

Finance Meeting

August 7, 2023

The Board of Commissioners for the Lafourche Basin Levee District met this day in finance 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; 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; Commissioner James P. Jasmin, St. James Parish; Kevin Hebert, St. Charles Parish; and Marlin Rogers, St. Charles Parish were present.

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

Commissioner Bosworth made the motion to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Jasmin and called for a roll call vote. Roll call vote thereon as follows:

YEAS:

Arthur Bosworth, IV

James P. Jasmin

Gary Watson

Jeffery Henry, Vice President

Kevin Hebert

Craig Carter

Marlin Rogers

Larry Sorapuru

Russell Loupe

Eric Materne, President

NAYS: None

ABSENT: NONE

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.

The Board provided with copy of the cash status report for period ending July 31, 2023. Mr. Wayne Theall, Accountant, goes over cash status report. President Matherne questioned when mileage report will be completed. Mr. Theall responded that that report is completed. Commissioner Hebert addressed Mr. Theall. Mr. Theall responds.

Motion by Commissioner Watson to review and approval of bills for payment and was second by Commissioner Henry.

President Matherne addressed the Board to review draft minutes of the August 3, 2023 Regular Meeting and make corrections if needed.

Mr. Theall makes a presentation on the 2024 draft budget to the Board. Commissioner Hebert questioned if the presented bills are the final cost for the building? Executive Director Henry replied that Mr. Savoie will have a presentation on the building cost. Mr. Theall continued presentation. Commissioner Hebert questioned if the \$400,000 is allocated and who verified that St. Charles will reimburse 2 million dollars on the Sunset Levee lift project. Executive Director Henry replied it's in the CPRA agreement. Mr. Theall continued presentation. Executive Director Henry questioned how much is the travel expense? Mr. Theall responded that traveling expense budget is \$45,000.00 due to more traveling for meetings. Mr. Theall continued presentation. Executive Director Henry informed the board that the janitorial services will have a decrease. Now 2 workers stay overtime and the cleaning company is no longer needed. Mr. Theall stats that the draft can be updated before approval in September. If any Board member that will like to updated any information to contact him. Commissioner Hebert questioned about the 5.2 million dollars received from St. Charles Parish in 2022? Mr. Theall responded him that the payment due dates was deferred in 2021 due to hurricane Ida but was continued in 2022. President Matherne instructs the Board to review draft and to contact Mr. Theall with any questions.

Executive Director Henry presents a copy of a check made out to Lowe's but was fraudulent altered and cashed as personal check. Another check has been processed and hand delivered to Lowe's on payment on the credit account. The bank has replaced the money and this matter is still under investigation.

To discuss to approve or no to approve GIS' proposal to provide professional services in support of its maintenance in the lifting of the Westbank Vicinity Western Tie-in. The proposal includes engineering, surveying, permitting, geotechnical, and construction tasks. The total fees would be \$3,386,828.00. Mr. Kyle make presentation on project levee lift to the Board. President Matherne questioned if the old permit can be reused? Mr. Kyle stated it should not be required

