

Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of the Lafayette Parish Bayou Vermilion District  
Held at Vermilionville, 300 Fisher Road Lafayette Louisiana  
4:30 pm, April 22, 2015

**Call to Order** was given by President Richard at 4:34. **Roll Call:** Given by Secretary Commissioners Steve Gremillion, Rodney Richard, David Barry, Thomas Michot and John Troutman were present. Commissioners John Broussard, Kristie Cornell and Derek Landry were absent. There was a quorum.

**Approval of Minutes:** **MOTION** Commissioner Barry asked to correct American Culture Day to Native American Culture Day. (S. Gremillion/T. Michot) to approve the minutes as submitted with the noted correction, for March 25, 2015 meeting. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**Introduction of Guest(s):** Bruce Conque, private citizen. Staff: CEO Cheramie, Emile Ancelet, Jolie Johnson, Millicent Norbert, Curtis Willingham and Kim Fournet.

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

**President's Report:** President Richard commented that the buildings were looking good with the recent maintenance and repairs that have been done.

**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. Balfa Week brought in \$24,592. CEO Cheramie met with the new Airport Director, Steven Picou to introduce himself and explain the BVD connection to the airport. The Black Pot event was also discussed, the Lafayette Airport might have some available parking for the event. BVD is still negotiating with Glenn Fields. A tentative agreement has reached, waiting for LCG to clear with Risk Management, to approve camping in the ballparks across from Vermilionville, BVD's parking lot, the lot at the airport and possibly in Heymann Park. There would be a shuttle service for the camping areas to Vermilionville. No camping whatsoever within the village. Glenn Fields normally takes out a liability policy for the 2-3 days of the event. Black Pot officially starts on the Friday evening, which would be after Vermilionville closes. The issue is the Saturday, the fee for Black Pot is \$30.00, which would have to be charged to all visitors that day. The price for that Saturday and the event, which is October 31<sup>st</sup>, will be advertised in advance. BVD is getting a flat fee of \$7,500 and the food sales. This is a new event for BVD and will be reviewed for future Black Pot events. Black Pot will take care of all added expenses, such as security, trash pick-up, porta-potties. Rotary Point will be discussed in the Finance/Capital report. BVD is looking for approval to start the process of the preliminary engineering report. Public Announcement system is being reviewed. AVI gave BVD an estimate of \$1,800.00 for the work. The good news is that trenches will not have to be dug because there are telephone wires going to the houses. The bad news is the look of the loud speakers on the front porches of the houses. Commissioner J. Broussard had requested the public announcement system be installed. CEO Cheramie will ask AVI for other possible options and get some input from the Foundation Board.

Commissioner Don McConnell joined the meeting at 4:57.

CEO Cheramie will meet tomorrow with Representative Ortego to discuss the House Bill 202. There has been some opposition to this bill, possibly Representative Ortego will

need to explain in better detail the purpose of the bill. BVD's intention is to be proactive on cleaning up the bayou. Going up stream of the water shed to collect the trash before it becomes more difficult to remove and getting water samples to better identify the polluting sources. BVD's ultimate goal is to get the Vermilion River up to primary contact clearance. BVD has gotten the attention of other parishes as to how serious we are about cleaning the entire river.

President Richard asked if the barrel debris count included the Bandalong. Curtis Willingham explained that it was not in this report but would be included in future reports. The cleaning operation gets easier with each dumping. Budget for the dumping may not have been enough.

Ellen McConnell, Commissioner McConnell's daughter joined the meeting.

President Richard asked about the progress of the signage. Charissa Helluin informed the board that the sign sample that was sent to BVD had incorrect color proofs. The problem is being addresses and should be corrected in 4 to 6 weeks.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Marketing/Public Relations:** There was no meeting.

**Finance/Capital:** The committee did meet to discuss several items. The unreserved funds was discussed to cover some projects that have come up. Also, setting up a timeline for developing capital projects for the upcoming bond issuance. First, the committee would like to establish a timeline for the various coordinators and the various areas to develop with the appropriate committees from the commission a list of capital projects for the next 10-15 years. This will be the first step in putting together a list that can be used for both public and for figuring out the bond issues and how much we would hope to bond out. This would be coordinated by CEO Cheramie. The committee is looking for these lists to have projects very general estimated costs, nothing specific. This should be done within the next 45 days. All committees would meet with the appropriate coordinators and begin to draw up these lists to be submitted to the Finance/Capital Committee for consideration before June's board meeting. This is so BVD can begin to develop the bond proposal. There are two capital issues that need to be discussed. The committee would like to use some of the unreserved funds, which has approximately \$634,000.00, for the project that is being developed to completely renovate the bathrooms in the Welcome Center. The estimated cost is \$30,000.00.

**MOTION:** (D. Barry/S. Gremillion) to allocate \$30,000.00, with a 10% override to cover the cost of the bathroom renovations. All monies coming from the Unreserved Funds. There was much discussion and studying of the estimate. All were in favor. Motion carried. The committee also recommended that a minimum of \$500,000.00, be retained in the Unreserved Funds for emergencies.

**Operations/Bayou/Maintenance:** BVD received a proposal from Whit Rankin with Rankin, LLC for \$53,068.80, for the proposal to draw up a preliminary plan to proceed with the Rotary Point Bulkhead and Walkway Replacement. Many different entities were questioned to confirm the validity of the price and scope of the work. All agreed it was a sound proposal. The final cost of the entire project is still unknown but the preliminary plan needs to start so the project can continue. **MOTION:** (D. Barry/S.

Gremillion) to accept the proposal as submitted by Rankin, LLC, in the amount of \$53,068.80 to draw up a preliminary plan for Rotary Point bulkhead and walkway replacement. Monies will be drawn from the Capital Funds account. Questions and discussion followed. All were in favor. Motion carried.

**Environmental:** Commissioner Michot was sent some water quality data from Emile Ancelet that the crew has been collecting. The more detailed data is from the past two years, there are some excel files from 2007 to present. A goal of BVD is to bring back game fish to the river.

**Education/Programming:** There was no meeting.

**Curatorial/Acquisitions:** The committee did meet with employees. Charissa Helluin and Anne Mahoney are working to get Vermilionville accredited. The immediate area to address is security, including thief and a fire plan. Commissioner Gremillion is providing climate control storage at one of his facilities for artifacts. The curatorial department has switched from File Perfect Pro software to Past Perfect software to maintain the artifacts inventory. The committee is looking for a building that can be used in the village that would be similar to a General Store.

**New Business:** Bruce Conque is representing TRAIL (Transportation Recreation Alternatives in Louisiana) a nonprofit organization. Rotary has granted TRAIL some monies to create some destination kiosks, which are essentially benches with combination bike racks to be installed at key points around the community. The kiosks will inform visitors of the opportunities for hiking, biking and paddling in the community, there will be no commercial messages on the kiosks. TRAIL and Rotary will be mentioned on the kiosk. TRAIL would like to construct and install a bench/bike rack at Vermilionville at no expense to BVD, only the board's approval.

**MOTION:** (R. Richard/D. Barry) to allow TRAIL to install a bench/bike rack at Vermilionville. All were in favor. Motion carried.

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

/s/Rodney Richard  
Rodney Richard, President

/s/John Troutman  
John Troutman, Secretary