MINUTES OF MEETING

TECHE-VERMILION FRESH WATER DISTRICT

November 26, 2024

The Board of Commissioners met on the above date at the Teche-Vermilion Fresh Water District office located at 315 South College, Suite 110, Lafayette at 9:00 a.m. Member’s present were: Mr. Edward Sonnier, Mr. Tommy Thibodeaux, Mr. Keith Hensgens, and Mr. Donald Segura. Member Absent: Mr. Samuel Grimmett. In addition, present were: Mr. Donald Sagrera, Ms. Wendy Dupuis, Mr. Larry Carmer, PE, PLS, Mr. Alex Lopresto, Mr. Ivy Thibodeaux, Ms. Amanda Blanchard, Mrs. Jody White, Mr. Dee Stanley, and Mr. Coy Duplantis.

At this time the Public meeting, the Chairman called for any public comment regarding the Agenda. There was no comment.

Upon motion by Mr. Thibodeaux and seconded by Mr. Hensgens, the minutes of the previous meetings of October 18, 2024, and October 22, 2024, were accepted and approved. Motion unanimously carried.

Upon motion by Mr. Thibodeaux, and seconded by Mr. Segura, the Board approved Partial Payment No. 9 from Southern Constructors, LLC in the amount of $51,650.91 for the Loreauville Canal Navigable Control Structure Maintenance Project. Motion unanimously carried.

Upon motion by Mr. Segura and seconded by Mr. Hensgens, the Board approved Partial Payment No. 6 from Professional Application Services, Inc. in the amount of $44,855.10(99% complete) for Masonry Restoration, waterproofing and remedial work at the Pump Station. Motion unanimously carried.

Upon motion by Mr. Segura and seconded by Mr. Hensgens, the Board moved to approve payment on the Masonry Restoration, waterproofing, and remedial work at the Pump Station to The Seller’s Group for Architect Observation of Construction in the amount of $1,548.24. Motion unanimously carried.

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Upon motion by Mr. Thibodeaux and seconded by Mr. Segura, the Board moved to accept the Certificate for Substantial Completion for the Masonry Restoration, waterproofing, and remedial work at the Pump Station. Motion unanimously carried.

Upon motion by Mr. Thibodeaux and seconded by Mr. Hensgens, the Board approved Partial Payment No. 6 from Professional Application Services, Inc. in the amount of $95,268.00(99% complete) for Cleaning and Painting of site elements at the Pump Station. Motion unanimously carried.

Upon motion by Mr. Thibodeaux and seconded by Mr. Hensgens, the Board moved to approve payment on the Cleaning and Painting of site elements at the Pump Station to The Seller’s Group for Architect Observation of Construction in the amount of $3,201.33. Motion unanimously carried.

Upon motion by Mr. Thibodeaux and seconded by Mr. Segura, the Board moved to accept the Certificate for Substantial Completion for the Cleaning and Painting of site elements at the Pump Station. Motion unanimously carried.

Upon motion by Mr. Thibodeaux and seconded by Mr. Segura, the Board moved to approve payment for the Electrical upgrade at the pump station once requested and required documents from Sync Automation are received. Motion unanimously carried.

Upon motion by Mr. Hensgens and seconded by Mr. Segura, the Board approved the contract with Freese and Nichols for the Bayou Amy Water Quality Study. Motion unanimously carried.

Upon motion by Mr. Segura and seconded by Mr. Thibodeaux, the Board approved to renew the contract with Sides and Associates. Motion unanimously carried.

Upon motion by Mr. Segura and seconded by Mr. Hensgens, the Board approved workers compensation insurance with LWCC. Motion unanimously carried.

The 2025 Proposed Budget was presented to the Board for review and consideration for adoption at December 10, 2024 Special meeting.

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Upon motion by Mr. Segura and seconded by Mr. Thibodeaux, the financial statements for the period ending October 31, 2024, have been approved and accepted. Motion unanimously carried.

Upon motion by Mr. Segura and seconded by Mr. Hensgens, the Board moved to approve expenses for Board Members and Staff to attend the Police Jury Association Conference in Baton Rouge on February 12-14 2024. Motion unanimously carried.

The District pumped 12,480,100,000 gallons in Thirty-one days for the month of October 2024.

The Director’s Report is attached.

