

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 25, 2015

Call to Order was given by President Richard at 4:31. **Roll Call**: Given by Secretary Commissioners Steve Gremillion, Rodney Richard, David Barry, Kristie Cornell, Thomas Michot, Derek Landry and Don McConnell were present. Commissioner John Troutman was absent. There was a quorum.

Approval of Minutes: **MOTION** (D. Barry/S. Gremillion) to approve the minutes as submitted for January 28, 2015 meeting. All were in favor. Motion carried.

Introduction of Guest(s): Charlie Wyatt and Bruce Conque. Staff: CEO Cheramie, Charissa Helluin, Greg Guidroz, Erin Segura, Millicent Norbert, Anne Mahoney, Jolie Johnson, Curtis Willingham and Kim Fournet.

Commissioner J. Broussard joined the meeting.

Public Comment(s): Charlie Wyatt with Bayou Vermilion Preservation Association spoke to the board about the BVPA's activities and upcoming events in 2015 (with an accompanying handout). The highlight of the presentation was the announcement that BVPA was named "Conservation Organization of the Year for 2014" in the Annual Governor's Conservation Achievement Recognition Program conducted by the Louisiana Wildlife Federation. The award will be presented in Baton Rouge on March 28, 2015. President Richard asked Mr. Wyatt to have a representative from BVD at the award presentation due to the fact that much of the work and data was done by the Bayou Ops Crew at BVD. Commissioner Gremillion asked if the award included any monetary funds. Mr. Wyatt did not know for sure but thought it would be recognition only, no monetary funds.

President's Report: President Richard expressed his appreciation for the hard work and many times the dangerous work the Bayou Ops crew does on a regular basis. Commissioner Gremillion again reminded the new commissioners that they should take a river tour with Curtis to get a better perspective of BVD's mission on the river.

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. The commissioners should have received a link to the website for the virtual Vermilion River Paddle Trail map. CEO Cheramie reposted a video that Tom Melancon had posted of the crew working on the river in the rain at Coulee Webb to keep the river clean. Republic services has been contacted to coordinate a time with BVD and LCG to get the trash out of the Bandalong trap. Commissioner Gremillion and CEO Cheramie explained the process of how the Bandalong works and the emptying of the basket. CEO reported that Representative Stephen Ortego has pre-filed a bill giving BVD some expanded powers (all of BVD's authority is within the parish limits). This legislation would allow BVD to go outside of the parish to help clean up the river upstream from Lafayette. Although BVD is funded from Lafayette Parish tax revenues, any trash in the river will eventually come through Lafayette Parish; getting it out of the river sooner is better for everyone. This could help other parishes create their own version of a BVD, using us a model plan. BVD has paid off the last of its Construction Bonds, \$101,550. All of BVD's bonds have been paid off.

There is \$185,429, left in the Capital Funds account, of which approximately \$128,000, is earmarked for previously approved projects. The 2014 year was very good and 2015 is starting off nicely. BVD has a new employee, Anne Mahoney, working in the Curatorial Department.

Committee Reports: Marketing/Public Relations: There was no committee meeting but Commissioner D. Landry met with Erin Segura to discuss the tasks/goals are for the upcoming year.

Finance/Capital: There was no meeting.

Operations/Bayou/Maintenance: The committee met this afternoon to discuss the Rotary Point project. Commissioner Gremillion is reviewing with Whit Rankin (Consulting Engineer with Rankin, LLC) the possibility of putting a floating dock at Rotary. The entire project will be in three phases. The first phase would be the bulkhead and walkway. Phase two would be the stairway leading down to the pavilion. Phase three would be a bulkhead on the opposite side. The committee also met at the Bandalong site with Jim Edwards and Bess Foret. In theory the Bandalong is a fabulous deal in practice there are several issues that have to be worked out. LCG agreed to dump the Bandalong basket and BVD will pay for the removal of the trash. It appears that the engineers with LCG did not communicate well with Public Works as to how and when the basket will be emptied. The contract with LCG is that city employees empty the basket and BVD pays for the removal of the trash. The cost of the Bandalong was split between LCG and BVD.

Environmental: Commissioner Michot met with Emile Ancelet to get an update on the water quality sampling. The committee will meet before next month's meeting to discuss where things are and where they are going. Possibly taking samples from the coulee and the river at the same point to see what is coming from the coulee and how it effects the river.

Education/Programming: Jolie Johnson presented the committee report. The review the projects for 2015. The committee is restructuring the way BVD will proceed with Native American Cultural Day. Jolie has started a strategic plan for the Vermilionville side and would like do one for the Bayou Ops side then merge them together for an entire institutional strategic plan. This is to help create and streamline all the plans that need to happen into a capital fund request. This request is included in the coordinators report.

Curatorial/Acquisitions: Commissioner Gremillion met with Charissa Helluin and Anne Mahoney to discuss Commissioner Gremillion assisting with a temporary storage unit to store artifacts in a climate controlled unit. The Collections Management Project Plans, drawn up by Anne, were also reviewed. The committee will come to the board with an official request for items and monies needed to complete these plans.

Commissioner T. Michot asked if there were any new developments with the French Immersion Day Care Center. The plan presented by Nicole Boudreaux was more of a suggestion that BVD do the center rather than the private citizens who supported the plan. The Black Pot plans were discussed. CEO Cheramie reported that he is working with Gerald Boudreaux, the director of Parks and Recreation, and Glen Fields, the organizer. The event will need to change from what it has been to something new to at BVD's facilities. It is a go for 2015. President Richard reminded the committee chairs to get their projects and goals to the board, to allow the board to make long term plans.

New Business: Commissioner J. Broussard explained he was absent from January's meeting because his brother was ill and subsequently died. Condolences were expressed by the board. **MOTION:** (J. Broussard/D. Barry) to approve \$4,250.00 of Capital monies necessary to complete the second structure of the Native American Common Ground Expansion. All were in favor. Motion carried.

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

/s/ Rodney Richard
Rodney Richard, President

John Troutman, Secretary