

TECHE-VERMILION FRESHWATER
DISTRICT

RESUME LIST:

*Sonnier, Edward

**incumbent*

This page intentionally left blank

Edward Sonnier

P.O. Box 550
Scott, LA 70503
(337)278-0525
edinossun@aol.com

I was born and raised in Lafayette Parish. My parents were Saul and Thelma Sonnier. I have operated a Commercial Building Rental business in Lafayette for fifty years.

Education: Cathedral Carmel- Graduated 1970

University of Louisiana at Lafayette

Professional Organizations: State Board Member representing seven parishes for the Louisiana School Board Bus Operator Association-15 years

Honors: Chairman for Teche-Vermilion Fresh Water District

Interest and hobbies: Traveling, spending time with friends

Community interest: Improving quality of life and environmental conditions

Reason to want to serve on TVFWD-

It has been an honor to represent Lafayette Parish as your commissioner on the Teche-Vermilion Fresh Water District governing board and I am eager to be reappointed. I am devoted to continuing to support the efforts of improving quality of life and environmental conditions in our parish and to being a team player in moving our parish forward. I enjoy a good relationship with commissioners from the other parishes of the district and together we have been able to

carry out our mission in an efficient and effective manner. I look forward to our monthly meetings with them. I would deeply appreciate being reappointed as your commissioner.

Elected by his fellow board members as Chairman

I have gained the confidence of commissioners from other parishes and they have elected me to serve as Chairman of the Commission since 2008.

Accomplishments

As your Commissioner, I have worked with commissioners from the other parishes to ensure that tax dollars are spent in a prudent manner and that the district accomplishes its mission. The following are achievements to which I am dedicated and goals I would like to continue working toward:

1. The Teche-Vermilion Fresh Water District (TVFWD) is performing as envisioned by our forefathers who lobbied hard and long to make this project a reality. The TVFWD project has eliminated stagnation and reduced pollution in Bayou Vermilion, the Vermilion River, Bayou Teche and Bayou Amy and has provided a fresh water supply for recreation, agriculture and Industry. It has contributed to improved health and environmental conditions for Lafayette Parish which encourages development and economic growth.
2. The infrastructure of the TVFWD is in excellent condition. All features of The Project are inspected by engineers with the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority annually and any deficiencies are addressed immediately.

3. Improvements have been made to ensure that an interruption in the flow of fresh water does not occur. One example of this is the recently completed new State Canal Siphon. The new siphon provides an alternate flow route during repairs to the existing siphon.
4. I have supported efforts to ensure that we have sufficient funds to keep features of the project in excellent condition as it ages. These efforts are supported by a reserve fund study which evaluated our entire infrastructure and applied cost indexes to project our financial needs into the future.
5. I have worked with our other commissioners to set a conservative operating policy which, over the years, has resulted in the establishment of a reserve fund to meet our financial needs into the future without the need to raise or request additional funds.
6. I have encouraged and supported our staff in efforts to cooperate with other agencies in joint efforts to improve conditions in our parishes. An example of this is the work that we are doing through the Bayou Vermilion Preservation Association. Water quality is monitored throughout the watershed on a monthly basis through interagency efforts. Agencies involved include Lafayette Consolidated Government, Bayou Vermilion District, La. DEQ, ULL, other parishes and one Vermilion Parish drainage district.
7. I have directed our staff and support TVFWD being part of the team that addresses flooding concerns in the watershed. We support efforts of the Lafayette Parish-wide Stormwater Management Team and are proud to have been included in their meetings.

8. We have set an operation policy which involves daily monitoring of water levels, flows and weather conditions. When a flood threat is predicted, priority is given to reducing flows and lowering water levels. Structures are operated to make maximum removal of rainfall runoff possible. Pumping water into the watershed is done only when there is an insufficient flow due to a lack of rainfall. Pumping is reduced when storm threats are eminent in order to allow water levels to slowly reach minimum threshold before arrival of the event.
9. I have directed and support that our staff work in a cooperative manner with parishes of the watershed in a regional drainage effort. Our board has budgeted funds to aid in establishing a regional gauge project which will be mutually beneficial to the district in its operations and to drainage experts in addressing regional drainage needs.
10. I have supported the district's funding of a study by the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Flood Control Center to determine the impact of the district's operations on water levels in the Vermilion River during storm events. The purpose for this study was to make sure all possible steps are taken in preparation for storm events. The district is currently engaged in phase II of the study which will address Bayou Teche.