

## Spring Bayou Lake Commission Minutes May 20, 2019

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chairman Jimmy Landry.

Avoyelles Police Jury President Col. Charles Jones read the opening prayer.

Chairman Jimmy Landry led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary Terry Laborde called the Roll: Present: Chairman Jimmy Landry, Vice-Chairman Rayford Laborde, Secretary Terry Laborde, Commissioner Artha Hale, Commissioner Roland Dugas III, Commissioner Philip Lamartiniere, Commissioner Jules (JK) Bordelon, Commissioner Mayor Kenneth Pickett, Juror Mark Borrel, Juror Trent Clark, and APPJ President Col. Charles Jones. Also in attendance were Bill Jupp, Mike Ducote, Jacques Goudeau, George Isreal, and Jason Bordelon. Commissioner Dr. LJ Mayeux was absent.

The motion to accept the minutes of the April 2019 meeting was made by Commissioner Philip Lamartiniere, received a second by Commissioner Artha Hale, and the vote to accept was unanimous.

The agenda of tonight's meeting consisted of recommendations made to the latest version of the Master Plan for the Spring Bayou Complex as emailed to all members prior to the meeting.

Commissioner Jimmy Landry began by thanking all commissioners and interest citizens for their dedication to improve the Spring Bayou Complex. The chairman continued by reminding everyone of the commission's advisory role to the Avoyelles Police Jury who has the authority to make the decisions. The chairman stated the present Master Plan is a working plan with information accumulated from various personnel and documents along with his six years of experience working with the Spring Bayou Restoration Team. The purpose of the Master Plan is to give background information on Spring Bayou in order to obtain funding for projects recommended by the commission with Police Jury approval. From the audience, Jason Bordelon went to the podium when recognized and stated it's his opinion that the commission has not produced acceptable work.

After a short discussion on the present Master Plan with modifications sent to Chairman Landry, Secretary Terry Laborde made a motion to accept the latest version of the Spring Bayou Master Plan along with changes emailed to Chairman Landry. Vice-Chairman Rayford Laborde added a second to the motion and discussion ensued on revisions by commissioners for the remainder of the meeting by recommendations to adding information, remove information in the document, and revise wording of particular statements. Commissioner Dugas questioned Chairman Landry on the procedure involved in the commission voting for a document not presented in its entirety and formulated as the meeting progressed. Chairman Landry responded that it's his opinion the document needed to be completed at this meeting after being postponed at the April meeting because the Avoyelles Police Jury needs to accept or decline it for an August deadline.

Commissioner Hale questioned if the August deadline was a requirement for a NCRS grant and if there was a possible matching for the \$350,000.00 request. Chairman Landry responded that was the rationale for the submission. Commissioner Lamartiniere stated the use of the language in the document in reference to "chemical runoff" needs to be modified. Chairman Landry stated the requested monies are for dredging Boggy Bayou. Discussion continued that the ideal process to dredge would be to dredge and pump the sediment out the facility instead of using a dragline and make approximately 400,000 yds<sup>3</sup> of spoil bank, but the price of the procedure is the ultimate factor. Commissioner Hale added that it was his

experience that no dredging company would consider the project to dredge Spring Bayou, pump out the sediment, and sell the sediment while Commissioner Dugas added the consideration for a small dredge to be purchased and the local agency perform the dredging on a continuous basis. He stated he was aware of this procedure being used south of New Orleans. Commissioner Dugas added a recommendation to explore revenue sources for the dredged material after Vice-Chairman Laborde questioned Chairman Landry about his knowledge of any company that could perform this process and make the dredged material available for sale to the public. Commissioner Dugas used the analogy that the complex would revert to a “basketball court” over the next years if sediment continues to accumulate. Historical accounts say that hay was baled in Grand Lac many years ago before the dam/weir retaining water. More discussion ensued on the types of dredging.

The next topic was a modification to statements about the Little River dam/weir which was measured to be at 40.85-ft MSL. Commissioner Philip Lamartiniere began a discussion about raising the dam two feet above the present height, but there was concern that some properties would be easily flooded so a recommendation was made for a further study of the issue. Commissioner Dugas questioned if any of this information was needed in the final document because of the position of LDWF not to flood timber, but Chairman Landry felt this was just historical information. Commissioner Dugas thanked Chairman Landry for the hard work in the complication of the information, but requested specific references and documentation in the form of footnotes should be added as to where the information came from (expert information should be documented). Commissioner Lamartiniere also asked about including this information about changing the height of the dam.

Concerning goal 3.5, the second paragraph about riparian landowners pumping surface water for their operations was suggested to be removed. Commissioner Bordelon addressed the issue of the numbers of acres in the report. He felt the numbers for farmland on page 12 in the section titled “The Problems” are not accurate and suggested broader terms such as “thousands of acres” should be used instead of specific numbers.

Chairman Landry responded to questions about the use of the report saying the purpose is to use this document to go to NRCS as a guideline for the purpose of securing funding.

Commissioner Lamartiniere made the motion to accept the amendments made throughout the meeting to the Master Plan. Secretary Laborde added a second and the vote to accept the amendments (changes) was unanimous. Commissioner Hale stated letters of support should be secured to assist the process. Finally a motion was presented with a second to accept the original motion as amended. With this process, the Master Plan for the Spring Bayou Complex is ready for submission. At 7:43 pm Commissioner Hale made a motion to adjourn. Vice-Chairman Laborde added the second and the vote to adjourn was unanimous.