

## MINUTES

### **Livingston Parish July 14, 2021**

Pursuant to notice duly posted in the public lobby of the Livingston Parish Governmental Building, the Livingston Parish Citizens Drainage Committee met on July 14, 2021, at the hour of six o'clock (6:00) p.m. in the Parish Council Chambers, located in the Livingston Parish Governmental Building, 20355 Governmental Boulevard, Livingston, Louisiana with the following members present:

Joey Sibley  
Brian Clemmons  
Jace Morrison  
Pat Genre  
~~Kevin Hull~~  
Stephen Howze  
Ron McMorris  
Eileen McCarroll  
~~Ernie Balfantz~~  
~~Eric Harrell Vice chair~~  
Shane Marler- Chair

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The Chair, Shane Marler, asked Mrs. Angie Cornett to call the roll. Mr. Morrison entered the meeting later and Mr. Hull, Harrell and Balfantz were not present.  
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The Chair read agenda item 2a, "Old Business: Discussion and Review of Problem Drainage Areas". They reviewed the list, and nothing further was added. Mr. Marler stated that it was a work in progress and Mr. Howze said that it was a start. They asked that anyone who had a problem area send an email to get it on the list, and to see what district it would be in to try to get the problem resolved.  
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The Chair moved to agenda item 2b, "Facebook Page Update". He stated that the page was approved by the Council on June 24, 2021 (L.P.R. 21-210). A lengthy discussion followed regarding administration, council rules for Facebook, and content which included photos, introduction, group rules, 2 questions, etc. The committee elected to vote for the information that had been discussed to be included on their Facebook page. Mrs. Genre added that the Facebook name would be Livingston Parish Citizens Drainage Committee.

A **MOTION** was offered by Ron McMorris and duly seconded by Stephen Howze to accept the introduction, rules, 2 questions and 4 administrators for the Facebook page.

YEAS: MR. MARLER, MR. CLEMMONS, MR. MORRISON, MRS. GENRE, MR. HOWZE, MR. MCMORRIS, MRS. MCCARROLL, MR. SIBLEY

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: MR. HARRELL, MR. HULL, MR. BALFANTZ

ABSTAIN: NONE

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The Chair addressed agenda item 2ci, “Discussion and Review of Committee Recommendations to Council: “Waterflow Study on All Major Waterways”. He called on Mr. Brian Clemmons who had addressed the council during the July 8, 2021 council meeting. He stated that he was encouraged, and that the Council had accepted the proposal very readily as they informed him that they would figure out how they would pay for it and get back with them. Further discussion was allowed on the topic regarding data that has already been collected. Mr. Marler felt that the Watershed Initiative allowed an advantage but wondered where that information was. Mr. Clemmons clarified that all they are asking for is design flow and expected flow of bridges and culverts.  
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The Chair read agenda item 2c(ii), “Retention Ponds”. He attended a meeting two weeks prior with District 1 as part of the Homebuilders Association of Baton Rouge with Mr. Lee Foster who is with DSLD. He discussed a servitude line running through to a retention pond giving the parish access for maintenance. Most of District 1, he stated, agreed that it would be something feasible as Homeowner’s Associations, who are currently responsible, may not always exist or may disband. Mr. Clemmons added that he is talked to some Councilmen on a proposal for an impact fee on neighborhood construction to go to Gravity Drainage boards who would be responsible.

Public Input: Bill White spoke about retention pond issues; Councilman Gerald McMorris was reluctant to agree with the parish taking them over; Steve from Springfield  
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The chair moved to agenda item 3a “New Business: Discussion of Parish-wide GIS Mapping”. Miss Lauren White approached the podium and wanted to clarify that she was there as a constituent. She stated that the three funded parish Gravity Drainage Districts had systems within themselves, but parish-wide there was not. She spoke about a community accessible mapping system known as (GIS) or Geographic Information Mapping System that is used for drainage in Gravity Drainage District No. 2 (note: [arcgis.com](http://arcgis.com)) and noted that a similar system was used in Gravity 1. Miss White briefly explained how the field workers use the system on a cell phone thus allowing the data to end up in map form. Mr. Clemmons thought that the ArcGIS system was actually the state system. White felt it to be a good resource for the parish and noted that the unfunded Gravity Drainage District No. 8 meeting the following night would be addressing it. Mr. Howze stated that currently, Gravity 1, 5 and the state are all working on different systems. The Chair, Shane Marler, felt that everyone should be on the same system. Mayor McCarroll shared that the Town of Albany utilized a system for utilities called ESRI that she highly praised. Miss White suggested a recommendation to the Council to have a parish-wide system that everyone could use.

