

**MINUTES OF THE IBERIA PARISH REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING CONDUCTED
ON THURSDAY, JULY 21, 2011 AT 5:30PM IN THE IBERIA PARISH COUNCIL CHAMBERS
300 IBERIA STREET, NEW IBERIA, LOUISIANA 70560**

CALL TO ORDER: Dana Dugas determined there was a quorum and called the meeting to order.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bruce Dupray, Tommy Granger, Lanie Borel, Dana Dugas, Barbara Laviolette, Ronald Fremin and David Fangué

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jane Braud and Perry Judice

OTHERS PRESENT: Kevin Hagerich, Julie Armentor and John Raines

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Bruce Dupray made a motion to approve the June 16, 2011 minutes which was seconded by David Fangué; the vote was unanimous.

ABANDONMENT REQUEST #1: Stephen Devillier located at Northwest Intersection of Seymour Migues and Deblanc Coulee - Abandonment/Reduction of Easement for Residential Construction. John Raines explained that this request was considered in May and recommended denial. The applicant was not in attendance at that time and the matter was forwarded to the Iberia Parish Council for consideration. The Council tabled the issue and sent it back to the Iberia Parish Planning Commission at the property owner's request.

John Raines explained the surrounding area. He explained that Mr. Devillier was acquiring this tract and was requesting an abandonment or reduction of the easement. John said there is a major channel that runs across the property. He also said Iberia Parish Public Works Department was opposed to any reduction in maintenance easements along any Coulee.

Kevin Hagerich addressed the Commission and explained that the channel is called M3 and it is a main channel and it is also approved under the Revised Statute 38113 which is a State law for main channels that provide drainage as a water shed channel for the Parish. He explained that what happens to a water shed channel that is unique compared to other channels is that the Parish recommends the need for a water shed channel and then it has to go to the State Department of Public Works to be approved. The State Department of Public Works approves that water shed channel as a Parish channel. He said there has been some legal discussion lately of whether or not the Parish has the authority to reduce the water shed channel because the approval was at the State level. Mr. Hagerich said he thinks it would be difficult to get a reduction of a 38113 channel.

Tommy Granger asked Stephen Devillier if without reducing these easements would he have enough room to build his house and Mr. Devillier said no. He also asked Mr. Devillier if had already purchased the property since there was a gas pipe line and a 100' easement from the Deblanc Coulee. He said he purchased the property a couple of months ago.

Dana Dugas asked Kevin Hagerich if this easement reduction was granted would Mr. Devillier have to apply to the State to get it. Mr. Hagerich said if the Parish Council would recommend approval he would have to suggest that Mr. Devillier go the State Dept. of Public Works for any reductions and it would have to be justified.

Mr. Devillier said that there were permanent structures all along the channel. He also said some were grandfathered in. John Raines explained that if they were grandfathered in or if they were done illegally without a permit, it does not relinquish Public Work's right to do whatever they have to do within the easement.

Mr. Fangue asked if he had a layout as to what he wanted to do on this property. Mr. Devillier said he wanted to put a pond, build a shed and build a house.

Dana Dugas suggested that Mr. Devillier draw to scale on the plat where he would like the house to be built and they would see exactly how much of a reduction of easement he would need.

Mr. Fangue made a motion to table the request to allow Mr. Devillier to do a layout and submit to the Commission to see exactly how much of an encroachment he may need and then it can be reconsidered. The motion was seconded by Tommy Granger; the vote was unanimous.

DIRECTORS'S REPORT #1: Uniform Development Code – No action was taken at this time.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made to adjourn by Bruce Dupray and seconded by Lanie Borel; the vote was unanimous.

Submitted by John R. Raines
Director of Permitting, Planning and Zoning Department