



# *St. Bernard Parish Council*

8201 West Judge Perez Drive    Chalmette, Louisiana, 70043  
(504) 278-4228    Fax (504) 278-4209  
[www.sbpj.net](http://www.sbpj.net)

**Kerri Callais**  
*Councilmember  
at Large*

**Richard "Richie" Lewis**  
*Councilmember  
at Large*

**Gillis McCloskey**  
*Councilmember  
District A*

**Nathan Gorbaty**  
*Councilmember  
District B*

**Howard Luna**  
*Councilmember  
District C*

**Wanda Alcon**  
*Councilmember  
District D*

**Manuel "Monty"  
Montelongo III**  
*Councilmember  
District E*

**Roxanne Adams**  
*Clerk of Council*

**#19**

EXTRACT OF THE OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL OF THE PARISH OF ST. BERNARD, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN AT A REGULAR MEETING HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS OF THE ST. BERNARD PARISH GOVERNMENT COMPLEX, 8201 WEST JUDGE PEREZ DRIVE, CHALMETTE, LOUISIANA ON TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2018 AT THREE O'CLOCK P.M.

On motion of Mr. Montelongo, seconded by Mr. Gorbaty, it was moved to **adopt** the following resolution:

## **RESOLUTION SBPC #1818-03-18**

A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE SUBMISSION OF A LETTER AS PUBLIC COMMENT TO THE UNITED STATES ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS IN SUPPORT OF PERMIT #MVN 2018-0204 EOO.

**WHEREAS**, St. Bernard Parish and its citizens have suffered tremendously as a result of the catastrophic coastal land and wetlands loss, and natural resources loss to Coastal St. Bernard Parish as a result of man-made and/or natural disasters; and

**WHEREAS**, St. Bernard Parish and Plaquemines Parish are experiencing catastrophic destruction and loss of oyster beds and fisheries caused by fresh water from the Mississippi River flowing through the Mardi Gras Pass into the waterways of Coastal St. Bernard Parish and Coastal Plaquemines Parish; and

**WHEREAS**, the St. Bernard Parish Council declared its support for the Parish President formally requesting that the State of Louisiana and Plaquemines Parish close Mardi Gras Pass on an emergency basis in Resolution SBPC #1730-06-17.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the St. Bernard Parish Council, the governing authority of St. Bernard Parish, does hereby submit the attached letter as public comment in support of Permit # MVN 2018-0204 EOO.

The above and foregoing having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereupon resulted as follows:

**YEAS:**            McCloskey, Gorbaty, Luna, Alcon, Montelongo, Lewis

**NAYS:**            None

**ABSENT:**        None

The Council Chair, Ms. Callais, cast her vote as **YEA**.

And the motion was declared **adopted** on the 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2018.



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Extract #19 continued  
March 20, 2018

**Richard "Richie" Lewis**  
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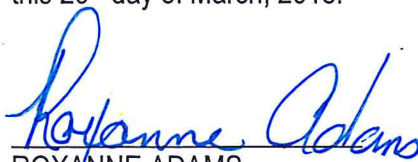
**Manuel "Monty"  
Montelongo III**  
*Councilmember  
District E*

**Roxanne Adams**  
*Clerk of Council*

## CERTIFICATE

I HEREBY CERTIFY that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of a motion adopted at a Regular Meeting of the Council of the Parish of St. Bernard, held at Chalmette, Louisiana, on Tuesday, March 20, 2018.

Witness my hand and the seal  
of the Parish of St. Bernard on  
this 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2018.

  
ROXANNE ADAMS  
CLERK OF COUNCIL





# *St. Bernard Parish Government*

*8201 West Judge Perez Drive  
Chalmette, La. 70043*

504-278-4228

504-278-4209(Fax)

March 20, 2018

United States Army Corps of Engineers  
New Orleans District Regulatory Branch  
7400 Leake Avenue  
New Orleans, Louisiana 70118  
Project Manager Brad LaBorde

Permit Applicant: Plaquemines Parish Government  
Permit Application Number  
MVN 2018-0202 EOO

Re: Regulatory Branch

Since the breach of The Bohemia Control Structure, now known as Mardi Gras Pass in 2011, the influx of uncontrolled Mississippi River water into the area near, and far reaching from the structure, has had devastating effects.

It has virtually eliminated any salt water fishing industries in the areas of Bay Gardene, American Bay, Bay Crabbe, and areas far from these once productive waters.

These once thriving areas were prime Oyster Seed Grounds, supplying over 80% of the state's Public Seed Oysters. Recent LDWF studies have noted the absence of any live oysters. This has been attributed to low salinity levels.

Prime Speckled Trout spawning islands, such as Stone Island, Belle Island, and Iron Banks no longer are viable for spawning, because salinity levels of 15 ppt needed for spawning, no longer exist, due to the influx of river water to those areas.

When this breach occurred in 2011, it was no more than 4 ft. wide and 3 ft. deep. Now it is over 250 ft. wide and 55 ft. deep and continues to grow. At high river last year, it flowed at a maximum of over 16,000 cubic feet per second. Its flow rates are getting larger every year.

This breach has also caused the loss of over 20 acres of land, due to this expansion of flow, and increased velocity of currents. Not to mention, the falling of power lines and the loss of many trees. Property owners have lost land, and have lost access to their property, which is actually a "taking" because of this failed structure.

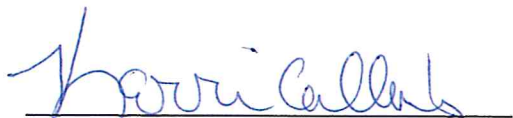
These areas of the Breton Basin being affected are also deemed Essential Fish Habitat by the National Marine Fisheries Service, which means they are protected by the Magnusen-Stevens Act. This breach and the uncontrolled flow of river water into this area is causing it to turn almost totally fresh, and this freshening will only continue to get worse.

This structure was built in 1969 under a joint venture of Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries, and The Army Corps of Engineers. This structure failure should be treated no different than any other levee breach, or any other control structure failure that results in the flooding, economic loss, and loss of flood protection of any populated area.

For these reasons, the St. Bernard Parish Council and Parish President support this permit approval.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

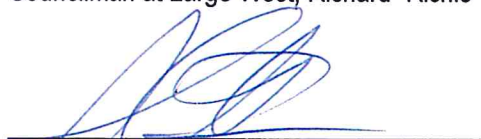
Sincerely,



Councilman at Large East, Kerri Callais



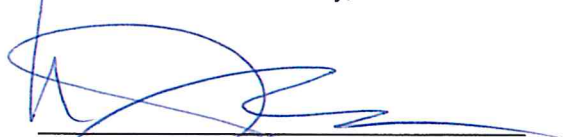
Councilman at Large West, Richard "Richie" Lewis



Councilman Gillis McCloskey, District "A"



Councilman Nathan Gorbaty, District "B"



Councilman Howard Luna, District "C"



Councilman Wanda Alcon, District "D"



Councilman Manuel Montelongo, District "E"



Parish President, Guy McInnis