

# GRAVITY DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO.EIGHT

OF WARD ONE, CALCASIEU PARISH

2841 Goos Road

## MINUTES

Lake Charles, LA 70611

### REGULAR BOARD MEETING

6:00 P M, Monday, July 10, 2017

The Board of Commissioners of Gravity Drainage District No. Eight of Ward One, Calcasieu Parish, met in a Regular Board Meeting session at 2841 Goos Road, Moss Bluff, at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, July 10, 2017. President Martin Thomas Benoit called the meeting to order, Vice President Terry Barrett spoke the Invocation, and President Benoit led the Pledge of Allegiance.

The President called the **Roll** of the **Board of Commissioners**, acknowledging the following members as being present: President Martin Thomas Benoit, Vice President Terry Barrett, Board Member William Lavergne and Board Member David Bryan Guidry. Secretary-Treasurer Darby Quinn was absent.

Employees present at the meeting were Superintendent Eddie Hebert, Crew Supervisor Mike Naquin and recording secretary Lesley Impastato. There was only one visitor present, Mr. Dale Paul of 1310 Whippoorwill Drive .

The Minutes of the June 5, 2017 Regular Board Meeting were unanimously approved without any discussion after motions by Mr. David Guidry and Mr. Terry Barrett.

The Minutes of the June 9, 2017 Special Called Board Meeting were unanimously approved after motions by Mr. Terry Barrett and Mr. William Lavergne.

There were no Requests to Appear.

The commissioners considered the Request for Payment / Invoice number 38 by Lee Lancon Engineering for \$700.00 for work done on the Belfield Ditch Improvement Project LEI 12-036, HMGP # 1786-019-0006. This was part of Supplemental Agreement # 10 on utility work on the ditch, Phase 1. Mr. Terry Barrett motioned to pay the bill, Mr. Lavergne seconded the motion, and all members present voted "Yea" in agreement.

The District Board received a request by Beauregard Electric Cooperative Inc. for a Project Permit to reroute the utilities, using a bore plan and profile, at the Belfield Ditch Improvement Project. The board members asked that they submit a boring log when they are through and also contact the District with the starting date. Mr. David Guidry motioned to approve the Project Permit No. GDD8-2017-03, with the Board President as signatory, and Mr. Lavergne seconded the motion. All members present voted "Yea".

The Board of Commissioners passed a resolution to enter into Amendment Number Two to the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury and Gravity Drainage District No. Eight of Ward One. It is to include Phase 2 activities, extend the effective period from March 1, 2013 to March 31, 2018, and to update the funding for Phase 1 to \$246,834.00 and for funding allocated for Phase 2 of \$4,947,831, based on certain contingencies. President Martin T. Benoit read the CEA and Resolution aloud, Mr. Barrett moved to accept both, Mr. Lavergne seconded the motion, a roll call vote of four "Yea" and one absent ratified the CEA which is attached to the Minutes. No further discussion.

The Bel Group and Gravity Drainage representatives, with legal counsel, have met and discussed the Drainage Servitude necessary for the Belfield Ditch Project. Some things have been worked out to a closer solution, but the years needed for the dirt to be stored on the site have not been agreed upon, and neither has a possible solution based on a worse-case-scenario. The board members said to have Mr. Stutes talk with the Bel Group representatives and explain the legal concerns of the District and work on a solution that can work.

The legalities of the Land Acquisition for the other parcels of property are being worked on by Mr. Stutes also, as the agreement has been reached with them and ratified by the Board of Commissioners in the Special Called Session of June 9, 2017.

The final closing documents between GDD8 and St. Andrew's Church are also being worked on in Mr. Stutes' office.

