

Spring Bayou Lake Commission  
Meeting Minutes  
January 21, 2019

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jimmy Landry at 6:00 pm in the Grand Jury Meeting Room in the Marksville Courthouse.

Chairman Jimmy Landry led the group with the opening prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Secretary Terry Laborde called the roll: Present were Jimmy Landry, Rayford Laborde, Terry Laborde, Dr. LJ Mayeux, Roland Dugas III, Philip Lamartiniere, & Artha Hale. Absent were Jules Bordelon, Mayor Kenneth Pickett, Juror Mark Borrel, Juror Trent Clark, and Police Jury President Charles Jones. Also in attendance were Scott Laborde, Jacques Goudeau, & Ronald Coco.

Commissioner Hale pointed out an error in the December minutes which named the Chairman of the Tunica Biloxi Tribe as Marshal Sampson instead of the correct chairman Marshal Pierite. Vice Chairman Rayford Laborde introduced a motion to accept the minutes with the correction. Commissioner Philip Lamartiniere added the second to the motion which was accepted unanimously by the commissioners.

Chairman Landry requested everyone who has not done yet to email a copy of their certification from the December Ethics Class to him.

Chairman Landry discussed the official elevation readings measured last month by Kevin Bordelon from the Police Jury and Ron Bordelon from Pan American Engineers. The top of the dam at the end of Little River was measured to be 40.85-feet above sea level. Besides that reading, five other locations were charted to show elevation. Chairman Landry added pipes would soon be installed at five strategic locations in the complex and the markers would be attached to the pipes.

Discussion ensued on the topic of raising the top of the dam. Chairman Landry stated his research shows raising the dam by 2-feet (43' MSL) would cause continuous flooding to the roads, camps and hardwood areas in the complex. His recommendation was to elevate by 1-foot (42' MSL). Vice-Chairman Rayford Laborde suggested NCRS could analyze data in a scenario at an elevation of 42-feet and print maps showing the possible flooded area.

Concerning a letter to LDWF for control structure guidelines, Chairman Landry said he was in contact with Biologist Jody David for recommendations. The protocol is for LDWF to make recommendations on the dam & control structure, the Spring Bayou Lake Commission to review the recommendations and the Avoyelles Police Jury to make the final decision.

Concerning possible dredging of Boggy Bayou as suggested by Louisiana Secretary of Wildlife and Fisheries Jack Montoucet, Chairman Landry stated Boggy Bayou is not considered navigable and the three landowners who own the bed have been sent letters requesting their permission or right-of-ways to proceed. Chairman Landry stated that meetings have been held with a variety of entities (Tunica Tribe, Corps of Engineers, Ducks Unlimited and NCRS) in order to secure support, resources, and funding for Spring Bayou projects. It was his opinion that the meetings went well and need to continue.

Commissioner Hale reminded the commission members of the funds applied for by the Avoyelles Police Jury which may be transferred to the dredging project if approved by the state. Marshall Pierite from the Tunica Biloxi tribe and the Pierite Group pledged support, resources, and a formal document for the projects of the Spring Bayou Lake Commission because water in Coulee des Grues runs through tribal property.

Commissioner Hale suggested a pumping station may be placed on tribal property. Jacques Goudeau added that Spring Bayou Restoration Team members escorted Katy Breaux and dignitaries from the Vicksburg Army Corps of Engineering Office to key locations in the complex to document the needs for intervention to the complex. The issue of previous feasibility studies and valuable information from other sources could be applied to the present endeavor was presented by Vice-Chairman Rayford Laborde. The previous plan would need to be downsized for the present plan. Vice-Chairman Laborde noted the project should be free, but Goudeau rationalized the cost share by local agencies may be down to 15%-to-20% instead of the original 35%. Goudeau said federal agencies cannot contribute to the project, but a feasibility study needs to be done prior to the calculation of the percentage of cost-sharing. According to Chairman Landry, approximately \$800,000.00 was spent in the time of Representative Monica Walker. According to Chairman Landry and Goudeau, our project would be put in the basket with all the other US Corps of Engineering projects for possible funding and they're not in a hurry for funding, but Congress in Washington could decide to fund the project.

Chairman Landry condensed the discussion stating a Master Plan of ideas is being formulated in an effort to get water into the complex, remove the silt from the complex, and keep water in the complex, but funding is the biggest obstacle.

In the final segment of the meeting, Chairman Landry opened the floor to everyone in a roundtable discussion. Commissioner Hale began a discussion on dredging and water in the complex. Commissioner Hale and Ronald Coco explained the path of water from Mansura down Bayou Tassin into Old River near the AJ Roy property. Commissioner Hale also presented a diagram for a dredging proposal by LDWF Biologist Jody David which calculates the amount of dredged material and cost to construct a channel on Boggy Bayou starting at the Spring Bayou Wildlife Management Area where department ownership ends to go to the end of Boggy Bayou where it runs into Little River and then towards the first bridge in Little River. (Diagram and specs on file)

The next item of discussion was the Madame Gilbert weir and its removal. Discussion revolved around the need of a comprehensive plan to control silt deposit in the complex.

Commissioner Terry Laborde presented a motion to adjourn at 7:45 pm. The motion received a second by Commissioner Dr. LJ Mayeux and the vote was unanimous to adjourn.