



Bayou Ops – Environmental Meeting Notes



Date: 7 September 2021

Called to Order:

The Bayou Ops – Environmental Committee Meeting was held via Zoom on Tuesday, September 9 starting at 8:30am.

Attendees:

- Dr. David Cheramie
- Commissioner Jason Sullivan
- Commissioner Claire Darby
- Commissioner Tommy Michot
- Bayou Foreman: Tom Melancon
- Director Facilities Management: Curtis Willingham
- Program Manager: Grace Rentrop
- Bayou Inspector: Marcus Bergeron

Open Topics:

1. Working with St. Landry Parish:

- *St. Landry Parish is not returning calls. We are unsure if they have the means to help. Email from Richard LeBouef on the matter sent to Dr. Cheramie. Dr. Cheramie, Dr. Michot, and Tom Melancon suggested item to be put on the back burner. Bayou Teche Group in St. Landry Parish is very active and Dr. Michot suggest checking with them. Contact Patty Holland and Connie Castille with Shake a Tail Feather Festival.*

2. Band-a-long Service:

- *Band-o-long basket issue taken care of and will fix as needed to save on cost. Will bring this topic up when discussing budget for next year. Tom Melancon has update with recent work from coulee with engineers.*
 - *Tom: Bryan Smith says contractor opened up a section of the band-o-long to be able to pass with equipment, and he noticed the four support cables were damaged, with one broken. He also suggested to Bryan he would be able to repair cables. Bryan asked BVD to go half on price of fixing the cables. Would be a great service for us to do. Tom Melancon says he will get with Bryan on an estimate for fixing the issue and will get back to us.*

3. Maintenance on Dock at Vermilionville:

- *Curtis Melancon says “doing fine” and is having no issues. He was able to do some work on Beaver Park fixing trip hazards and safety issues.*

4. Erosion Control:

- *Commissioner Léger spoke to a representative with Ampool. There are different options in terms of netting that would suffice. Ampool will send an email regarding these options, and we will discuss as a board.*
- *No update from Calvin, will reach out to him.*

5. Wilderness First Aid Training:

- *I will reach back out to American Red Cross regarding Wilderness First Aid Training. I will send available dates to team and discuss cost with Finance Committee.*
- *No update. We will continue to reach out to the American Red Cross.*

6. Boat Engine Repair:

- *Tom Melancon: Boat engines are fine and everything is operating. We are still waiting on one engine for service vessel and were told they should be in by the 15th of September.*



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7. Code Enforcement:

- *Dr. Cheramie to follow up on topic.*
- *A new court for ordinances has been formed at LCG enforcing all ordinances loosely written or with grey areas, similar to the Litter Ordinance. Emile Ancelet will research topic and learn more about how it works, how the BVD can turn in violations, and possibly bring LCG into one of our board meetings for discussion. Commissioner Léger mentioned the ordinances need more strength / more “teeth”. The thought is the BVD could benefit being including in these ordinances, specifically with Kevin Naquin (LCG).*
- *No update for this topic.*

8. Emile Ancelet’s Report:

- *Grant for Sewage Disposal System is still on track after Emile’s departure. Grace is tasked with follow up of grant moving forward.*
- *Dredging – Spot dredging appears to be the consensus due to silt build up from bigger coulees. Dredging is a very expensive task. Detention ponds seem to be the fix, basically slowing down the flow of water. Swamps also assist in detention of water. How can we maintain after dredging is complete?*
- *Water Quality Lab – Funding for the lab (Lamar Grant) has had a setback and has been denied. Teche Vermilion Fresh Water District is paying for water samples. Calvin mentioned hiring a grant writing professional to write up a letter to the BVD Board of Commissioners as an added agenda. Dr. Cheramie to contact Lamar as well.*
- *No Till Drill – Equipment has been taken by Lafayette Soil and Water Conservation District. Property near Judice will hold equipment.*
- *Property (North Landing) – Follow up needed.*
- *Fish Stocking – Stocking fish in the Vermilion and at the BVD ponds seems to be a great idea with the OPS / Environmental Committee. Possible contact with Wildlife and Fisheries to help stock and supply.*
- *Grace is handling DEQ contract now. Dr. Michot requests long term data analysis is done between rain fall and washing of fecal coliform into the Vermillion River, not just short-term trends. We need to adjust for rainfall.*

9. Monorail Crane:

- *The estimated cost will be 15k by Olympic Crane System. This would improve lifting capacity from 1 ton to 2 tons. Estimate has been forwarded to Dr. Cheramie and topic to be brought up as an agenda item on next year’s budget. (Decided that we are waiting until next year’s budget to look into an upgrade in the crane.)*
- *No update*

10. Pond Maintenance:

- *Invasive weeds need to be removed. Curtis Melancon: passed numbers on to Dr. Cheramie to get in touch with company to get estimate to remove them. Issue is in large and small ponds, with small ponds being the main issue. Dr. Michot suggest getting recommendations from Ron Bustany with USDA. Tom Melancon spoke with Wild Life Fisheries and has a number for them to give recommendations.*
- *Dr. Cheramie has estimate from “Weed Out” for 1.7-acre pond next to the village. It will be \$4975.00. Other pond on Bayou Ops side estimates is \$1,950.00. Dr. Cheramie suggests using the \$5000.00 pond maintenance budget. Tom Melancon: once weeds are removed a chemical is supplied to maintain the pond.*
- *Village pond’s main issue is the man hole on Fisher Rd. It overflows with every heavy rain and fertilizes the pond with sewage, only further exacerbating the problem. “Dr. Cheramie uses the pond fund for other areas so he will need to look for the funds” Commissioner Sullivan: We will put on discussion board for next meeting.*

Jason C. Sullivan - Commissioner