

RAPIDES PARISH POLICE JURY

SPECIAL SESSION  
August 16, 2002

The Police Jury of the Parish of Rapides, State of Louisiana, met in Special Session at its regular meeting place, the Police Jury Room of the Parish Courthouse, 701 Murray Street, Alexandria, Louisiana, on Friday, August 16, 2002, at 2:00 p.m. (Central Standard Time), pursuant to the provisions of a written notice given to each and every member thereof and duly posted in the manner required by law, viz:

Alexandria, Louisiana  
August 15, 2002

NOTICE OF SPECIAL POLICE JURY MEETING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special meeting of the Police Jury of the Parish of Rapides, State of Louisiana, has been ordered and called and will be held at its regular meeting place, the Police Jury Room of the Parish Courthouse, Alexandria, Louisiana, on Friday, August 16, 2002 at 2:00 p.m. for the following purposes to-wit:

1. To consider the declaration of a disaster in Rapides Parish because of the confirmed presence of West Nile found in wildlife in Rapides Parish and discuss emergency action for mosquito abatement as precaution.
2. Any other business that may properly come before the Police Jury.

BY ORDER OF THE PRESIDENT

Angie Richmond, Secretary

There were present: Honorable Davron "Bubba" Moreau, President; Joe Fuller, Vice President; and Police Jurors Steve P. Bordelon, Ezra L. Reed, Theodore Fountaine Jr., Donald H. Wilmore, Richard L. Nunnally, Richard W. Billings and Scott Perry Jr.

Also present were Mr. Tim Ware, Treasurer; Mr. Cecil Raggio, Public Works Director; Mrs. Donna Andries, Sales and Use Tax Director; Mrs. Jan Haworth, Office of Economic and Workforce Development Executive Director; Mr. Felix Mouton, WIA Operations Director; Chief David Peart, Fire District 2; Mr. Tom Wells, Legal Counsel; and Ms. Angie Richmond, Secretary.

The invocation was given by Mr. Richard Billings.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mr. Steve Bordelon.

The Police Jury of the Parish of Rapides, State of Louisiana, was duly convened as the governing authority of said Parish by Hon. Bubba Moreau, President, who welcomed all present and then stated that the Police Jury was ready for the transaction of business, as advertised.

The President opened to consider adoption of a declaration of a disaster in Rapides Parish because of the confirmed presence of West Nile Virus found in wildlife in Rapides Parish and to discuss emergency action for mosquito abatement as precaution.

On motion by Mr. Richard Billings, seconded by Mr. Scott Perry, the following resolution was presented and on vote unanimously adopted:

LOCAL DISASTER EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the Parish of Rapides is presently faced with an emergency due to the confirmation of West Nile Virus being detected in Rapides Parish. The threat has existed since June 1, 2002, until present, and the Parish of Rapides declares a State of Emergency in accordance with the provisions of the Louisiana Emergency Assistance & Disaster Act of 1993, as amended, and wishes to utilize its resources to the fullest extent; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY PARISH OF RAPIDES LOUISIANA, convened in Emergency Session on August 16, 2002, that it does hereby declare that under the authority of the Louisiana Emergency Assistance & Disaster Act of 1993, as amended, a state of disaster exists in Rapides Parish.

THUS PASSED AND APPROVED on this 16th day of August, 2002.

Dr. John Naponick, Chief Sanitarian and Regional Health Officer for the Department of Health and Hospitals, Region VI, advised the State lab has confirmed a positive test for the West Nile Virus in a dead blue jay

found on Tanglewood Drive in Alexandria, which was expected to happen sooner or later because of having been already found in areas surrounding Rapides Parish. A map is being developed of clusters of areas where the dead birds have been coming from, most of which are within the City of Alexandria. He pointed out individuals still have a responsibility to take personal protections using recommendations that have been made, including clean up around houses, check environment, wear proper clothes and use repellents. He spoke of other forms of encephalitis that have been in our area, some of which are more serious, noting because the West Nile Virus is new to our area, we do not have experience with it or developed immunities; thus, people can be infected. Dr. Naponick pointed out the contract with the Louisiana Mosquito Control Association would be voted on at its meeting of August 22nd, after which time the project would begin in Rapides Parish with results within three to four weeks for a long term response to the problem.

Ms. Bonnie Broussard, past president of the Vermilion Mosquito Abatement District and representative of the Louisiana Mosquito Control Association, explained their report would include mosquito population, identification of mosquito production areas, traps, landing rates, and what is recommended on personnel and equipment to address the mosquito problem in Rapides Parish based on information from the surveys conducted.

Discussion ensued with questions and answers with the Police Jurors and representatives of municipalities.

As an immediate response, Ms. Broussard suggested the Police Jury purchase chemicals needed for spraying and ask the Department of Agriculture for use of their boll weevil trucks that Commissioner Odom has made available to areas that do not have a mosquito abatement program, for which a certified applicator will be needed for the preparation of the chemicals. Spraying should be done in the area of the positive finding and where clusters have been identified by Dr. Naponick. A public education program should be initiated, such as distribution of informational flyers and news releases. Dr. Naponick agreed to provide the map with target areas for spraying.

On motion by Mr. Joe Fuller, seconded by Mr. Richard Billings, to apply to the State and FEMA for funding for a mosquito control program, parishwide. On vote the motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Joe Fuller, seconded by Mr. Richard Billings and Mr. Scott Perry, to apply to the Department of Agriculture for assistance in mosquito control spraying. On vote the motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Richard Nunnally, seconded by Mr. Joe Fuller and Mr. Scott Perry, to authorize the Purchasing Department to buy the mosquito control chemicals, to be paid out of District G Economic Development Funds and to hire a certified applicator if necessary. On vote the motion carried.

