of November 2011.

B. State Capital Outlay Application

Chairman Gonsoulin stated that Capital Outlay requests are due by the November 1<sup>st</sup>. After discussion with several Board members a request of \$500,000 was agreed upon. Chairman Gonsoulin thanked our Legislative Delegation and Mr. Glenn Ledet for their help with this endeavor.

C. Louisiana Office of Coastal Restoration and Protection

Chairman Gonsoulin recognized Mr. Pat Landry in the audience in attendance for Mr. Rickey Brouillette. Mr. Gonsoulin stated that Mr. Brouillette has requested to be on the December agenda in regards to the State Master Plan and the District's future endeavors.

#### D. Engineering Plans for Proposed Levee

Mr. Oneil Malbrough stated that in order to develop a cost estimate, the District needs to determine the height of the levee for a 100 year height. He handed out a document with the levee alignment in connection with the new flood maps. He further discussed the levee alignment height and informed the District that Shaw Group would produce a cost estimate at a 100 year height, which gives the District the option to decide what they can afford. Next month Shaw Group will be able to provide more details on a cost estimate for the District.

Mr. Malbrough reminded the members that in Phase 2 of the project, two workshops are to be conducted, with one in the east and one in the west. He suggested to schedule both workshops before January, and noted that our Louisiana Legislative Delegation would like to be present. With further discussion it was agreed that the workshops would be moved to Phase 3.

#### E. St. Mary Levee District

Chairman Gonsoulin welcomed Mr. Hilary Thibodeaux, Mr. Bill Hidalgo, and Mr. JP Hebert with St. Mary Levee District. Mr. Thibodeaux presented an overall map of St. Mary Parish and their existing levees, etc. Mr. Thibodeaux further explained several endeavors that St. Mary has and is accomplishing. It was stated that St. Mary passed a 5 mill ad valorem tax in May of 2010 to be used for levee construction. Mr. Hidalgo stated that a month's worth of presentations were made to organizations, governmental bodies, and the School Board to gain the support of the citizens to pass this tax. The officials offered their participation in working with the Iberia Parish Levee District, as well as, tying their levee systems together.

#### F. Iberia Parish Emergency Preparedness Office

Ms. Laura Bentley provided an overview of emergency procedures in the event of hurricanes, etc. Ms. Bentley stated that the District can be provided with badges and/or re-entry cards to the cities for use during an emergency situation.

Ms. Bentley stated that they do not have any funding for additional radios, though the District can be set up within the Parish's communication system. It is recommended that the District can use 700 MHz radios which is currently in the system, each costing approximately \$2500 a piece.

#### G. Proposed cost estimates for the Delcambre and Port Canals.

Mr. Malbrough compared these two canals with other existing floodgates estimating that they would cost around \$35 million dollars.

#### H. Discuss possible revenue sources. (1) Ad Valorem Tax (2) Sales Tax

Chairman Gonsoulin stated that an informational sheet with

suggestions on taxes has been given to each member, provided by Mr. Jason Akers, Foley & Judell, LLP. Mr. Akers was unable to attend this meeting, but will be able to attend the next meeting. He stated that he has been in close contact with Mr. Akers on all possibilities of having a tax election, and that there is a time line on having an election. Mr. Stein commented that the District is not ready for a tax call by December 1<sup>st</sup>. Chairman Gonsoulin stated that the District should start the 'roadshow' and start promoting a tax for the next election. Mr. Stein stated that as a Board, first, they need to decide how much money the District wants to raise. It was then discussed that the District could possibly call their own election. Mr. Stein suggested finding out how much having an election would cost.

Mr. Bill Hidalgo suggested that the District ask for a 5 mill ad valorem tax. He noted that by making frequent presentations to the citizens of Iberia Parish, the tax could easily be approved. He commented that as a District, it primarily needs to get operating, allowing the District to have a budget, hiring a director, and obtaining an engineering firm to construct a master plan, etc. From there the District can grow towards projects and decipher its funding mechanisms at that time.

### III. OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. James Landry stated that there is a Coastal Wetlands, Protection, and Restoration Authority meeting on November 17<sup>th</sup> in Abbeville at 6 or 7 p.m.

Chairman Gonsoulin stated that the next meeting of the District will be held on Thursday, December 1, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.

### IV. ADJOURN

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Frank Minvielle, seconded by Mr. Ronnie Gonsoulin, that the District does hereby adjourn.

All members present voted affirmatively and the motion carried unanimously.

I hereby certify the foregoing to be exact and true:

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Ronnie Gonsoulin, Chairman