

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the Lafayette Parish Bayou Vermilion District
Held at Vermilionville, 300 Fisher Road Lafayette Louisiana
4:30 pm, February 24, 2016

Call to Order was given by President Barry at 4:38. **Roll Call:** Given by Secretary Commissioners Rodney Richard, David Barry, Benjamin Richard, Thomas Michot, and Don McConnell were present. Commissioners Derek Landry, John Troutman and Kristie Cornell were absent. There was a quorum.

Approval of Minutes: **MOTION:** (D. McConnell/B. Richard) to approve the minutes as submitted for the January 27, 2016 regular meeting. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Introduction of Guest(s): Guests: Lowell Duhon, CAO of the Lafayette Consolidated Government; here as a concerned citizen Mr. Duhon lives on the river. Staff: CEO Cheramie, Brady McKellar, Erin Segura, Anne Mahoney, Millicent Norbert, Curtis Willingham and Kim Fournet.

Public Comment(s): There were no public comments.

President's Report: President Barry discussed the millage renewal election set for April 9th. The Lafayette Parish School Board will not be on the ballot, the Public Library might be on the ballot. As of now, BVD is the only entity on the ballot and will be financially responsible for the cost of the election. BVD is asking for a renewal of the existing millage and continuation of Capital Improvements Bond, which BVD has paid off early. Some BVD employees have been speaking to local community groups and getting positive feedback from the groups. The capital projects planned for the future will enhance water activities on the bayou. The community will continue to benefit from the work BVD does on the river and the educational value Vermilionville has to offer to the Lafayette public and visitors to the village. The website to visit for more information is: www.bayouvermiliondistrict.org/2016LafayetteMillage.

John Broussard joined the meeting.

CEO's Report: A copy of CEO Cheramie's report and coordinators reports (on file) were e-mailed and are in each Commissioner's binder. CEO Cheramie reported that BVD, along with the LCG, have received an award from the LDEQ for Environmental Leadership Productivity. The Bandalong Project is one of many coordinated efforts between BVD and LCG. In the past year, 165 cubic yards of trash has been removed from the Bandalong site. The project with HDR, which was to oxygenate all 33 miles of river which flows through Lafayette Parish, has proven to be too expensive. BVD is looking at working on a 9 mile stretch to improve the water quality and hopefully have a multiplier effect on the river. At a Mardi Gras parade a young man fell off a float and has since died, he was Quinn DeJean, a former BVD employee. BVD's liability insurance for the year of 2016, has a slight increase from last year.

Marketing/Public Relations: The committee did meet to discuss how to get more visitors and members to Vermilionville. 90% of the membership of Vermilionville is over 60 years of age, it is necessary to bring in younger members to help sustain and maintain the museum. There was also a discussion as to the feasibility of renting out Southside Park and what improvements would be needed to make that possible. Commissioner Broussard inquired about the progress of the public announcement system

throughout the village. There are several logistic issues that need to be addressed to install a PA system and the project is still being studied. Erin Segura showed the board a commercial produced by Right Angle for the promotion of the Millage and Bond campaign. Right Angle is making a few versions of this commercial. This will be a television, radio and social media campaign. Erin handed out schedules of upcoming events promoting and supporting the campaign, such as Clean Streams put on by the BVPA and a scavenger hunt.

Finance/Capital: There was no meeting. The questionnaire for the state auditor has been completed. President Barry reminded the Commissioners to fill out the annual ethics report for commissioners.

Operations/Bayou/Maintenance: There was no meeting. There will be a meeting March 8th. The committee will be discussing their wish list and plans for the next few years.

Environmental: The committee met with HDR about the water quality program. Commissioner Michot explained that HDR would refocus their efforts on a smaller section of the river. This new direction of the project should be finished by the next board meeting. Emile Ancelet's report stated that all state funding projects are on hold, BVD will be looking for other venues for monies to complete many of its projects. BVD will still have a No-Till Drill to lease out to local farmers.

Education/Programming: The committee did not meet.

Curatorial/Acquisitions: The committee did not meet.

New Business: There was no new business.

Adjournment: MOTION: (D. McConnell/T. Michot) Motion to adjourn. All were in favor. Motion carried.

David Barry, President

/s/ John Troutman
John Troutman, Secretary