

The Livingston Parish Gravity Drainage District One met in a regular meeting on Tuesday, August 23, 2022, at 6:30pm at the Administration Office at 8114 Highway 190 in Denham Springs, La.

Meeting called to order by Chairman David Provost.

Present: DProvost, R.Borne, J.Spence, C.Whitmire, C.Juneau

Absent: none

Guests: Employees of the District

Legal Counsel, Hannah Callandro

Jacob Murray, Jamie Seale, Mason Banano of Quality Engineering

Judy Davidson, citizen, Mesha Jackson and Mr. Barnett HOA of Dunn Park

Representative Buddy Mincey Jr and wife

Mr. and Mrs. Tommy Terral citizens

Prayer was given by Administrative Secretary and pledge of allegiance made.

Under public comments, Judy Davidson reminded the board on requested action on Fisher Lane that has been under review for years. She suggested some immediate cleaning around culverts and ditches near her home as well as continued need for a drainage solution to the south. Manager responded on the many attempts to drain flow away from her home but that ROW are still needed to properly drain the water. He noted that his crew will clean the ditch for silt build up again and remove a fallen tree. Engineer noted that a developer in the area is planning a subdivision on a private road in the Wildwood area and this might lead to some progress of her drainage.

Representative Buddy Mincey, Jr. presented a legislative update to the board and complimented on the good relationship and jobs performed by the Drainage District 1.

Representative Mincey stated that he is working with DOTD on infrastructure improvements in the District. He summarized the 19 legislative bills passed in 2022. He noted that HCR bill 46 addresses drainage concerning the Amite River and individual actions.

He noted that HCR 82 funds a DOTD study along the interstate to relieve blockages. He stated that HB 686 revamps statutes for the Amite River Basin flood plain management including commission membership. It was noted that he is working on HR 181 which directs the office of Community Development to work with the La Watershed Initiative for an independent watershed district for the Amite River Basin.

Representative Mincey explained the remaining funds available in all regions and how this HR 181 would help in our specific area.

He stated that efforts to secure funds (\$10 million) to repair the Diversion Canal Weir.

He commented on efforts to make dredging the mouth of the Amite and Blind rivers at Lake Maurepas.

He stated that the latest update to complete the Comite River Diversion would be in the 4th quarter of 2025.

He noted that a joint effort with East Baton Rouge Parish on the snagging and debris clearing with Livingston Parish will start in September (Fema program with a 5% match with both Parishes).

He explained the Capital Outlay work ongoing for roads-roundabouts at Magnolia Beach Road, Walker 447, Hwy 16 at Southside Schools, and Cook Road exit. These four arteries are being considered as priority for Livingston Parish. He is attempting to secure another Interstate 12 exit at 4H Club Road in the future.

He summarized the Broadband enhancements being considered throughout Livingston Parish and expanding efforts with "Link Up Livingston" program. A pilot program on digital literacy is being considered and new cell tower funding is being researched.

He commented that his commitment to more communication and education for grants for projects as summarized is his priority. He pledges to keep these expansion projects moving forward.

Mesha Jackson of Dunn Park HOA addressed the board requesting drainage assistance for the outflow of water in her 7 home subdivision.

Manager reported on the history of this area and the failure in the past to secure ROW from private landowners in order to offer a potential solution to flow west or south to the Katie Dunn Ditch.

Ms Jackson asked for advice and if any plan can be compiled to move ahead.

Manager and board discussed with the Engineer on the status of the west flow (if this area a natural drain). It was noted that the District had paid for both a wetlands study and engineering study over 16 years ago, but that the adjacent property owners would not grant ROW. Carl Juneau made comments if the District has responsibility at this site. Manager recommended to send information letters to the identified landowners to allow engineers access to perform a survey. Board consensus agreed to send the letters property owners in this area requesting property access in order for the engineers to perform survey work.

Legal Counsel noted that she is receiving landowners responses from letters sent to Wildwood area and for the Satcher project.

Engineer presented a map of all the watershed studies with canal markings performed thus far. He noted that two more areas will have studies conducted.

*He noted that emails with links will be forthcoming for commissioners to see the District GIS coordinates on jobs.

*Engineer reported on 7 reviews with 4 letters of no objection issued and 3 comment letters issued. He explained the concerns issued to developers involving silting, obstructions, etc.

*Engineer discussed the 5 options for the Summerfield Diversion Study. Jamie Seale agreed to meet with board committee on arriving at a recommendation to the full board from the committee. David Provost appointed Jessie Spence and Robert Borne to the Summerfield Diversion Project Committee.

*Engineer reported on specific developments being planned for in the District where the District is not allowed to review under present Parish ordinances and how these type (Townhomes, etc.) developments will impact drainage to existing citizens due to land build up. He noted that the Oakview Village plans do not require the authority of drainage jurisdiction since parish ordinances do not specifically cover townhome developments. Chairman recommended to notify Parish of the District's future negative drainage concerns to citizens. Legal Counsel stated that there is no legal stance for authority over a townhome developer. Engineer explained the future trend to discharge low and that the Parish Council has to define an ordinance to cover this topic. Board agreed for Engineer to cover these objections with Parish Council representatives at the 9-13-22 update meeting.

*Engineer presented information on the Beaver Creek crossing project. He noted that Elos has provided a wetlands forecast along Beaver Creek and that point of access 5 gives us the equipment access. Engineer noted that a soil test at the site was recommended for a railcar foundation. Mr. Terral stated that he did not agree that soil testing was needed due to the compaction condition at this site. Engineer noted that the rail car equipment to be used for the crossing bridge appears to be less expensive than first estimated. Board discussed action to soil test first (estimated \$3000) then have Mr. Terral assist with the material installation for this crossing. Engineer will secure quotes on structural design fees for the installation.

*Engineer also covered the potential of widening Beaver Creek to Hwy 1019. It appears that wetlands are involved and a permit for this action would be required.

*Engineer noted that the general maintenance Corps permit has been secured for grubbing the channel of Beaver Creek in the future.

*He presented samples of debris management plan for board comments in the future on the District's plan to be written.

He also reported on the need to establish the criteria for prioritizing the District projects for the board to agree on the priority status and public discussion purposes.

Manager covered recent rain conditions on operations.

He presented a potential article letter for consideration to be sent to La One Call Inc. for their publication emphasizing coordination of services.

Consensus of the board agreed to approve the letter for publication in the La One Call newsletter.

He noted that the Office Park developer is awaiting new electric service before the final movement of the sewer pipe from the District's ROW. It appears that the plan is in place for the moving of the pipe, but it may take place a few days after 8-31-22.

Under board comments, a suggestion to enter into executive session for the discussion of a security matter was made by Robert Borne.

Motion to enter into executive session with no public comment for discussion of a security matter by R.Borne seconded by C.Whitmire Vote passed Yeas-5 Nays-none

Motion to return to regular session with no public comment noting that no decisions were made in executive session by C.Juneau seconded by C.Whitmire Vote passed Yeas-5 Nays-none

Motion to adjourn the meeting with no public comment by J.Spence seconded by C.Juneau Vote passed Yeas-5 Nays-none



Randall Smith Administrative Secretary

Next meeting Tuesday, September 13, 2022 6:30 pm
