

**RESOLUTION  
2007-R-27**

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE  
FROM THE STATE OF LOUISIANA  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
TO FUND NORTH PRONG SCHOONER BAYOU IMPROVEMENTS**

**WHEREAS**, the project is located in Region 4, Mermentau Basin, Vermilion Parish; approximately 5.5 miles west of Intracoastal City, bordered by Schooner Bayou on the south and the GIWW on the north. The project is situated in Section 4 of T-15-S and R-2-E, and Sections 22, 27, 28 and 33 of T-15-S and R-2-E with an approximate central point located at Latitude N29° 46.896' and Longitude W92° 15.789'; and

**WHEREAS**, numerous breaches in the existing eastern levee on the North Prong of Schooner Bayou threatens the hydrologic integrity of the Mermentau Basin and the future of agriculture and aquaculture in western Vermilion Parish. This existing levee, in conjunction with the Leland Bowan Lock to the north and Schooner Bayou to the south, serves as a hydrologic barrier from allowing saltwater from Vermilion Bay to migrate westward into a historic and physically maintained freshwater basin.; and

**WHEREAS**, the goal is to maintain hydrologic integrity of the eastern Mermentau Basin and prevent high salinity water from entering the basin; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed project features are as follows: 1) Install culverts with external automatic flapgates along the eastern bankline of North Prong of Schooner Bayou to allow freshwater flow to continue into the marshes to the east while preventing the intrusion of saltwater westward into the basin. 2) Restore approximately 3 miles of levee embankment along the east side of North Prong of Schooner Bayou to an elevation (6.0 m.s.l.) adequate to provide protection from mean high tides; and

**WHEREAS**, the indirect project benefit area encompasses approximately 5,200 acres of fresh marsh. LDNR sonde data indicates that the Schooner Bayou structure reduces salinity by 65%. The project aims to manage saline water movement from Vermilion Bay up through tidal creeks into North Prong which circumvents the salinity control into the Mermentau Basin at Schooner Bayou and at the GIWW locks. The project is expected to similarly reduce salinity by at least 50% as demonstrated by the structural impedance by the two locks. Consequently, the project is expected to reduce marsh loss in the area in the range of 25% to 49%. Using the ME-04 Wetland Value Assessment marsh loss rate 0.2%/year over the project area of 5,200 acres, we expect the project to directly benefit between 52 and 102 acres by TY20.; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed project has no significant potential issues. Major landowners within the project area fully support the project; and

**WHEREAS**, the Vermilion Parish Police Jury does not have the financial capacity at this time to fund these much needed improvements to North Prong Schooner Bayou.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Police Jury of Vermilion Parish that the State of Louisiana, Department of Natural Resources is hereby

requested to provide financial assistance in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 to assist in the improvements to North Prong Schooner Bayou.

**THEREUPON**, the above resolution was declared adopted.

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**CERTIFICATE**

I, Chris P. Theriot, Administrator/Secretary-Treasurer of the Vermilion Parish Police Jury, do hereby certify that the above is a true and exact copy of a resolution adopted by the Police Jury on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2007. at which time a quorum was present and voting.

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CHRIS P. THERIOT  
ADMINISTRATOR/SECRETARY-TREASURER  
VERMILION PARISH POLICE JURY