

## Committee Meeting

### May 17, 2023

The Board of Commissioners for the Lafourche Basin Levee District met this day in Committee 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 following Commissioners were in attendance: President, Eric Matherne, St. Charles Parish; Vice President, Jeffery Henry, Ascension Parish; 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; Kevin Hebert, St. Charles Parish; Gary Watson, St. John the Baptist Parish; and Marlin Rogers, St. Charles Parish were present.

Donald Ray Henry, Executive Director; Ms. Melanie Broden, Accounting Specialist; Astrea Jupiter, Administrative Assistant 5 and Latasha Pelle, Administrative 2 were also present. Spencer Long, Attorney was absent.

President Matherne made the motion to adopt the agenda and called for a roll call vote. Roll call vote thereon as follows:

#### YEAS:

- Arthur Bosworth IV
- Larry Sorapuru
- Russell Loupe
- Gary Watson
- Craig Carter
- Marlin Rogers
- Kevin Hebert
- Eric Matherne, President

NAYS: None

#### ABSENT:

- James P. Jasmin
- Michael McKinney
- Jeffery Henry, Vice President

ABSTAINED: NONE

President Matherne noted that all comments from the Public regarding any/all of the agenda items listed below will be accepted at this point in the meeting. The meeting chairperson may also allow further comments from the Public as and when each agenda item is considered during the meeting process. There were no public comments on the agenda items.

Personnel Committee Report: Marlin Rogers

Commissioner Rogers reported that the mechanic 2 position has been filled. This person has replaced the retired Lazin Grow, Jr., who retired on March 6, 2023. We also filled the administrative assistance 2 position. Both positions are probationary up to a year. Unless there are any questions, this concludes my report.

Executive Director Henry introduced new administrative 2 and informed the board on new zoom meetings being available when any commissioner is unable to be present at the meetings.

Building Committee Report: Larry Sorapuru

Commissioner Sorapuru reported from C.J. Savoie letter, that since the previous report dated February 8, 2023. The new meeting room addition has been completed and accepted by the Louisiana State Fire Marshal's Office for occupancy. The Contactor is currently working to complete the new roof on the warehouse and the canopies surrounding the new building. He is also simultaneously working on a punch list of items noted for touch-up or correction. There are some deficiencies that have been identified to be fixed prior to final acceptance of the project. The generator installation is scheduled to be completed by the end of December 2023. This was previously reported in the February to have a 12-month lead time. The project with all additions with exception of the generator is projected to be closed out by July 1, 2023. A final change order for balance of rain days and delays will be presented for Board approval. If you have any questions or comments, please give me a call.

Safety Committee Report: Author J. Bosworth, IV

Commissioner Bosworth reported since the last safety report was given, there were no lost time accidents to report to the Board. The last safety meeting for the maintenance department was held on May 10, 2023. The meeting started at 6:00 AM. Three topics were discussed.

They were as follows:

1. An extra effort for safety's sake: safety behavior
2. Heat stress fact and prevention

### 3. Personal hygiene in the workplace

The next safety meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 12, 2023 at 6:00 A.M. Unless there are any questions, this concludes my report.

#### Equipment Committee Report:

Commissioner Watson reported as of today, all equipment is either located on their respective job sites or here at the maintenance shop. The Volvo Excavator that was ordered last year was delivered on April 12, 2023. The SCAG ordered from Hartman's Store was picked up on May 8, 2023. There was an auction held on May 6, 2023. We are currently waiting on payments from the auctioneers. Unless there are any questions, this concludes my report.

#### Upper Barataria/ Sunset Project Committee Report:

President Matherne reported that they are still working on rebid. Will host a meeting in June to discuss any and all questions. BKI proposal will be on the next agenda.

To be placed on the June 7, 2023 Regular Board Meeting: Discussion to make some changes to the Board's approval on 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.

President Matherne reported that BKI is working with CPRA and the CORPS. This will help the board from spending money on some tasks. CPRA and the CORPS will set a meeting on to discuss these matters. Commissioner Sorapuru questioned about the bid and CPR not having any objections. President Matherne stated that the price will be reduced after having everything reviewed. Executive Henry, stated that Sunset is only bidding on the project. This is only being reviewed for only duplicate work. Also going forward contracts will be on a time and material basis than long term. Commissioner Hebert questioned how to get out the task order we issued? Executive Director Henry stated that the work has been approved to be done but task order was not issued. The Attorney is giving advice on how to word and prep the order to amend. He is still in communication with Mike to get back on track with the master plan. Commissioner Hebert questioned will the money be reimbursed by CSRS and CRA before we proceed. Executive Director stated the money from GIS is already reimbursed and have a specific amount to spend before it's lost. He received an email prior to the meeting and wasn't able to speak to the board as a whole in reference to the agenda item. Commissioner Sorapuru asked for clarification on communicating. President Matherne responds. Mr. Sorapuru made note that Executive Director Henry or a member of the Board should be at every CPRA meeting. The Board should be updated with anything that

transcribe. Executive Director informed that the relationship between CPRA and the CORPS has grown tremendously. We must have trust in each agency to handle their responsibilities and do not want to get ahead of neither agency. The State agency will be the voice to the CORPS. He is also in the loop with all information. The board has a discussion. President Matherne requested to schedule a zoom meeting June 6, 2023 to update the Board on information with all parties involved.

To be placed on the June 7, 2023 Regular Board Meeting: Authorization from the Board to approve the revision to the Personnel Policy.

President Matherne advised the Board to review the policy. Executive Director Henry informed the policy was upgraded with the assistance from the attorney. The grey arrears in the policy were revised. Commissioner Rogers questioned about the changes made to the policy. Executive Director Henry noted that the policy was upgraded from what was previously in place. Commissioner Rogers want a copy of the old policy to compare changes and to be included in the next discussion on policy change. Executive Director agrees to have Commissioner Roger and the attorney on a phone conference in reference to policy and will do so with future changes. The Board had a discussion. Commission Hebert expressed the personnel committee should meet and discuss changes to policy before its being presented to the Board. He feels that it's ridiculous and not done properly. Executive Director Henry noted that this policy update is improvement from what the board has already approved. Also, the board has passed an anomalously vote to be a committee. Commissioner Hebert stated that the Board should be involved and prepared prematurely before the meetings. Executive Director stated that a zoom or conference call will be schedule to discuss policy. He is only improving the policy and not making any changes. Any policy changes or updates going forward will included the chairman and board members. Every suggestion to updating the policy will be taken into consideration. The Policy needs to reflect from an employee on a probational period versus a civil service employee. Commissioner Sorapuru acknowledge Executive Director Henry on making upgrades to make the workforce better. Executive Director Henry informed the board to read the policy and any suggestions given will be added upon request. Commissioner Matherne request the previous policy to be emailed to everyone.

Commissioner Sorapuru made the motion for these items to be place on the June 7, 2023 agenda. Commissioner Loupe seconded his motion.

Commissioner Sorapuru updated the Board on information learned at Lake Charles conference on housing and natural disaster. He stated that there's

no plan in place and the Board can assist the government by learning ways to help during a crisis.

There were no additional committee matters to discuss, commissioner Loupe moved to adjourn and was seconded by Commissioner Rogers.