**Third Meeting of Spring Bayou Lake Commission**

The third meeting of the Spring Bayou Lake Commission was held on October 17, 2018, in the Avoyelles Police Jury Meeting Room at 6:00 pm. Secretary Terry Laborde called the roll after Chairman Jimmy Landry called the meeting to order, offered the opening prayer, and led the group with the Pledge of Allegiance. Members present included Chairman 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 Picket, and Police Juror Mark Borrel. Commissioner Dr. LJ Mayeux and Juror Trent Clark were absent. Guest in attendance were Ronald Coco, Jacques Goudeau, and George Israel.

Vice-Chairman Laborde presented a motion and Commissioner Mayor Pickett seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the September 10, 2018, meeting as given to the commissioner by Secretary Laborde. The motion was unanimously approved.

After clarification by Commissioner Dugas and Secretary Laborde concerning the wording of Article V Organization, Section 1, Item #6 of the By-Laws, a motion by Commissioner Bordelon and a second by Vice-Chairman Laborde was approved unanimously by the entire commission. This clarification concerned the removal of a commission member if convicted of game or fish violations.

The commissioners each presented wording and modifications to previously presented “Mission Statements” for the organization before Vice-Chairman Laborde’s motion with a second by Secretary Laborde to accept the modified “Mission Statement” by Commissioner Dugas. The Mission Statement reads as follows: “The mission of the Spring Bayou Lake Commission is to insure the Spring Bayou Complex and associated wetlands are a healthy, natural and sustainable hydrological ecosystem that is permanently maintained, protected and preserved.”

Chairman Landry told the commissioners and audience that the Spring Bayou Lake Commission now has a webpage which is attached to the Avoyelles Police Jury webpage “www.avoypj.org”.

After a short discussion, a motion was presented by Commissioner Hale and a second by Vice-Chairman Laborde to allow any donations/funding received by the Spring Bayou Lake Commission to be deposited into a bank savings account under the Spring Bayou Restoration Team. The Spring Bayou Restoration team has 501-c-3 status and is capable of giving donors letters for tax purposes while the Avoyelles Police Jury cannot issue such a letter. Chairman Landry stated he is the Treasurer for the Spring Bayou Restoration Team and will keep monies separated in the ledger. Police Juror Roy suggested District Attorney Charles Riddle check on the validity of this process. From the audience, Jacques Goudeau explained the 501-c-3 status capabilities and benefits to donors. The motion was unanimously approved.

Chairman Landry gave the commissioners and audience the time and date for the visit of the Spring Bayou Complex by Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Secretary Jack Montoucet. He is scheduled to arrive at the Marksville Courthouse on October 29, 2018, at 1:30 pm. He is scheduled to visit the Spring Bayou Complex after the meeting at the courthouse in his scheduled one hour visit. Commissioner Dugas suggested everyone just meet at Spring Bayou.

Concerning water level markers, Police Juror Borrel told everyone there are plans to install three metal-post water level indicators. Years ago, wooden water level indicators were installed, but the wooden post soon deteriorated. Juror Borrel said one metal post gage will be installed at the Little River dam, a second metal post gage will be installed on Little River near the concrete bridge, and a third metal post gage will be installed at Boggy Bayou landing.

According to Chairman Landry, the wooden boat docks at Old River could be replaced with floating docks as part of a 99-year agreement between the Avoyelles Parish School Board, the property owner, and the LDWF. In addition, the board’s property in front of the “FFA Camp” will be used to enlarge the parking lot for the renovated boat dock. This will be the fourth floating boat dock constructed in the complex.

Secretary Laborde presented his thoughts that an easy and logical item of consideration should be the operation of the control structure at the end of Little River to assist in the removal of sediment from the waterway. Chairman Landry ensued that this is a relatively inexpensive start to show the public the Spring Bayou Lake Commission is looking for solutions to problems in the complex. Juror Borrel added that a track hoe could be used to clean the area around the gates, but opening the gates when water naturally flows over the gates would have little effect. Discussion ensued over a back-up plan in the event the gates do not close after being opened. The Avoyelles Police Jury controls the operation of the gates. Ronald Coco explained the mechanism to open and close the gates using either a hand crank or a hydraulic motor. Coco reminded everyone that the gates were last opened over 25-years ago in the process of doing a drawdown. Juror Borrel cautioned about the term “drawdown” with the residents of the Spring Bayou Complex after the previous repercussions.

Concerning the Clear Water Act Section 404 Permit, Chairman Landry said Jody David has already applied for the permit and it’s under evaluation. Commissioner Dugas added the permit should require mitigation and Commissioner Hale said the term was a nationwide permit.

Chairman Landry and Goudeau stated they recently attended a meeting concerning the Louisiana Watershed Initiative Program. This new $1.2 billion program is to manage flood prevention in Louisiana. Both said the possibility of the Spring Bayou Lake Commission getting money for projects is low.

Vice-Chairman Laborde began an explanation of the flow of water into Avoyelles stating some water comes from Indian Creek and some from the Red River once the Diversion Canal had been cleared. George Israel added water down Bayou Bouef goes to Chatlin Lake Canal weir. This has implications for water levels in Lake Pearl and the gaps along the way could send water when the pool-2 level in the Red River is above 64-feet.Chairman Landry said this system was set to remove water. Israel asked about the Coulee Des Gruis gates on Highway 1 near Burger King since it’s his opinion that the Coulee Des Gruis is a logical place to get water into the complex and elevations prevent the use of the Spring Bayou Canal next to the Wolf Den Saloon. Commissioner Hale replied the gates have been recently worked. Vice-Chairman Laborde added the siphoning of water from the Red River at pool-2 could be cost effective. Commissioner Bordelon reminded everyone of the problems associated with beaver dams.

Chairman Landry updated the commission on the Army Corps of Engineers studies adding that Representative Abraham is involved and the Federal Government could be required to pay for the cost of studies.

Chairman Landry delegated commissioners to committees on key topics for discussions in upcoming meetings. Commissioner Hale and Commissioner Mayor Pickett were assigned to the Sediment Removal Committee. Commissioner Lamartiniere and Commissioner Bordelon were assigned to the Water Resources Committee. Secretary Laborde, Commissioner Dugas, and Commissioner Bordelon were assigned to the Water Retention Committee. Commissioner Dr Mayeux and Vice-Chairman Laborde were assigned to the Funding Committee.

Prior to the adjourning of the meeting, Commissioner Bordelon went on record praising Chairman Landry for his efforts giving out information about the complex and prior work. Commissioner Mayor Pickett said he was fascinated with the knowledge from the committee and audience as he pledged support for the organization. Vice-Chairman thanked Mr. Israel for his expertise of the history of the complex. Chairman Landry thanked Goudeau and Coco for their assistance. The next meeting is scheduled for the third Monday of November.

At 7:42 pm, Commissioner Mayor Pickett made a motion to adjourn and Vice-Chairman Laborde followed with a second to the motion which was unanimous.

Submitted by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Terry Laborde, Secretary Spring Bayou Lake Commission