The State of Louisiana by the Governor, and the Parish of Calcasieu by the CPPJ Vice President, had declared the State of Emergency for Tropical Storm Cindy to exist, and called for all Emergency Preparedness plans to be activated, specifically on June 21 starting at 12:00 noon through June 22, 2017. The board members, in following the H.R. rules, passed a resolution to authorize the force account disaster pay for the fourteen hours worked during the Declared Emergency Tropical Storm Cindy preparation and work time by the employees of Gravity Drainage District No. Eight. Motions were made by Mr. Lavergne and Mr. Guidry, followed by a roll call vote of four Yeas and one absent. Resolution was stated as follows:

*RESOLUTION*

*BE IT RESOLVED that the Gravity Drainage District No. Eight of Ward One, convened in Regular Session on the 10th day of July, 2017, at 2841 Goos Road, Lake Charles, Louisiana, Parish of Calcasieu; and*

*WHEREAS the State of Louisiana, through its Governor John Bel Edwards, did declare a State of Emergency by Proclamation # 78 JBE 2017 concerning Tropical Storm Cindy on June 21, 2017; and*

*WHEREAS the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury, by its Vice President Guy Brame, did declare a State of Emergency to exist in the Parish of Calcasieu and that all Emergency Preparedness emergency plans should have been activated on the 20th day of June, 2017, in order to minimize the potential effects of the impending emergency to human life and property in the Parish;*

*THEREFORE the Gravity Drainage District No. Eight of Ward One, Calcasieu Parish, does hereby approve this resolution to authorize the force account disaster pay for Declared Emergency Tropical Storm Cindy, June 21 and 22, 2017.*

*The Roll was called as follows :*

*Martin T. Benoit: Yea*

*Terry Barrett: Yea*

*William D. Lavergne: Yea*

*Darby Quinn: absent*

*David B. Guidry: Yea*

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*BE IT FURTHER AND FINALLY RESOLVED that the President of the Board of Commissioners, Martin Thomas Benoit, is authorized to execute all documents related thereto.*

*THUS DONE, READ AND PASSED on the date above inscribed.*

*I, THE UNDERSIGNED, do hereby certify that the above statement is a true and correct copy of the original Resolution adopted by the Gravity Drainage District No. Eight of Ward One, Calcasieu Parish, as convened in Regular Session on the 10th day of July, 2017.*

*Martin Thomas Benoit, President  
Gravity Drainage District No. Eight, Ward One*

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The bills and invoices were unanimously approved and signed after motions by Mr. Lavergne and Mr. Barrett. Mr. Guidry had some questions that were answered after discussion. Invoices were signed by Mr. Lavergne and Mr. Guidry.

Mr. Hebert gave the report on GDD8 General Business to the board members. A lot of rain fell during May, June and July, and several residents reported flooding, some more than once. The rain gauges were watched and Mike Naquin documented the amounts on a graph, noting that the amounts of rain that fell during specific time periods made a difference in flooding issues. It was suggested that the information could show where the weak areas in the drainage system are also. Calcasieu Parish Public Works is changing under-road-culverts in places there are problems. There is a plan to change out the culvert under a road going into Presidential, on the Moss Gulley lateral, but mitigation cost has to be worked out with the Corp of Engineers.

The coupler and buckets for the RDM Mulcher for the CAT 308 Excavator have been ordered off of the State Bid list. The RDM Mulcher should be ordered next.

The L-15 Project Phase 3 at the Recreation Center off of Don Manual Boulevard will not be funded soon because the funding requires a 30 % Matching Fund by the recipient, and neither the School Board nor the Recreation Center's tax millage passed, therefore they cannot participate. GDD8 does not have funds to accomplish it alone.



The board said to send a letter stating the District's concerns and stating that they are responsible for the property that floods if they go through with this recreation field project, to the Parish Permitting office, the Parish Engineer, and the Recreation District. State that Ward One has residential areas that are flooding consistently and the Board disapproves of adding anything at all to the drainage system until this is fixed and brought up to proper standards.

There being no further discussion, Mr. William Lavergne motioned to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Barrett seconded the motion, and all members voted in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

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Martin Thomas Benoit, President

Terry Barrett, Vice President

David B. Guidry, Member

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Darby Quinn, Secretary-Treasurer

William Lavergne, Member