

**REGULAR MEETING
May 3, 2023**

DRAFT

The Board of Commissioners for the Lafourche Basin Levee District met this day in regular session at its official domicile at 21380 Highway 20 in Vacherie, Louisiana. The public was invited to attend via Teleconference and at the LBLD office. The meeting was called to order by its President, Eric Matherne, at 6:00 P.M.

The meeting opened with a prayer and the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Present: Commissioners... Craig Carter, Assumption Parish; President Eric Matherne, St. Charles Parish Russell Loupe, St. Charles Parish; Larry Sorapuru, St. John the Baptist Parish; Arthur Bosworth IV, St. James Parish; Gary Watson, St. John the Baptist Parish; Michael McKinney, Sr., Ascension Parish; Commissioner James P. Jasmin, St. James Parish; Kevin Hebert, St. Charles Parish; Jeffery Henry, Ascension Parish were present. Marlin Rogers, St. Charles Parish, was absent.

A quorum was present to conduct business.

Messrs. Spencer Long, Attorney; Donald Ray Henry, Executive Director; Ms. Melanie Broden, Accounting Specialist; Mrs. Sara Long, Human Resource Specialist and Ms. Astrea Jupiter, Administrative Assistant 5 were present.

Commissioner Arthur J. Bosworth, IV made the motion to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Arthur J. Bosworth, IV. President Matherne called for a vote. The motion passed.

There were no public comments on the agenda items.

On motion of Commissioner Michael McKinney, Sr., seconded by Vice-President Jeffery Henry, the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 12, 2023 be accepted and filed in the minutes of the Board. The motion passed.

On motion of Commissioner Arthur J. Bosworth, IV, seconded by Commissioner Michael McKinney, Sr., the following cash available for distribution of the month of April 30, 2023 be accepted and filed in the minutes of the Board.

FIRST AMERICAN BANK:

Checking account balance Mar. 2023	\$ 1,073,471.71
Deposits/Transfer In – Apr.	
Revenues/Refund	136,434.05
Interest on Checking	29.93
Funds transferred in	1,000,000.00
Operating Expenses/Other	615,198.04
Funds transferred out	539,578.29
TOTAL ACCOUNT BALANCE APRIL. 30, 2023	\$ 1,055,159.36

LAMP

Account balance – Mar.	5,114,035.31
Funds transferred in	539,578.29
Funds transferred out	1,000,000.00
Interest Income Earned	21,274.49
TOTAL ENDING BALANCE April 30, 2023	\$ 4,674,888.09

INVESTMENTS: BNY

Discount Notes/T-Bills/Bonds	4,979,769.89
TOTAL CASH & INVESTMENTS AS OF APRIL 30, 2023	\$ 10,709,817.34

No public comments were made. The motion passed.

There was no old business to report.

On motion of Commissioner Arthur J. Bosworth, IV, seconded by Commissioner Michael McKinney, Sr., the following resolution was proposed and approved.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following millage is hereby levied on the 2023 tax roll on all property subject to taxation by Lafourche Basin Levee District.

MILLAGE

Operations and Maintenance	3.88 mills
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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the proper administrative officials of the Parishes of ASCENSION, ASSUMPTION, ST. CHARLES, ST. JAMES AND ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST, State of Louisiana, be and they are hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to spread said taxes, as hereinabove set forth, upon the assessment roll of said Parishes for the year 2023, and to make the collection of the taxes imposed for and on behalf of the taxing authority, according to law, and that the taxes herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject to taxation as herein set forth, and collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law.

Commissioner James P. Jasmin asked if the millage was the same as last year or if it was being rolled forward. Mr. Donald Henry, Executive Director, informed him that it was the same.

On motion of Commissioner Larry Sorapuru, seconded by Vice-President Jeffery Henry, the following resolution was proposed and approved.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners approve the proposal from BKI to advance the UBRRP Segment 4 plans to 65% final plans and prepare necessary permits associated with construction for the total of \$1,347,960 as discussed in the April Committee meeting.

