

REGULAR MEETING
October 4, 2023

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, James P. Jasmin, 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; Eric Matherne, St. Charles Parish; Arthur Bosworth IV, St. James Parish; Gary Watson, St. John the Baptist Parish; Marlin Rogers, St. Charles Parish; President James P. Jasmin, St. James Parish; Russell Loupe, St. Charles Parish; Jeffery Henry, Ascension Parish; Larry Sorapuru, St. John the Baptist Parish and Kevin Hebert, St. Charles Parish were present.

A quorum was present to conduct business.

Messrs. Donald Ray Henry, Executive Director; Ms. Melanie Broden, Accounting Specialist, Ms. Astrea Jupiter, Administrative Assistant, Mrs. Yolanda Brown, Administrative Assistant and Ms. Latasha Pelle, Administrative Assistant, were present. Mr. Spencer Long, Attorney, was absent.

Vice-President Arthur J. Bosworth, IV made the motion to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jeffery Henry. President Jasmin called for a vote. The motion passed.

There were no public comments on the agenda items.

On motion of Commissioner Gary Watson, seconded by Commissioner Craig Carter, the minutes of the Regular Meeting of September 6, 2023 be accepted and filed in the minutes of the Board. President Matherne called for a vote. The motion passed.

On motion of Vice-President Arthur J. Bosworth, IV, seconded by Commissioner Marlin Rogers, the following cash available for distribution of the month of August 31, 2023 be accepted and filed in the minutes of the Board.

FIRST AMERICAN BANK:

Checking account balance Aug. 2023	\$ 119,260.30
Deposits/Transfer In – Sept.	
Revenues/Refund	5,685.75
Interest on Checking	17.69
Funds transferred in	423,812.17
Operating Expenses/Other	459,113.92
Funds transferred out	0.00
TOTAL ACCOUNT BALANCE SEPTEMBER 30, 2023	\$ 89,661.99

LAMP

Account balance – Aug.	2,627,657.46
Funds transferred in	0.00
Funds transferred out	423,812.17
Interest Income Earned	10,267.77
TOTAL ENDING BALANCE SEPTEMBER 30, 2023	\$ 2,214,113.06
INVESTMENTS: BNY	
Discount Notes/T-Bills/Bonds	5,067,150.51
TOTAL CASH & INVESTMENTS AS OF SEPT. 30, 2023	\$ 7,370,925.56

No public comments were made. President Matherne called for a vote. The motion passed.

Commissioner Kevin Hebert is now present at the meeting.

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

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners approve the 2024 per diem rates, \$124.50 per meeting, which will start in October 2023.

Commissioner Marlin Rogers asked if this is regulated by the state. President Jasmin answered that yes, it is.

President Jasmin called for a vote. The motion passed.

Former President Eric Matherne exchanged the gavel to newly elected President, James P. Jasmin. President Jasmin thanked the Board for their support for the presidency.

On motion of Commissioner Eric Matherne, seconded by Commissioner Marlin Rogers, the following resolution was proposed and approved.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners approve the 2023 St. James Parish Christmas Bonfire Agreement.

President Jasmin called for a vote. The motion passed.

Senator Ed Price and Representative Ken Brass is now present for the meeting.

Mr. Stokka Brown, CSRS, Inc., gave the highlights on the Upper Barataria Project.

Segment 2 Sunset Levee Rebid

Progress Update

- **Bid advertisement and Opening has been completed**
 - **Received only one bid from the same contractor**
 - **Embankment unit cost was lower but still exceeded budget**
- **Scenic River Permit #1278 extension has been executed**

Next Steps

- **Bid evaluation and discussion, by LBLD, SCP, and CPRA**
- **Negotiate with Contractor for potential deductive change order**
- **Civix finalize extension of Wagner Rd access agreement**

Schedule

- **45 days from Bid Opening to Award Contract 11/17/2023**
- **Less than 60 days from Contract Award to Contract Execution
1/16/2024**
- **Less than 30 days from Contract Execution to Notice to Proceed
2/15/2024**

Commissioner Rogers asked what does the \$10 million cover for the submitted bid.

