



### **Public Meeting**

Arts & Humanities Building  
SOWELA Technical Community College  
Date: Tuesday, April 5, 2016  
Time: 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

- Hal McMillin, GO Group Chairman and Calcasieu Parish Police Juror for District #14, welcomed guests to the GO Group Public Meeting and invited the Chancellor of SOWELA, Dr. Neil Aspinwall, to make a few opening remarks.
- Dr. Aspinwall provided a brief overview of campus progress and outlined upcoming projects for the growing campus. He also mentioned the significant increases in enrollment SOWELA has experienced since 2012.
- Karen Clapp, GO Group Director, briefly reviewed the topics to be discussed at the meeting. She also encouraged attendees to continue working together to promote positive growth in the community.

### **Growth in Southwest Louisiana**

- George Swift, Southwest Louisiana Economic Development Alliance President and Chief Executive Officer, provided attendees with an update on growth in Southwest Louisiana, stating that 45% of the \$97 billion of announced expansion projects are currently under construction, and despite the drop in oil prices, construction and economic development in our area is increasing.

### **“Drainage Design That Makes Sense” Initiative Update**

- Dennis Stine, Public Service Improvements Task Force Member, provided information on the task force’s work with regard to drainage. It was noted that the task force looked at drainage services and maintenance parish wide and recognized that there wasn’t a parishwide priority list for drainage projects. Anticipating unprecedented growth in SWLA, an ongoing capital plan for drainage was something the task force recognized as a need. As a result, Mr. Stine noted that the task force’s first recommendation was the establishment of a Drainage Office at the Police Jury level that would develop and oversee this plan.
- Mr. Stine stated that the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury’s current drainage outreach effort, will continue to address the serious issues that have been identified as a result of rapid growth in our area. While Calcasieu Parish understands it has very serious existing drainage issues that need to be resolved, the best starting point would be updated

ordinances that would incorporate best practices for new developments in the parish. It is vital that future drainage problems are stopped at the commercial and residential development level because once a development is completed, any future drainage problems become the responsibility of public entities, with the costs to be borne by taxpayers.

- Bryan Beam, Calcasieu Parish Administrator, continued the discussion with an update from the Drainage Open Houses that were held in January. Those meetings provided a platform for many community members to share their concerns regarding existing drainage issues and to offer potential solutions for the future. Mr. Beam also discussed the need to prioritize capital projects parishwide and deal with existing infrastructure. Moving forward, the parish plans to work with neighboring cities to develop capital project priorities for 2017, and to develop a draft set of standards for runoff and flood zone management.

#### **I-10 & I-210 Bridge Construction & Area Transportation Capacity Improvement Projects**

- Brent Lumpkin, Growth Planning Task Force Chairman, discussed the expected transportation related issues that our community will face as a result of growth in the area. Mr. Lumpkin expressed concern regarding the deterioration of the current I-10 bridge and applauded the efforts of the Southwest Louisiana Economic Development Alliance with their “In for 10” grassroots campaign. A motion was made by Mr. Lumpkin to the Steering Committee requesting that the GO Group formally lend its support to this campaign. The motion was seconded by Chris Landry and approved by the full committee.
- Todd Landry, District Administrator for the Louisiana Department of Transportation & Development, discussed the upcoming I-210 Prien Lake Bridge Rehab Project as well as other projects planned for the area. It was stated that lots of work needs to be done to the I-210 bridge in preparation for the replacement of the I-10 bridge. With regard to construction specifics for the I-210 project, it was stated that the length of the project was anticipated to be 2 years and 7 months with an estimated cost of \$20-30 million. During bridge construction, traffic will be reduced to one lane in each direction while the other side of the bridge is being worked on.
- Tim Conner, Calcasieu Parish Engineer, discussed upcoming traffic projects planned for the Calcasieu Parish Metropolitan Planning Area. He stated that more information on the projects within municipal areas can be provided by those municipalities.
- Mr. Conner also reviewed information regarding the Calcasieu Parish Transportation Initiative. Given the lack of funding for transportation infrastructure projects on both the state and federal level, the Calcasieu Parish Police Jury has taken the lead on jump-starting some of these projects by assigning local funds to numerous projects on major transportation arteries in the parish. The amount of the parish’s investment in such projects is approximately \$174 million. Mr. Conner reviewed a map containing the geographical location for these projects. The map can be found on the GO Group’s website.

### **Educational Facilities Master Planning**

- Ann Knapp, Education & Workforce Development Task Force Chair, addressed the anticipated influx of new students into the parish school system in coming years. With the addition of 5000+ new students expected in Calcasieu Parish, she stated that the area must be ready to accommodate student's needs. Given the overcrowding of some area schools and the inability to provide the full complement of educational services to some students as a result of space limitations, Mrs. Knapp's task force recently reviewed the requirements for an Educational Facilities Master Plan in Calcasieu Parish and shared its findings with Superintendent Bruchhaus and the leadership of the Calcasieu Parish School Board. Mrs. Knapp added that community involvement and support of the local education system is essential for successful results.
- Superintendent Bruchhaus thanked Mrs. Knapp and her committee for their foresight and attention to the matter. He spoke about the Educational Facilities Master Plan and stated that the Calcasieu Parish School Board's Long Range Planning Committee has approved for a scope of work to be created for such a plan and submitted back to the full School Board for final approval.

### **Temporary Workforce Housing**

- Morgan Turpin, Economic Development Specialist for the SWLA Economic Development Alliance, reviewed the projected housing demands in the community. Projections were listed as follows:
  - Permanent Housing - 11,105 permanent housing units needed from 2016 – 2024 with the most demand occurring at the \$175,000 price point and less
  - Temporary Housing - Peak Unmet Demand for Temporary Housing will occur in 2017 with a projected need of 17,845 Units
    - Four worker villages have currently been approved. In most cases, to move forward, a worker village must have a contract with an industrial facility. Currently, the only village that has been constructed that has a contract is Moss Lake Village in Carlyss.