President Matherne called for a roll call vote. Roll call vote thereon as follows:

YEAS:

- Michael McKinney, Sr.
- Arthur Bosworth IV
- Larry Sorapuru
- Russell Loupe
- Gary Watson
- Jeffery Henry
- Craig Carter
- James P. Jasmin
- Kevin Hebert
- Eric Matherne

NAYS: None

ABSENT:

- Marlin Rogers

ABSTAINED: None

By a roll call vote of 10 yeas, 0 nay, 1 absent and 0 abstained. The motion passed.

On motion of Commissioner James P. Jasmin, seconded by Commissioner Gary Watson, the following resolution was proposed and approved.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners approve GIS Engineering to re-bid the Sunset Levee lift and administer construction on behalf of Lafourche Basin Levee District for a total of \$93,995.

President Matherne called for a roll call vote. Roll call vote thereon as follows:

YEAS:

- Michael McKinney, Sr.
- Arthur Bosworth IV
- Larry Sorapuru
- Russell Loupe
- Gary Watson
- Jeffery Henry
- Craig Carter
- James P. Jasmin
- Kevin Hebert
- Eric Matherne

NAYS: None

ABSENT:

- Marlin Rogers

ABSTAINED: None

By a roll call vote of 10 yeas, 0 nay, 1 absent and 0 abstained. The motion passed.

On motion of Commissioner Russell Loupe, seconded by Commissioner Gary Watson, the following resolution was proposed and approved.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners approve Gulf South Engineering to perform slope stability analyses on raising the design from EL +7.5 to EL +8.0 on the Sunset Levee lift for the lump sum fee of \$42,000.

Commissioner Larry Sorapuru asked if the \$42,000 will be paid in a lump sum and if it is covering the same thing that was on agenda item #10. President Matherne answered that it doesn't cover agenda item #10. He stated that going from EL 7.5 to 8 costs. The analysis has to be redone for the slope.

President Matherne called for a roll call vote. Roll call vote thereon as follows:

YEAS:

- Michael McKinney, Sr.
- Arthur Bosworth IV
- Larry Sorapuru
- Russell Loupe
- Gary Watson
- Jeffery Henry
- Craig Carter
- James P. Jasmin
- Kevin Hebert
- Eric Matherne

NAYS: None

ABSENT:

- Marlin Rogers

ABSTAINED: None

By a roll call vote of 10 yeas, 0 nay, 1 absent and 0 abstained. The motion passed.

On motion of Vice-President Jeffery, seconded by Commissioner Arthur J. Bosworth, IV, the following resolution was proposed and approved.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners approve to purchase a new Scag Turf Tiger II 61" 4whp zero turn mower under state contract for a total of \$13,883 as discussed in the April Committee meeting.

President Matherne called for a vote. The motion passed.

On motion of Commissioner Arthur J. Bosworth, IV, seconded by Commissioner Michael McKinney, Sr., the following resolution was proposed and approved.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners approve to renew insurance with Tommy Landry and Luke Landry with Arthur J. Gallagher as discussed in the April Committee meeting.

Commissioner Kevin Hebert asked how the public is suppose to know the details on what they are voting on. He asked where's the price. Mr. Donald Henry stated that all supporting documents don't need to be verbatim.

President Matherne called for a vote. The motion passed.

On motion of Commissioner Michael McKinney, Sr., seconded by Commissioner Russell Loupe, the following resolution was proposed and approved.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners approve the renewal of Wayne Theall's, External Accountant, contract; contract terminates on May 31, 2023.

Commissioner James P. Jasmin asked Mr. Donald Henry to inform the accountant that they would like to see him in person more often at the meetings, especially when renewing his contract. Mr. Donald Henry stated that he will be at a meeting soon to discuss the budget adjustments for the new building.