Close to \$5.5 million covered the levee lift and \$3.5 for CPRA GOHMESA funds. It is a little over than the last bid and also, the boat launch is included.

Segment 3 – Floodgate

Progress Update

- **FTN provided modeling scope amendment per design consultant and regulatory oversight comment to preliminary model presentation**
 - **Comments submitted and reviewed by CPRA**
- **BKI working on MEP 65% Design**
- **ENCOS performed flow and velocity survey to inform the FTN modeling effort**

Next Steps

- **Complete H&H modeling to inform Structural 95% and MEP 65% Designs**

- **Reverse Head design elevations**
- **Wave design loads**
- **Induced flooding evaluation**
- **BKI complete MEP 65% Design**
- **CPRA to review Structural 65% Design comment responses**
- **Structural 95% Design kickoff workshop to address critical 65% design comments**

Segment 4 – Floodgate to Hwy 90

Progress Update

- **Continued progress of Alternatives Analysis**
 - **Revisions to BKI H&H model for existing and proposed conditions**
 - **Greenup Industries executed scope amendment**
 - **Includes pipeline survey and geotextile fabric in the design at elevation +8.0**

Next Steps

- **Finalize model setup**
- **Complete alternatives analysis**
- **Provide CPRA results and identify path forward**

UBRR USACE Status Update

Progress Update

- **Currently working on 10% Design**

- **Reduction of PED scope to design only Reach G east consisting of access road, bridge, and 8000 feet of Levee**

Next Steps

- **Data collection**
- **Begin Risk Assessment and Value Engineering Study**
- **35% Design**

Schedule

- **10% Design – April 2024**
- **35% Design – May 2024**
- **65% Design – Dec 2024**
- **95% Design – Jul 2025**
- **100% Design – Sep 2025**

Commissioner Matherne asked if they found more money. Mr. Brown stated that they will be discussing it with the Corps. President Jasmin said that for whatever reason we keep running into stumbling blocks. It seems we are spending money but getting no results. Hopefully when you come back, we can have answers on protecting homes and investments. Commissioner Eric Matherne made the motion to table the decision about approving or not approving the Sunset Levee Bid until the October 11th Committee Meeting. Commissioner Marlin Rogers seconded the motion. President Jasmin called for a vote. The motion passed.

Ms. Sarah Olivier, CSRS, did an update on the master plan.

STRATEGIC PLANNING PROGRESS

REVIEW

Through the Strategic Master Plan, LBLD will position itself as a regional leader, allowing LBLD to meet and take advantage of new opportunities and anticipate and plan for emerging challenges.

Task 1: Stakeholder Workshops to define vision and context of LBLD

- A. Internal Stakeholder Workshop to identify and prioritize key objectives and mission of the LBLD. Completed 2021.**
- B. External Stakeholder Workshops to understand Local and Regional context**

Task 2: Strategic Planning and Comprehensive Visioning

- A. Strategic Planning: Reviewing relevant plans, data, historical documents, and other files to frame Plan content.**
- B. Comprehensive Visioning: Based on stakeholder input and the strategic planning detailed above, a gap analysis will be created to prioritize future initiatives.**
- C. Comparison Exercise: CSRS will evaluate revenue best practices from similar entities and provide a matrix comparison report and recommendations.**

Scope of Activities for Levee Boards per:

Louisiana Revised Statutes, TITLE 38

§ 325. Scope of activities

A. Levee boards *shall* engage in any activities related directly to:

- (1) Flood protection.**
- (2) Construction and maintenance of levees.**

(3) Construction of recreational facilities which are located on or immediately adjacent to levees, except the Orleans Levee District shall not be limited to the construction of recreational facilities located on or immediately adjacent to levees.

(4) Maintaining, updating, renovating, or modernizing existing recreational and other facilities owned by the district.

(5) Cooperative activities with other public bodies for public purposes.

