

**Minutes of the Public Hearing and Regular Monthly Board meeting of the North Lafourche Conservation, Levee & Drainage District, December 17, 2024**

**Public Hearing:** The Board of Commissioners of the North Lafourche Conservation, Levee and Drainage District met in a Public Hearing at its regular meeting place, 3862 Highway 1, Raceland, Louisiana, on Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at 5:20 PM, pursuant to the provisions of a notice of public hearing duly promulgated and posted in accordance with the law. The Public Hearing was called to order by Board President Cory Kief. Tory Hebert led the Pledge and the invocation was given by Rodney Foret. Commissioners present were Tim Allen, Rodney Foret, Tory Hebert, Darcy Kiffe, Elmo Pitre, Cory Kief, and Adley Peltier. Monique Crochet, Louis Andolsek, Robert Pitre and Percy Gasery were absent. Others present were NLLD Executive Director Dwayne Bourgeois, NLLD Project/Program Manager Arthur Ostheimer, NLLD Accounting Specialist Kayla Culpepper, NLLD Executive Assistant Katie DeRoche, NLLD Project/Accounting Assistant Brandy Theriot, Field Coordinator Travis Colombel, NLLD Attorney Patrick Amedee, members of the public, and various engineering professionals. Executive Director Dwayne Bourgeois announced this public hearing is being held to consider the 2024 Revised Budget and the 2025 Proposed Budget. C. Kief stated the Finance and Priority Committee previously met and reviewed in detail the Revised 2024 Budget and the Proposed 2025 Budget. Each has a copy of each budget in the board's meeting packets and copies are available to the public. The Committee's recommendation to this board is for adoption as written for both. C. Kief called for discussion on the 2024 Revised Budget. There were none. C. Kief asked for any comments from the public on the 2024 Revised Budget. There were none. C. Kief called for discussion on the 2025 Proposed Budget. There were none. C. Kief called for any public comments on the 2025 Proposed Budget. There were none. With there being no discussions and public comments on both the 2024 Revised Budget and the 2025 Proposed Budget, A. Peltier motioned, seconded by R. Foret to close the public hearing. No discussion or public comment. Motion passed unanimously.

**Regular Meeting:** The Regular Monthly meeting of the North Lafourche Conservation, Levee and Drainage District Board of Commissioners was called to order on Tuesday, December 17, 2024, by President Cory Kief at 5:23 pm. The meeting was held at the District's office at 3862 Highway 1 in Raceland. President Cory Kief called roll. Commissioners present were Cory Kief, Tim Allen, Rodney Foret, Tory Hebert, Elmo Pitre, Darcy Kief and Adley Peltier. Robert Pitre, Louis Andolsek, Monique Crochet, and Percy Gasery were absent. Others present were NLLD Executive Director Dwayne Bourgeois, NLLD Project/Program Manager Arthur Ostheimer, NLLD Accounting Specialist Kayla Culpepper, NLLD Executive Assistant Katie DeRoche, NLLD Project/Accounting Assistant Brandy Theriot, Field Coordinator Travis Colombel, NLLD Attorney Patrick Amedee, members of the public, and various engineering professionals.

Approval of Minutes: T. Hebert motioned, seconded by A. Peltier to approve the minutes of Tuesday, November 19, 2024, Finance & Priority Committee meeting and the Regular Board meeting. No discussion or public comment. Motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of the 2024 Revised Budget: The Finance and Priority Committee met for review of the proposed budget by the Director. It is the Committee's recommendation that the Board adopt the 2025 Budget as provided this evening. E. Pitre motioned, seconded by R. Foret that the board adopt the 2024 Revised Budget. No discussion or public comment. Motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of the 2025 Proposed Budget: the Finance and Priority Committee met for review of the proposed budget by the Director. It is the Committee's recommendation that the Board adopt the 2025 Budget as provided this evening. E. Pitre motioned, seconded by A. Peltier to adopt the 2025 Proposed Budget. No discussion or public comment. Motion passed unanimously.

**A. Thibodaux – West Project Area:** Report given

**B. Thibodaux - Lockport - Bayou Blue Project Area:**

Drainage District 12 Prairie Levee Improvements: D. Bourgeois and A. Ostheimer gave an updated report on this project. T. Hebert motioned, seconded by D. Kiffe to accept the Certificate of Substantial Completion from Onshore Materials, LLC as recommended by the project engineer. No discussion or public comment. Motion passed unanimously.

Upper Bayou Folse Watershed Backwater Flood Protection: Report given.

