IBERIA PARISH LEVEE, HURRICANE,

AND CONSERVATION DISTRICT MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Thursday, April 5, 2018

TIME: Six (6:00) O’Clock P. M.

PLACE: Iberia Parish Courthouse, Council Chambers

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

ATTENDANCE: Benson Langlinais, Chairman;, Vice-Chairman; James Landry, Secretary/Treasurer; Ronald Gonsoulin , James Stein, Roy Pontiff.

ABSENT: Scott Ransonet, Lauren Brown, Edwin Leblanc

OTHERS: Executive Director Ray Fremin, Jr.,

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Benson Langlinais 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 Ronnie Gonsoulin, seconded by James Stein, 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, and Ronald Gonsoulin.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Scott Ransonet Edwin Leblanc, and Lauren Brown

And the motion was therefore passed on this 5th day of April, 2018.

Upon hearing no comments, a motion was made by Ronnie Gonsoulin, seconded by James Stein, that the Iberia Parish Levee, Hurricane, and Conservation District does hereby recess its Public Hearing and reconvene into Regular Session.

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

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

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Scott Ransonet Edwin Leblanc, and Lauren Brown

And the motion was therefore passed on this 5th day of April, 2018.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

1. All to be reported in item B under new business

OLD BUSINESS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Discuss and Consider a resolution changing the Article IV Section II of the bylaws with regard to board meetings. Proposed language to be taken out has a strike through new language is typed in italic, as follows:

Not less than ~~once each month~~ 4 times per year, the board shall hold a regular meeting, said meetings to be held at such time and place as may be designated by a simple majority of the board. Notice(s) of the time and place of the regular meetings may be made, in accordance with the Louisiana Revised Statutes, at the beginning of each year for the following twelve months but the location of the regular meeting may be changed to another convenient location as long as notice of the location change is provided to all board members at least 7 days in advance of such meeting.

A motion was made by James Landry, seconded by Ronald Gonsoulin, that the Iberia Parish Levee, Hurricane, and Conservation District does hereby adopt a resolution amending Article IV Section II of the bylaws with regard to board meetings. (Resolution No. 2018-06)

Not less than ~~once each month~~ 4 times per year, the board shall hold a regular meeting, said meetings to be held at such time and place as may be designated by a simple majority of the board. Notice(s) of the time and place of the regular meetings may be made, in accordance with the Louisiana Revised Statutes, at the beginning of each year for the following twelve months but the location of the regular meeting may be changed to another convenient location as long as notice of the location change is provided to all board members at least 7 days in advance of such meeting.

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

YEAS: Benson Langlinais, Chairman;, Vice-Chairman; James Landry, Ronald Gonsoulin , James Stein, Roy Pontiff.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Scott Ransonet Edwin Leblanc, and Lauren Brown

And the Resolution was therefore passed on this 5th day of April, 2018.

1. Discuss and Consider a Resolution approving the Financial report from CPA.

A motion was made by James Landry, seconded by Roy Pontiff, that the Iberia Parish Levee, Hurricane, and Conservation District does hereby adopt a Resolution approving the Financial report from CPA. (Resolution No. 2018-07)

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

YEAS: Benson Langlinais, Chairman;, Vice-Chairman; James Landry, Secretary/Treasurer; Ronald Gonsoulin , James Stein, Roy Pontiff.

NAYS: None.

ABSENT: Scott Ransonet Edwin Leblanc, and Lauren Brown

And the Resolution was therefore passed on this 5th day of April, 2018.

1. Discussion with the members of the appointing entities of the Levee District concerning direction for the future at the request of the district.

Discussion began with an explanation By Benson Langlinais of how the district is set up. Parish council members in attendance Paul Landry, Brian Napier, Parish President Larry Richard, due to a death in the family Mayor Freddie Decourt was unable to attend. No other appointing entities were present.

The board is asking for direction from these entities as they move into the future there is no money to operate and some resignations from the board are expected. And those members will need to be replaced by the appointing entities. So the board is asking for guidance as to where and how to move forward, there is a suggestion to disban but that is not possible because the board is legislatively created and would require legislative action to disban.

Paul Landry said that the people he heard from would like the board to remain in place as an advisory board and would not want to lose the knowledge that the board has with regards to coastal issues. And perhaps lead the parish to obtaining grants for coastal work. Perhaps meet only every quarter.

President Larry Richard asked if there were any discussions with the legislative delegation but no discussions have taken place although the board has reached out to the delegation by email but have not even received and acknowledgement from anyone in the delegation.

Brian Napier asked for futher explanation about what the responsibilities of the levee board are. James Stein answered with an historic overview of the development of the board and that the board had brought itself to a point where it was able to hire a director and put a good plan in place and place a funding issue on the ballot. The funding was overwhelmingly denied,but there is no clear reason why, was it the plan that was not excepted, or some other problem with the way it was developed.

During this time there was a multiparish drainage district that was brought together and although that is a good start, those parishes north of Iberia do not understand the implications of sending water to the south. But we had a voice at the table and now that is not the case. Without stopping managing the water at the coast.

We were started as an advisory board to the parish created by the parish council and through the work of the advisory board it was determined that in order to be able to accomplish what was needed for protection of the parish the board needed to be legislatively created and have jurisdictional boundries and so the legislature created this district.

CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

To Be Determined

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