External Stakeholder Workshops

- ☐ **Engage the community and understand Local and Regional context of the goals and outcomes identified by the Internal stakeholders and listen to concerns to address in Strategic Master Plan.**
- ☐ **Decision made to schedule one on one meetings with Parish officials for better feedback**

Status update:

- ☐ **St. Charles Parish- July 26th**
- ☐ **St. James - September 13th**
- ☐ **Ascension – October 2nd**
- ☐ **St John the Baptist – October 2nd**

Feedback so far

- ☐ **Structure Strategic Master Plan around the primary duty of protection.**

- ☐ **Work in partnership to identify funding opportunities for any co-benefits allowed by future flood reduction projects.**
- ☐ **Leverage LADOTD funds for trails and paths**
- ☐ **Create amenities/facilities to connect visitors traveling by river to cultural attractions in parishes**

Comments re-enforce need for Strategic Master Plan, specifically the need to:

- ☐ **Identify projects underway and planned in each Parish, determine project anticipated operating costs, timing, and additional operational concerns as it affects the LBLD budget.**
- ☐ **Create a framework to prioritize flood reduction projects, with on-going input from stakeholders.**
- ☐ **Examination of underway and planned flood reduction projects to identify co-beneficial uses that can connect communities to each other and the natural world.**

Why we need to hear from Stakeholders

For the Strategic Master Plan to succeed and guide the future, we need to:

- **Identify projects underway and planned in each Parish, determine project anticipated operating costs, timing, and additional operational concerns as it affects the LBLD budget.**
- **Create a framework to prioritize flood reduction projects, with on-going input from stakeholders**

- **Examine underway and planned flood reduction projects to identify co-beneficial uses that can connect communities to each other and the natural world.**

Commissioner Kevin Hebert stated that we had one internal stakeholder meeting in 2021. He asked who came up with the idea of the strategic plan? Whose idea was it? As far as talking to the Parish Presidents about drainage issues is ok. Now you are talking about parks and recreational trails. Whose idea is this? Where would the money come from? Ms. Olivier answered that they would research different areas and grants to get the money. But understand that one of the things a levee board can do is recreational. Mr. Hebert asked if it would be new money. Ms. Olivier answered yes, we have been talking about grants and other avenues. Mr. Donald Henry stated that he doesn't understand where Mr. Hebert is coming from because we been talking about the master plan for two and a half years now. It hasn't come out of nowhere. We have had more than just the presentation. He is sure that all Board members all know about the master plan. It shouldn't be a surprise. It is a statute that the levee district do flood protection and recreational. We are doing everything we can do. Mr. Rogers stated that he hasn't heard about it. Mr. Donald Henry stated that this Board unanimously approved CSRS contriving the master plan. There have been meetings and multiple discussions concerning the master plan. Mr. Hebert stated that yes, we know about the master plan. We paid a half of million dollars for it. If they don't make the master plan, they lose the money and that's where we are right now in my opinion. We were surprised to hear anything with recreation. I'm not for or against the master plan, it is just that I was caught off guard with the recreational part. President Jasmin stated that we have

discussed it. We said we would meet with all the parish presidents so that they can be a part of the master plan. This is just a part of it. The levee district is for flood protection, but it also encouraged to do other things. Back in the day, the district built parks and community pools. All we are trying to do is get back to that. If there is money out there to grant, that is why we hired CSRS to seek that money. Vice-President Bosworth stated that he remembers the conversations. Historically, the levee board has done recreational projects in the past. President Jasmin stated he is upset about not putting dirt down on the levees yet. But we can also do other projects. Mr. Donald Henry stated we are spending money as we should attempting to do a levee lift. It is not the Board's fault or the engineers' fault that we aren't building. We received one bid. We have to pick up the pieces and move forward. Every dime this district has spent on engineering is being reimbursed because of our legislative delegation. We aren't wasting money, even for the master plan.

Commissioner Jeffery Henry made a motion to adjourn and Vice-President Arthur Bosworth seconded his motion.

PRESIDENT

10/09/2023