

Spring Bayou Lake Commission November 18, 2019

The November 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Spring Bayou Lake Commission was opened by Chairman Jimmy Landry at 6:00 p.m. Chairman Landry called the meeting to order then led the group with the Pledge of Allegiance and the Opening Prayer. Secretary Terry Laborde called the roll of commissioners. Present were Chairman Landry, Vice Chairman Rayford Laborde, Secretary Terry Laborde, Commissioner Artha Hale, Commissioner Roland Dugas III, Commissioner Philip Lamartiniere, Police Juror Mark Borrel, and Police Jury President Kirby Roy. Absent were Commissioner Dr. L.J. Mayeux, Commissioner Jules JK Bordelon, Commissioner Mayor Kenneth Pickett, and Police Juror Trent Clark.

After a short discussion about the issue of a marsh excavator on the minutes as submitted the commissioners voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the October meeting. The issue involved a purchase price of a half million dollars or a rental fee of \$2,500.00 a day to dig the Boggy Bayou channel approximately 1.35 miles. The next issue was the DOTD inspection of the Little River dam/weir in order to add it to the state's dam safety program. Rain has caused delays.

Concerning capital outlay request, the commission was updated on Ron Bordelon's modifications to the request to add dredging besides only work on the dam. Concerning the Old River landing, the commissioners were informed leases were being signed to limestone the lot in front of the FFA camp and increase parking. The leases are between the Avoyelles School Board and the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

Chairman Landry said the 30-page NRCS application was due on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Chairman Landry stated the goal of the NRCS application is to assist farmers. His motive is to demonstrate the reduction of sedimentation in Spring Bayou has a positive effect on local agriculture. Jacques Goudeau questioned the commission on "at what point" should the commission seek "expertise" and professional assistance to steer the process. Commissioner Dugas said it's his opinion that money for dredging through NRCS is not likely, but did indicate he sought professional assistance when he filled NRCS applications in the past. Chairman Landry indicated he has sought professional assistance and is working through the LA Watershed program. Vice-Chairman Rayford Laborde said it's his opinion that Spring Bayou is a retention pond and the commission should seek assistance from FEMA. Commissioner Lamartiniere questions the existence of the previous sediment maps from a 3<sup>rd</sup> party consulting firm hired by the Avoyelles Police Jury. Vice-Chairman Rayford Laborde reminded the commission of the previously discussed photographs comparing the Spring Bayou complex 20-years ago and today, paying close attention to sedimentation.

The movement of water through bayous in Avoyelles was the next discussion. Ronald Coco discussed the levee system separating the Vicksburg and New Orleans districts. Coco, commissioners, and Vice-Chairman Laborde discussed the possibility of injecting water from the Red River when it's high enough above the 64-foot pool stage down the Chatlin

Lake Canal through the La Mourie control structure to Bayou Du Lac by a natural flow of water. Commissioners discussed a variety of discussions they encountered in meetings throughout the state with areas with similar problems as our Spring Bayou complex. Vice-Chairman Laborde updated the commissioners on his meetings with the Henderson Lake project and its similarities. Commissioner Lamartiniere suggested an irrigation project be a consideration in the Spring Bayou complex. Commissioner Dugas introduced reality again saying the commission can do very little for the parish and Spring Bayou complex without money or grants.

Commissioners were reminded to enroll in the Ethics and Sexual Harassment classes. Chairman Landry informed everyone that the commissioners will be reappointed along with the Police Jurors in the month of January.

With no further business, a motion was presented by Commissioner Artha Hale to adjourn at 7:08 p.m. Secretary Laborde added the second and the motion passed with a unanimous vote.

The December meeting of the Spring Bayou Lake Commission was cancelled on December 2<sup>nd</sup> by Chairman Landry.