Dr. Michael Perich, medical entomologist with the Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, advised he had started studying the encephalitis problem in Louisiana beginning on August 1, 2001, including the St. Louis strain in Monroe, and has been doing research through the LSU Agriculture Center. He advised the Chancellor has requested him to work with the Department of Health and Hospitals and the County Agents to assist, perhaps with surveillance, setting of traps by the County Agent's Office, distribution of educational flyers, etc. He also offered to assist in the establishment of a parishwide mosquito abatement and control district for Rapides Parish.

After unanimous vote the following items were placed on the agenda:

On motion by Mr. Joe Fuller, seconded by Mr. Scott Perry, to authorize reimbursement of travel expenses at the rate of \$80 per hour for retainage of Ms. Bonnie Broussard as consultant representing the Louisiana Mosquito Control Association, to be paid out of the General Fund. On vote the motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Richard Billings, seconded by Mr. Joe Fuller, to recognize Dr. John Andries, a representative of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry in response to the Police Jury's request. On vote the motion carried.

(Mr. Fountaine left the meeting at this time.)

Dr. Andries advised Commissioner Odom of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry has made ten trucks available statewide for mosquito control. The Department has asked for local government to provide: 1) the chemicals for control; 2) name someone in charge and designation of where to spray; and 3) lodging for the driver(s) of the truck(s) if needed.

Ms. Sonya Wiley, Director of the Office of Emergency Preparedness, advised she has met with OEP, there are funds available for reimbursement in the amount of \$3.4 million statewide; however, the applications are competitive, on a 90%-10% split, and only for the period of June 1, 2002 through August 26, 2002. If a Presidential declaration is made, additional funds may become available.

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Mr. Fuller asked Staff for a report on the creation of a mosquito abatement District and available election dates at the September Committee meetings.

Mayor Ned Randolph and Mr. Harold Chambers agreed to assist with locating a licensed applicator for the chemicals.

Dr. Andries urged the Police Jury to submit a request to Randall Johnson, of Department of Agriculture and Forestry, as soon as possible.

On motion by Mr. Joe Fuller, seconded by Mr. Richard Billings, to authorize the President to sign a subgrant adjustment under the JAIBG grant in the amount of \$40,000 for security, general use and educational computer equipment for the juvenile detention center, including a campus-wide emergency notification system, as requested by Renaissance, who is to provide the required 10% match, and approved by Judge Rae Swent. On vote the motion carried.

In reference to the agenda item for special counsel on WIB matters, Mr. Tom Wells, Legal Counsel, explained he had met with Mr. Moreau and Ms. Haworth wherein the question was raised about the need for a special attorney to answer questions in writing in response to specific questions and their application under the Workforce Investment Act, such as who has control over what. Ms. Jan Haworth, Office of Economic and Workforce Development Director, spoke of events at the last WIB-PJ staff meeting wherein it was proposed to transfer employees to other departments, employee lay-offs, and jeopardy of careers of employees, which proposal was felt not to be under the jurisdiction of the WIB; thus, an impasse has been reached.

On motion by Mr. Joe Fuller, seconded by Mr. Richard Nunnally, to retain Ms. Rochelle Daniel, an attorney, to give advice to the Police Jury President regarding the Workforce Investment Act, the contract to be until the end of the year, as recommended by the OEWD Director, subject to approval of Legal Counsel and the Attorney General. On vote the motion carried. Mr. Don Wilmore and Mr. Scott Perry objected.

Ms. Von Jennings, Rapides Parish WIB Director, pointed out the WIB does not have jurisdiction over Police Jury employees, nor has the WIB suggested any Police Jury employee be fired. The question raised was the number of employees included in the budget proposed by OEWD needed for this particular grant, as OEWD has other projects and grants outside the WIB, and the WIB has questioned whether all the employees included in the budget are necessary to operate the WIA program. In order to meet program goals which have not been met, the WIB at its June meeting recommended youth services be placed in another department, which is why an employee would be moved from one Parish department to another.

On motion by Mr. Joe Fuller, seconded by Mr. Richard Nunnally, to request the Louisiana Department of Labor to certify the pending nominations to the Rapides Parish Workforce Investment Board by the President or respond as to why those nominations have not yet been certified. On vote the motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Joe Fuller, seconded by Mr. Richard Nunnally, to authorize the President to submit a Community Response Initiative proposal to the Department of Social Services:

RESOLUTION FOR STATE CONTRACT PROVIDERS

BE IT RESOLVED that the Rapides Parish Police Jury, the governing authority of the Parish of Rapides, does hereby authorize Davron "Bubba" Moreau, President, and his/her successors in office to negotiate terms and conditions that he/she may deem advisable, contract(s) with the Louisiana Department of Social Services, and to bind this political subdivision to execute said documents on behalf of the political subdivision, and further, the President is hereby given the power and authority to do all things necessary to implement, maintain, and/or review said documents.

The above resolution was passed by a majority of those present and voting in accordance with State laws.  
On vote the motion carried.

On motion by Mr. Joe Fuller, seconded by Mr. Scott Perry, to approve agreements with the following training institutions for inclusion on the PY 2002 Vendors' List for Individual Referrals from the Workforce Operations Department to be effective July 1, 2002:

1. Louisiana State University at Alexandria
2. Louisiana Technical College- Alexandria Campus
3. Coastal College - Coastal Truck Driving
4. Alexandria Academy of Beauty
5. Northwestern State University

On vote the motion carried.

The President asked if there was any public comment on any agenda item, to which there was no response.

There being no further business, the meeting was declared adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

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Angie Richmond, Secretary  
Rapides Parish Police Jury

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Bubba Moreau, President  
Rapides Parish Police Jury