A **MOTION** was offered by Brian Clemmons and duly seconded by Ron McMorris to make a recommendation to the Council requesting the parish to look at the three mapping systems in use, and to decide which was preferable for the parish to utilize.

YEAS: MR. MARLER, MR. CLEMMONS, MR. MORRISON, MRS. GENRE, MR. HOWZE, MR. MCMORRIS, MRS. MCCARROLL, MR. SIBLEY

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: MR. HARRELL, MR. HULL, MR. BALFANTZ

ABSTAIN: NONE

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The Chair moved to agenda item 4, "Other Business". He explained that a constituent, Bronson Bridges, sent an email since he could not attend the meeting. The Chair shared the email and picture which addressed flooded property. The Deputy Clerk, Angie Cornett, stated that she had notified Planning of the email and notified Mr. Bridges of the chain of notifying Planning and the Corps of Engineers.

Public Input: John Ebling, resident of Killian, asked if there was a grand plan to get the water headed south out of the river and the Chair allowed comments from the committee.

Councilman McMorris and the committee discussed a previously failed attempt to receive information on the funded project models and plan on dredging the Amite River. McMorris encouraged the committee to reach out to Parish President, Layton Ricks and his engineers to get more information on the funded project. Brian Clemmons wished to offer a motion, and Mr. Howze wished to second that. Mr. Clemmons asked Councilman McMorris for motion clarification, but Mr. Stephen Howze said that he would do so. Howze asked if Mr. Clemmons wanted to resend his original motion. Mr. Clemmons agreed, and no one stated otherwise.

A **MOTION** was offered by Stephen Howze and duly seconded by Pat Genre to make a recommendation to the Council that they inform this committee on the current standing with engineering, finance, etc. on the Amite dredging of the mouth of the canal into Lake Maurepas.

YEAS: MR. MARLER, MR. CLEMMONS, MR. MORRISON, MRS. GENRE, MR. HOWZE, MR. MCMORRIS, MRS. MCCARROLL, MR. SIBLEY

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: MR. HARRELL, MR. HULL, MR. BALFANTZ

ABSTAIN: NONE

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The Chair read agenda item 5, "Committee Comments/Concerns" and the Chair stated that he would like to see a Facebook name plat for the camera to pick up.

A motion was offered by Ron McMorris to place a Facebook name plate "Like us on Facebook at Livingston Parish Citizens Drainage Committee" in front of the chair. Mr. McMorris then asked if the screen could have the message superimposed on the bottom of the screen during the whole meeting. Someone in the recording area (from Action 17) spoke out that they'd have to get permission, but that it shouldn't be a problem. The Chair asked that Mr. McMorris just add to the motion instead of withdrawing the original one. Mr. McMorris added that statement. **(Note: the committee later stated that they did not need the sign up if the meeting video would use the superimposed message. Therefore, the following motion was given to the council):**

A **MOTION** was offered by Ron McMorris and duly seconded by Stephen Howze to receive permission to superimpose the committee Facebook page information “Like us on Facebook at Livingston Parish Citizens Drainage Committee” on the bottom of the screen during the entirety of the meetings.

YEAS: MR. MARLER, MR. CLEMMONS, MR. MORRISON, MRS. GENRE, MR. HOWZE, MR. MCMORRIS, MRS. MCCARROLL, MR. SIBLEY

NAYS: NONE

ABSENT: MR. HARRELL, MR. HULL, MR. BALFANTZ

ABSTAIN: NONE

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Having no other business, a **MOTION** was offered by Stephen Howze and duly seconded by Ron McMorris to adjourn the July 14, 2021 meeting of the Livingston Parish Citizens Drainage Committee, with no further discussion and where none opposed.

/s/ Angie Cornett  
Angie Cornett, Deputy Clerk

/s/ Shane Marler  
Shane Marler, Chairman