MINUTES OF MEETING

TECHE-VERMILION FRESH WATER DISTRICT

January 28, 2025

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, Mrs. Jody White, Mrs. Kristy Thibodeaux, Dr Whitney Broussard, Mr. Corey Hulin, Mr. Jon Larson, Mr. Robert Masson, Mr. Hagen Riche, Mr. Tommy LaBauve, Mr. Heath St. Germain, and Mr.

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

Upon motion by Mr. Hensgens and seconded by Mr. Segura, the minutes of the previous meeting of December 23, 2024, were accepted and approved. Motion unanimously carried.

Upon motion by Mr. Segura, and seconded by Mr. Hensgens, the Board approved Partial Payment No. 11 from Southern Constructors, LLC in the amount of $166,481.12 for the Loreauville Canal Navigable Control Structure Maintenance Project. Motion unanimously carried.

Upon motion by Mr. Thibodeaux, and seconded by Mr. Segura, the Board approved per Engineers recommendations for Change Order #8 in the amount of $180,349.78 from Southern Constructors, LLC for the Loreauville Canal Navigable Control Structure Maintenance Project.

Upon motion by Mr. Thibodeaux, and seconded by Mr. Hensgens, the Board amended the agenda to move into New Business for Regions Investment Review.

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Jon Larson with Regions Bank presented the Investment Review.

Upon motion by Mr. Thibodeaux, and seconded by Mr. Hensgens, the Board moved to amend the agenda to move back into Old Business. Motion unanimously carried.

Upon motion by Mr. Thibodeaux and seconded by Mr. Hensgens, the Board approved ratifying Partial Payment No. 7 from Professional Application Services, Inc. in the amount of $3,773.70(100% complete) for 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 moved to approve ratifying 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 $176.18. Motion unanimously carried.

Upon motion by Mr. Thibodeaux and seconded by Mr. Hensgens, the Board approved ratifying Partial Payment No. 7 from Professional Application Services, Inc. in the amount of $1,800.00(100% 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 ratifying 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 $113.61. Motion unanimously carried.

Upon motion by Mr. Thibodeaux and seconded by Mr. Segura, the Board approved ratifying Partial Payment No. 8 for 10% retainage from Professional Application Services, Inc. in the amount of $38,082.30(100% complete) for Masonry Restoration, waterproofing and remedial work at the Pump Station. Motion unanimously carried.

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Upon motion by Mr. Thibodeaux and seconded by Mr. Hensgens, the Board approved ratifying Partial Payment No. 8 for 10% retainage from Professional Application Services, Inc. in the amount of $31,084.70(100% complete) for Cleaning and Painting of site elements at the Pump Station. Motion unanimously carried.

Upon motion by Mr. Segura and seconded by Mr. Hensgens, the Board moved to approve payment of $148,274.03(90% less retainage)to E.P. Breaux for the Electrical upgrade at the pump station. Motion unanimously carried.

Upon motion by Mr. Segura and seconded by Mr. Hensgens, the Board moved to approve payment of 100% less retainage for the Electrical upgrade at the pump station once requested and required documents from E.P. Breaux are received. Motion unanimously carried.

Upon motion by Mr. Thibodeaux and seconded by Mr. Hensgens, the Board moved to approve for Sellers and Associates to move forward with the Geotechnical Investigation and design of the bypass for Ruth Canal Structure. Motion unanimously approved.

Upon motion by Mr. Thibodeaux and seconded by Mr. Segura, the Board approved installing three gauges for the Bayou Amy Water Quality Study. Motion unanimously carried.

Upon motion by Mr. Hensgens and seconded by Mr. Segura, the Board moved to approve payment of all bills for January 2025. Motion unanimously carried.

Upon motion by Mr. Segura and seconded by Mr. Hensgens, the Board moved to approve ratifying the Insurance Renewal with Brown and Brown. Motion unanimously carried.

Upon motion by Mr. Segura and seconded by Mr. Hensgens, the Board approves Exhibitor/Sponsorship for the Bayou Vermilion Preservation Symposium. Motion unanimously carried.

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Upon motion by Mr. Segura and seconded by Mr. Hensgens, the Board moved to approve all expenses for Board Members and Staff to attend the Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association 90th Spring Legislative Meetings in Washington, DC from March 9-12, 2025. Motion unanimously carried.

The District pumped 31,233,000,000 gallons for a total of 109 days in 2024.

The Director’s Report is attached.