Upon motion by Mr. Segura and seconded by Mr. Hensgens, no further business was brought forth, therefore, the meeting adjourned.

Director’s report for November 2024

1. **Person to represent us at functions and meetings related to Bayou Teche (Events in St. Martin and Iberia Parishes). Recent examples are manning a table at Shake your Trail Feather in Breaux Bridge and a meeting pertaining to an upcoming Iris Festival in Iberia and Vermilion. The person I am thinking of works for the Teche Project and may be able to represent both of us. She is familiar with what we do for Bayou Teche.**
2. **Water quality monitoring**

**Monitoring was conducted on November 6, 2024. The watershed received varying amounts of rainfall ranging from heavy rain to minimal amounts starting on November 1. Water elevations in our waterbodies increased throughout the watershed and all supplementary pumping from the Atchafalaya River had stopped. We recorded good water flow at all sample sites due to drainage.**

Water Temperature was several degrees above the previous seven-year average for November and above the previous seven-year November high. The water temperature for the Atchafalaya River sample was 71.06 degrees Fahrenheit. Water temperature increased as it flowed through the watershed with the highest temperature being 78.62 for the GIWW (Vermilion) site and 77.18 degrees Fahrenheit for the Charenton (Teche) site.

Dissolved Oxygen was well below the previous seven-year average for November and, for some sites, below the previous seven-year November low. We did observe dead fish at the Palmetto Park boat launch and had reports of dead fish at other places where there was no water flow. Storm water runoff and warmer than normal water temperatures contributed to the low Dissolved Oxygen readings.

Salinity as indicated by Conductivity was well above average for the Intracoastal City, GIWW and Lake Fearman sites. High salinity water

was also present for the Charenton site. The extended drought which ended a few days before sample date contributed to the high salinity. The good flow of rainfall runoff water within the watershed from recent rain limited saltwater intrusion to lower reaches of the waterbodies.

Secchi Disk readings indicate that water clarity was patchy with most sites being clearer than the previous seven-year average for November. For some sites, however, water was more turbid (less clear) than the previous seven-

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year average for November indicating that sediments in the waterbodies was not uniform throughout and possibly caused be variations in the amount of recent rainfall runoff that was being contributed by tributaries.

Lab results for Fecal Coliform indicate a significant increase in colonies as compared to the October results. An observation is that the watershed was filled with stormwater runoff for the November sampling as compared to Atchafalaya River water for the October sampling. The analysis result for the Atchafalaya River sample for November was again low and within the primary contact threshold. Pumps had not been adding Atchafalaya River water to the watershed prior to the November monitoring due to rainfall that the watershed had been receiving. Please note in the graphs that illustrate the results that the increase in fecal coliform colonies was not limited to the metropolitan areas and were found in both Bayou Teche and Vermilion River related samples as well as upstream of the metropolitan areas.

1. **I was asked to make a presentation about the TVFWD project at the Acadiana Watershed District board meeting on November 7.**
2. **I attended a meeting called by the City of New Iberia pertaining to an Iris Festival that volunteers want to have net spring. The festival will be partnered with volunteers from Vermilion Parish. There will be tours of**

**Iris in New Iberia and Palmetto State Park in Vermilion. There was an Iris expert at the meeting that recognizes the TVFWD’s efforts to prevent saltwater intrusion in the area where they are trying to reestablish the rare Abbeville Red Iris at Palmetto Park. We will have an opportunity to promote our project during the festival.**

1. **I was asked to make a presentation about the water quality monitoring project to the Bayou Vermilion District’s water quality task force on November 19.**
2. **Schneider Electric engineers surveyed the damage that remained from the fault that occurred at the pump station in August.**
3. **Bayou Amy water quality study contract.**
4. **Inlet Channel/Atchafalaya River shoreline stabilization assessment has started. Sellers and Associates will survey the inlet channel during the process.**
5. **The Louisiana Police Jury Association will have their convention in Baton Rouge on February 13-14 at the Crown Plaza.**
6. **Elevations and pumping report.**

**We have not pumped since November 4. The Corps of Engineers has been draining since November 7. The Bayou Courtableau and Bayou Darbonne Structures are currently open the maximum opening. We had pumped 107 days by the end of October and 2 days in November for a total of 109 days so far this year.**