President Matherne called for a vote. The motion passed.

On motion of Commissioner James P. Jasmin, seconded by Commissioner Arthur J. Bosworth, IV, the following resolution was proposed and approved.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners approve to move the dates of the May Finance to May 15, 2023 and the May Committee meeting to May 17, 2023 due to the LEPA Conference as discussed in the April Committee meeting.

President Matherne called for a vote. Commissioner Kevin Hebert voted nay.

The motion passed.

Mr. Stokka Brown, CSRS, Inc., gave the highlights on the Upper Barataria Project. He also stated that this was his first meeting in the new building and it definitely beats the warehouse.

Segment 2 Rebid Process

- **Starting at Tippy Pumpstation and working east until \$3.5M budget is expended approximately north of LA-306**
- **Increasing the Levee Lift to 8.0 EL**
- **Cooperative endeavor with St. Charles Parish to utilize boat ramp access over Canal Fourteen**

Rebid Updates

Next Steps

- **Civix continued LONO coordination for pipeline crossings**
- **Continued investigation of permitting impacts of increasing the levee embankment fill to 8.0 EL**
- **Enter into CEA with St. Charles Parish**
- **Review DDG construction documents for boat ramp access road**
- **Revise plans, specs, and bid documents**
 - **Board Approval to revise construction documents to increasing the levee embankment fill to 8.0 EL**
 - **Revised Geotechnical Data for increasing the levee lift to 8.0 EL**
 - **Develop bid package for both Segment 2 Lift and Boat Ramp**

Access Road

Schedule

- **1-2 Months to bid**

Segment 3 Floodgate

Progress Update

- **Met with CPRA and USACE Environmental Division regarding regulatory requirements**
 - **Identified issue of furthering phase development because gate height and width are not finalized**
 - **Will need to submit individual permit to regulatory who will coordinate with Civil Works for credit towards full project**
- **Performing Technical Review of the 65% design of structural and civil plans**
- **Collection of Task Orders related to review of GIS Civil Engineering and Design Amendment**

Next Steps

- **Revision of FTN cost estimate based on H&H modeling scope revision**
- **GIS to review and resolve technical review comments**
- **Gate Height and Width being finalized based on H&H modeling by USACE**

President Matherne informed Mr. Brown that they need to start having meetings again on the first Tuesday of the month before the regular meetings. Commissioner Hebert stated that he assumes our time line and the parish time line coincide. Mr. Brown stated that they are a bit ahead of us.

Mr. Donald Henry said that he wanted the public and Board to know that we are always in contact with the Corps and CPRA. We don't do anything without talking to them. We want to get credit for our work. We are not going to design a gate that is not in line with the Corps. He agrees with the President that we need to have more communication with the engineering team. As of yesterday, every dime and penny that we spent on design of the gate, we got it back. We need to use it before we lose it. We are not spending ad volarem but the money that our delegates have helped us get. Leaders have to make decisions and push through the nay sayers and negative talk. We have very qualified people working with us. We need to address the concerns and move forward. Let's lift the Sunset levee. Let's expedite agreements between the parish and the levee district to get it done. We have the money, and if we don't have it, we will go get it. We have \$2.6 million from facility planning, and they are saying spend it.

Mr. Oneil Malbrough, GIS, updated the board on the gate. Mr. Michael Chopin, BKI, also gave an update. Commissioner Sorapuru asked if the height and width of the gate a concern. Mr. Brown they are reanalyzing the height and width and are subject to change. Mr. Donald Henry stated that each agency has their own responsibility. As we move forward, we will respect one another to get the job done. Mr. Rodney Greenup, Greenup Industries and Ms. Jane Dufour gave an update. Mr. Brown followed up with his appreciation for everyone. He promised to do the job that they are hired to do.

Commissioner Gary Watson made a motion to adjourn and Vice-President Jeffery Henry seconded his motion.

PRESIDENT

05/15/2023