

## **Minutes** of the meeting of the **North Lafourche Conservation, Levee & Drainage District Thibodaux and Raceland Area Drainage Study Project Committee Meeting**

Date: Tuesday, May 17, 2022

A meeting was conducted on May 17, 2022, as the Thibodaux and Raceland Area Drainage Study Project Committee of the North Lafourche Conservation, Levee and Drainage District. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Louis Andolsek at 4:15 pm. The pledge was led by Adley Peltier and invocation given by Louis Andolsek. The Chairman called roll. The Committee members present were Louis Andolsek, Adley Peltier, Robert Pitre, Rodney Foret, and Cory Kief (Ad hoc). All members were in attendance. Others present were Executive Director Dwayne Bourgeois; Project Manager Arthur Ostheimer; Administrative Assistant Madonna Viguerie; Executive Assistant Katie DeRoche; Project/Accounting Assistant Brandy Theriot; and Field Coordinators Glenn Bourgeois and Travis Colombel and various engineering professionals. Review on Waverly No. 2 Outfall Channel Project: Executive Director Dwayne Bourgeois stated this project was being considered by the NLLD because there was a problem with getting water into the 80-Arpent Canal near the Leighton Pump Station. A. Ostheimer reported this project will be a new drainage ditch with culverts in the front and an open ditch in the back from Talbot to the 80-Arpent Canal in an effort to relieve some of the neighborhood drainage issues, especially in Bently, over the years. Lafourche Parish Government will handle maintaining, cleaning, and widening the ditch and they still have the intention to support anything the NLLD does on the project. The overall estimate of the project is between \$1.25-1.5 million. The problem with the project is that all of the Right-of-Ways needed for the project from Talbot to the 80-Arpent has minimal benefit for the landowners in those areas who have agriculture there. The benefit is really from Bayou Lafourche to Talbot. L. Andolsek asked if the project will be built on an existing ditch and A. Ostheimer said yes, the NLLD will expand the ditch already there on the landowners' properties to three times bigger. The solution would be to buy the property at fair market value. A. Ostheimer said the value to buy will cost the NLLD about \$100,000.00. It is all farmland property. The board agreed buying the property is the best solution and said to move forward with it for approval at a future regular board meeting. L. Andolsek mentioned to make sure to value the sugarcane economic damages as well as the fair market value and if there is no other way to reroute a drainage ditch, then moving forward with buying the property is the best solution. The whole committee agrees.

West Choupic and St. James Project Area Backwater Flood Protection: D. Bourgeois started by saying NLLD has been struggling with a solution for the West Choupic and St. James Project Area Backwater Flood Protection. The work NLLD is doing along the parish line at the Dixie Canal sets NLLD in a position to benefit a portion of West Choupic that does not have any backwater flood protection on a side of Hwy 307. The idea is to create a leaky levee because it has a better chance of getting permitted. It is not cheap, but NLLD will not have to take as much property from the already small property line there. Circling the project to the St. James area will be the second phase. Leonard Chauvin with Leonard Chauvin P.E. Inc. presented to the board. He said the community has regained interest in the project from when Leonard started this study from 10 years ago. For the last two years, they have been working on the maintenance project along Dixie Canal. They could put a closure along Bayou Onion. They will also try to get water into the reservoir nearby and place pumps. There will be a ring levee starting from Grand Bayou. There is an estimate of \$15-18 million for this work and this includes the mitigation cost. Leonard Chauvin said there will be about 20 culverts to close. L. Andolsek asked if there would be enough time to close these. D. Bourgeois said with 24 hours there is enough time and especially locking them before a storm comes. This project would be

similar to the Hollywood Canal Project, which is an open system. L. Andolsek suggested to continue the dredging in this canal to create a base for the levee. The board agreed to continuing with this project.

Upper Bayou Folsé Watershed Backwater Flood Protection: D. Bourgeois reported Leonard Chauvin reevaluated some of the original plans in this project. D. Bourgeois said the USACE approved the leaky levee in the Hollywood Canal very quickly and so they want to continue the same concept for this project as well. Water from Thibodaux goes into the 40-Arpent Canal and runs through Bayou Folsé and Bayou Dumar. D. Bourgeois said they are proposing a similar project as the Hollywood Canal where there is pump and a closure for the Upper Bayou Folsé Watershed Backwater Flood Protection with two pumps and closures in this case. Dwayne showed the committee members on a map and explained in detail where the pumps and closures would be placed. The Chairman called for public comments; there being none, a motion for adjournment was made by A. Peltier, seconded by R. Pitre and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 5:18 PM.

Cory Kief, President: \_\_\_\_\_

Dwayne Bourgeois, Executive Director: \_\_\_\_\_