**C. Lockport - Larose Project Area:**

Lockport to Larose Reach D5 Levee Improvements: Report given.

**D. Choupic Project Area:**

West Choupic & St. James Project Area Backwater Flood Protection: Report given.

Bowie Forced Drainage System Levee Improvements: Report given.

**E. St. James Project Area:**

Woodland Heights Levee: Report given.

**F. Lake Bouef Watershed Project Area:**

Zeller/Larousse Forced Drainage Area Systems Improvements: Report given.

**G. Gheens Project Area:**

Upper Barataria Risk Reduction (UBRR) Project: Report given.

Upper Barataria Risk Reduction (UBRR) Haul Road: Report given.

**H. Valentine - East Project Area:**

Industrial Park Road North American Shipyard to Bayou Lafourche: Report given.

Morganza to the Gulf Eastern Tie-in, Reach 1 Eunice Allemand: Report given.

Morganza to the Gulf Eastern Tie-in, reach 2 Interim Improvements: Report given.

Morganza to the Gulf Eastern Tie-in, Reach 3 Interim Improvements: Report given.

Ludevine Pump Station Replacement: D. Bourgeois and A. Ostheimer gave an updated report on this project. R. Foret motioned, seconded by E. Pitre to approve payment of Pay Request No. 5 in the amount of \$527,861.63 from Sealevel Construction, Inc. as recommended by the project engineer. No discussion or public comment. Motion passed unanimously.

T-Bois Ludevine Levee Tie In: D. Bourgeois and A. Ostheimer gave an updated report on this project. T. Allen motioned, seconded by A. Peltier allowing NLLD to award the construction contract to Sealevel Construction, Inc. thus committing \$2,423,531.00 of NLLD's net assets towards NLLD Project No. 6800.66Z and authorizing the NLLD President to sign, execute, and administer a contract and any and all relevant documents, pending concurrence from Facility Planning and Control. No discussion or public comment. Motion passed unanimously.

**I. Maintenance and other Regional Projects:** A. Ostheimer gave an updated report on maintenance projects.

Morganza to the Gulf (General): Report given.

**J. Equipment:** Travis Colombel gave an update on equipment issues within the last month.

**K. General Items:**

Photo Presentation: A. Ostheimer reported and presented photos on various projects.

NLLD Insurance Renewal: D. Bourgeois stated NLLD received the Insurance Proposal from AJG for 2025. T. Hebert motioned, seconded by T. Allen to renew the NLLD insurance, generally for the same terms as the expiring coverage, at a total cost of \$213,618.86 and to authorize the Executive Director to sign any and all documents and to pay the invoices as presented for payment. No discussion or public comment. Motion passed unanimously. No discussion or public comment. Motion passed unanimously.

NLLD Joined Lawsuit against FEMA on RR2.0: update given.

Other Meetings this Month: D. Bourgeois stated in addition to the regular monthly meeting circuit and those previously discussed, he reported on other meetings attended.

Finance & Priority Committee: Committee Vice Chairman Elmo Pitre reported that the Finance and Priority Committee conducted a meeting on November 19, 2024 and there are a copy of those minutes in the meeting packet. During that meeting, the committee reviewed and approved the Payables report that was recommended and accepted for approval by the full board during the Regular Board meeting that followed. The board also had its first review of the 2025 Proposed Budget, and just before this meeting the board reviewed the final 2024 Revised Budget and the updated 2025 Proposed Budget which were both recommended for adoption by the full board.

Accounts Payable: E. Pitre motioned, seconded by A. Peltier to accept the payables report as given. No discussion or public comment. Motion passed unanimously.

Ben Harang, who resides at 515 Lake Court, Thibodaux, LA, made a public comment on the recent flooding from Hurricane Francine in Peltier Park. He knows the NLLD is working hard to address drainage. However, he wanted to be on record mentioning the problem and to emphasize working towards a solution. C. Kief said NLLD has engaged the Mayor of Thibodaux and Lafourche Parish to make a better solution to the flooding in Thibodaux. C. Kief appreciated him coming on the record and representing his neighborhood. C. Kief also stated he and D. Bourgeois are taking charge on making flood insurance more reasonable for the public to purchase it.

With no other engineering reports or additional public comments, the President stated the next Regular Monthly Board Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, January 21, 2025, following the Finance and Priority Meeting at 5:15 pm that same day at this office located at 3862 Highway 1 in Raceland.

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 6:35 PM on motion by E. Pitre, seconded by T. Hebert.

/s/Cory Kief, President

/s/Dwayne Bourgeois, Executive Director