but unsure and continued presentation. President Matherne questioned if the old matting can be recycled or reused? Mr. Kyle explained it cannot be reused as a reinforcement due to not being able to remove without destroying it. It may can be used as turf after being shredded. Still investigating on that issue. President Matherne questioned if it can be used on the road near the levee? Mr. Kyle responds that he will check into that issue. President Matherne questioned if the work on schedule? Mr. Kyle stated that they will piggy back off previous work done in another parish. Commissioner Hebert thank Executive Director Henry on the advance notification with the information on the project. Also questioned when will the project begin and finish once awarded? Mr. Kyle stated the project will start right away. The survey can probably start around the end of September, and the Geotech field investigators can start around October. The goal is having a 408 application in place by the next legislative session. Then in 2025 have the permit, designs and be ready for construction. Commissioner Hebert questioned where the money come from to fund this project? What is the life of the engineering? Mr. Kyle responded that the soil gets stronger and the quantity would go up. Executive Director thanks everyone involved on getting the engineering process started. The Board is building relationships with Parish Presidents and The Board member to help with getting any funding for the project. Hopes on the Board as a team to communicate to the State, and the Board to prioritize the lift as it gets closer to the deadline. A meeting was previously held with Mr. Theall and Kyle on the budget on how they will spend the money for this year and the following year. That information will be explained to the board members about what type of work its spent on and preparing to get to the permit and letter of no objection. Also spoke with Attorney Long to make sure the proactive work is not interfering with the pending lawsuit. Commissioner Hebert questioned about the pending lawsuit. Executive Director Henry responded that the lawsuit is pending with St. Charles Parish. Mr. Kyle informed the Board that this project can be done in phases as the funding is available. They can start on the lower parts of the levee and then move towards other areas once more funding is available until completion. Commissioner Hebert questioned Mr. Kyle. Mr. Kyle responded. Mr. Oneil addressed the Board stating it would be easy to receive the funding next year. The project needs to be pushed before levee lose certification. Executive Director Henry stated a request for \$30,000,000 and received \$3,000,000. Mr. Oneil feels this project must be moved in a fast pace. The levee can be fixed as funding is available. Commissioner Hebert questioned estimate cost for resident contract project representative and projecting engineer and is that two different people? Mr. Kyle stated that he's the engineer in the project. The resident contract project representative oversees the project for 60 hours a week, while documenting daily, and reporting information back to the engineer. Commissioner Hebert questioned about hourly rate on project representation? Mr. Kyle stated overtime and senior construction manager cost is also included in amount. Commissioner Hebert questioned if GIS will oversee on the project 100% and complete the survey's not CSRS? Mr. Kyle responded that their company will oversee 100% by The Board's approval. Commissioner Sorapuru questioned the time frame on completing the project? Mr. Kyle responded a theriacal schedule has been made and its already deficient. It is good to start on the design before the approval of FEMA. Commissioner Sorapuru questioned if this project can take 3 to 5 years to complete with communication with FEMA and the CORP? Mr. Kyle replied that his intent is to have 65% designed completed and the 408 application submitted by the end of the next session. The 408 approval and finalizing the design should take approximately a year. Commissioner Sorapuru noted he do support the levee lift project fully and want to stress his concern on last minute cost. Mr. Oneil addressed the board on 408 permits. President Matherne addressed the Board. Commissioner Hebert questioned if they plan on testing the soil and having an agency test the

soil? Mr. Kyle responded that Eustis will test the soil. Commissioner Rogers questioned the height on the Levee and if the base need to be widen? Mr. Kyle respond that he will do research for more information. Commissioner Hebert questioned if any natural disaster accrue, can the cost increase with prolonging the project? Mr. Oniel responded that any change in the amounts must be approved first. Executive Director Henry addressed the Board to discuss all issues in finance meeting before making a vote in the special meeting.

To discuss to approve or not to approve the authorization of the Executive Director, Donald Henry, to execute the Railroad Right-of-Way agreement between Lafourche Basin Levee District and Cornerstone Chemical Company. Attorney Long addressed the Board on expanding railroad right-of-way. No further questions from the Board.

To discuss to approve or not to approve the final closing fees of the new building from Joseph Savoie of C.J. Consulting Engineers, Inc. Mr. Savoie addressed the board with presentation. President Matherne questioned about the total amount? Mr. Savoie responded that it will be a \$40,000 increase. Commissioner Hebert questioned Mr. Savoie. Mr. Savoie continued presentation and questioned on the roof completion? Executive Director Henry addressed the board on the 3 different roof colors. The contractor offered to compensate on the roof colors. The Board will discuss this issue in the next meeting to make a decision. Mr. Savoie explained that the roof was done in different lot runs, which causes different shades. Commissioner Hebert addressed the Board and feels the contractor shouldn't be penalized due to the different shades. Executive Director Henry feels that if we ask and paid for things that was agreed on, it should be done correctly. Mr. Joseph stated that he's not sure on the compensation amount that the contractor discussed. Commissioner Sorapuru questioned if there's any leaks in the roof? Executive Director Henry responded that he thinks the leaks are solved. That won't be a known fact until it rains a certain way to prove that issue is fixed. Mr. Savoie stated it will need rain to test that theory. The building is under a one-year warranty. He's also making a list for BETCO to fix certain issues. Commissioner Rogers questioned about the final cost to BETCO? Mr. Joseph responded to Commissioner Rogers.

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