

Committee Meeting

June 14, 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 L. Henry, Ascension Parish; Russell Loupe, St. Charles Parish; Arthur Bosworth IV, St. James Parish; Kevin Hebert, St. Charles Parish; Gary Watson, St. John the Baptist Parish; Craig Carter, Assumption Parish; Michael McKinney, Sr., Ascension Parish; James Jasmin; St. James Parish and Marlin Rogers, St. Charles Parish were present.

Donald Ray Henry, Executive Director; Ms. Melanie Broden, Accounting Specialist and Astrea Jupiter, Administrative Assistant 5 were also present.

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

YEAS:

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT:

- Larry Sorapuru

- Atty Spencer Long

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 a recommendation to discuss and/or to take action to move forward to the July 5, 2023 regular meeting. The cost-of-living and/or merit raise for the executive director, Donald Henry. unless there are any questions, this concludes my report.

Commissioner Rogers question if the discussion should be held in executive session due to it involving an employee. Executive Director Henry inform Mr. Rogers that it can be discussed in regular session. Commissioner Rogers suggest evaluation form be rephrased. Commissioner Watson made a motion to 4 percent COL raise and 4 percent merit raise. This motion was second by Commissioner Jasmin. Commissioner Rogers questioned how much does the employees get. Executive Henry stated majority get 4 percent. It goes by their evaluation. Commissioner Rogers questioned on the 4 percent raise for employees and the Executive Director receiving 8 percent. How that would send a bad message to the employees. Executive Director Henry asked Mr. Roges if he had any recommendations. Commissioner Hebert questioned what Executive Director salary is currently? Commissioner Jasmin addressed the Board. Commissioner Rogers addressed the Board.

President Matherne called for a roll call vote to place raise on regular meeting agenda. Roll call vote thereon as follows:

YEAS:

- Arthur Bosworth IV
- Michael McKinney, Sr.
- Russell Loupe
- Gary Watson
- Jeffery Henry, Vice President
- Craig Carter
- Marlin Rogers
- Kevin Hebert

- James P. Jasmin
- Eric Matherne, President

NAYS: None

ABSENT:

- Larry Sorapuru

President Matherne feels that the vote on the raise shouldn't have been handled at this moment. The laws state that any action come as a whole or any smaller committee vote to put on the regular agenda. Commissioner Hebert disagrees and feels it's a waste of time. Executive Director Henry feels this is something that should be discussed. Commissioner Hebert stated that the committee as a whole is a joke, smaller committees have no power.

Building Committee Report: Gary Watson

Commissioner Watson reported from email sent from Clarence Savoie, III. Since the previous report dated May 17, 2023. The new meeting room addition has been completed and accepted by the Louisiana State Fire Marshal's Office for occupancy. The contractor 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 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. A meeting has been scheduled with Executive Director for Tuesday of next week to address any outstanding issues and discuss close out of the project. 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:

- Backing, parking, intersections.
- Distracted driving; make the correct choice.

- The knock at the door.

The next safety meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 10, 2023 at 6:00 a.m. Unless there are any questions, this concludes my report.

Equipment Committee Report: Michael McKinney, Sr.

Commissioner McKinney reported as of today, as of today, all equipment is either located on their respective job sites or here at the maintenance shop. Unless there are any questions, this concludes my report.

President Matherne questioned if the grass growth slowed down without rain. Executive Director Henry responded no, it has been having a lot of hay. Earl has a technique that has been helping since Sean is on vacation.

Upper Barataria/ Sunset Project Committee Report: President Matherne

President Matherne reported about the meeting with CSRS. The Board was handed a packet and if anyone has any questions to call. Oneil Malbrough gave an update on project. Also thanks Executive Director Henry. Commissioner Bosworth addressed the Board. Executive Director Henry believe the Board need to engage in the levee lift with the suit going forward and discuss with the district has to cover. President Matherne suggests that the Board get some projects ready to go to use the money. Executive Director Henry stated there was a zoom meeting that President Matherne didn't attend. The zoom invitations will be sent to all Board members who wants to attend.

Executive Director Henry refers back to building committee report. He doesn't want to cut the ribbon until everything is completed. They have small but significant issues, like the \$140,000 computer that isn't working correctly. President Matherne suggested it may need more terabytes.

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