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

Director’s Report for January 2025

1. We would like ratification for the renewal of the District’s Insurance with Brown and Brown Insurance as discussed in our December meeting. The Liability portion of the policy has an exclusion for all claims, lawsuits, disputes, litigation associated with the erosion of banks and/or water levels in the banks.
2. Bayou Vermilion Preservation Association is hosting the annual River Symposium at the LITE Center on Friday May 9, 2025, from 8:00 to 2:30 PM. We will have an opportunity to display promotional materials at the event for a fee of $500.00. The organization uses earnings from the Symposium to carry out its mission which is to “create awareness of our natural environment by providing education and outreach to the general community about ways to conserve, protect and enjoy the Bayou Vermilion Watershed”.
3. The Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association is holding its annual meeting in Washington from March 9-12. During this time Districts from throughout the country meet with their congressional delegations to discuss matters of importance to them at the federal level. This would be a good time to meet with our congressmen and Senators to discuss issues that have come up in the watershed during the past few years.
4. We will need to construct mounting sites and mount three permanent gauges to collect water quality data needed to evaluate the benefit of additional flow in Bayou Amy that was requested by St. Martin Parish. Each site will cost approximately $20,000.00. We will be able to download the continuously recorded data from the gauge sites.
5. We received this email from Aub Ward with USGS. USGS operates most of the existing gauge networks in Louisiana. The four gauge sites that Aub identifies in the list below are the ones that are in our district. We monitor these gauge sites daily. We have an alternate way to get the information for the Keystone locations but not the Perry or Adeline locations.

Good morning, Mr. Sagrera,

Thank you for taking my call regarding the loss of funding to several of the USGS gaging stations in your area. Unfortunately, the following stations will be turned off on the web by the end of January and then equipment removed from the sites if no State or local agreement is in place (or in the process of being created) to cover the operation & maintenance funds.

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|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Site Number | USGS CMF Funding Avail. | Customer Funds Needed |
| Bayou Teche at Keystone L&D nr St. Martinville, LA | 07385700 | $    7,750 | $    8,850 |
| Bayou Teche at Adeline Bridge near Jeanerette, LA | 07385765 | $  10,750 | $  14,920 |
| Vermilion River at Perry, LA | 07386980 | $  10,750 | $  14,920 |
| Bayou Teche below Keystone L&D nr St. Martinville | 07385702 | $           - | $    5,780 |
|  | Total | $  29,250 | $  44,470 |

As I mentioned, there are USGS Cooperative Matching Funds available for these stations to help offset the full cost of operation & maintenance, however, this $29,250 must be tied to an agreement with a State or local entity to be used. In response to your question about the number of web visits each site receives, I will ask our internet team how many visits each of these pages has received and report that back to you once I hear from them.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Aub Ward

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Aub N. Ward

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[USGS National Water Dashboard](https://dashboard.waterdata.usgs.gov/app/nwd/en/?aoi=wsc-lmg)

We have a camera at Keystone and can get the elevation and calculate the flow. We will not be able to get data for Petry and Adeline.

1. Update on repairs to damages to our Electrical Power Supply MV Contactor Lineup caused by the electrical fault that happened last August: Engineers with Schneider Electric have inspected and evaluated the Contactor Lineup and obtained the necessary measurements required for the repair design. The order for the materials needed has been placed and should be delivered in April. The tentative date for making the site repairs is in May. Spare Parts which were included in the repair proposal have been ordered and will also be delivered in April.
2. Water Quality monitoring

Water quality monitoring was conducted on January 7 and 8, 2025. A cold front came through the area on January 6. We recorded 0.5” of rain at the Krotz Springs Pump Station on January 6. On sample dates the wind was strong from the North and Northwest which caused very low water levels in those parts of the watershed that are tidal. The low water levels were caused by the strong winds blowing the water out of the bays. The Corps of Engineers was draining the upper parts of the watershed through the Bayou Courtableau Drainage Structure. Water levels at those sample sites that are not tidal were near threshold for January. Air Temperature was cold on both sample dates.

The water temperature at the sample sites was near to slightly below the previous 8-year average for January. The water temperature ranged from the upper 40’s to the mid 50 degrees Fahrenheit.

Dissolved Oxygen was near the previous 8-year average for January and was at a desirable concentration for all sample sites. Cold water temperature was helpful in allowing for the good, dissolved oxygen content.

Salinity as indicated by Conductivity was low for all sample sites in both Vermilion River and Bayou Teche. High salinity is still present at the monitoring sites in Vermilion Bay and elevated salinity was present at the GIWW site. The rainfall that we have received over the past few weeks has helped prevent saltwater intrusion.

Turbidity readings were near the previous 8-year average for January and indicated that water at the sample sites was carrying sediments. The recent rains that we have been receiving as well as windy conditions are contributing to water turbidity.

Lab samples from twenty-four sites were analyzed for fecal coliform content. Results of analysis indicate that twenty-two of the sites were within the threshold for secondary contact and ten of the sites were within the threshold for primary contact. The two sites that were above the threshold for secondary contact were downstream in the Vermilion River at Palmetto Park and Perry.

1. Our Staff has inspected our structures and water pipes at the pump station. We have not found any damage caused by the record snow and low temperatures so far.

We gave a presentation about the Teche-Vermilion project to the current class of Master Naturalist candidates on January 11. There were about 20 in the class. After the presentation, we took them on a tour of the structures and waterbodies throughout the watershed.

1. We received 6.25” of rain in November, 6.75” of rain in December and so far, 4.75” in January. We have not had to pump to supplement flow since the beginning of November. The Corps has both the Bayou Darbonne and the Bayou Courtableau Drainage Structures open and draining the upper parts of the watershed into the floodway. The elevation of water in Bayou Courtableau at the drainage structure is

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over a foot above threshold. The watershed data that we are monitoring indicates that it will be several days without additional rain before we will need to run pumps.