

RESOLUTION NO. JR-034-2025

**A JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE LAFAYETTE CITY COUNCIL AND THE
LAFAYETTE PARISH COUNCIL EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR FEDERAL
ASSISTANCE FOR DREDGING THE VERMILION RIVER**

BE IT RESOLVED by the Lafayette City Council and the Lafayette Parish Council, that:

WHEREAS, the Vermilion River, also known historically as Bayou Vermilion, flows through Lafayette Parish, connecting Bayou Teche to Vermilion Bay, and has been a critical waterway for transportation, commerce, rice irrigation, flood management, and recreation; and

WHEREAS, during the mid-20th century, dredging by the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) successfully deepened the channel, enhancing navigation and flood protection through the 1940s and 1950s; and

WHEREAS, decades of sediment buildup have severely restricted river depth, so the channel has experienced shallowness as critical as one (1) foot in areas like Rotary Point, impairing navigation and increasing flood risk; and

WHEREAS, severe flood events, including the 2016 floods which saw river levels reverse flow northward under urban runoff pressures, underscore the need for sustainable dredging and flood risk management; and

WHEREAS, in 2021, Congressman Clay Higgins announced that the USACE included \$50 million for spot channel dredging in the FY 2022 Civil Works Budget, a milestone reflecting federal commitment to flood mitigation through targeted dredging; and

WHEREAS, hydraulic modeling by USACE and University of Louisiana at Lafayette urged careful coordination of spot versus full dredging, noting limited benefits and the necessity for environmentally compliant disposal and permitting; and

WHEREAS, Lafayette Consolidated Government has already secured state reimbursements toward Bayou Vermilion flood control and is actively coordinating with the USACE and the Louisiana Watershed Initiative.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Lafayette City Council and the Lafayette Parish Council, that:

SECTION 1: All of the aforescribed “Whereas” clauses are adopted as part of this resolution.

SECTION 2: The Lafayette City Council and the Lafayette Parish Council wholeheartedly support and urge the continued identification, appropriation, and release of federal funds and approvals (including those from the USACE, Congressional allocations, etc.) necessary to conduct spot- and/or full-channel dredging of the Vermilion River through

Lafayette, consistent with the USACE's channel dimensions authorized under the Flood Control Act of 1941.

SECTION 3: The Lafayette City Council and the Lafayette Parish Council request prompt issuance and coordination of all required federal permits and environmental clearances to ensure dredging operations proceed expeditiously, while safeguarding wetland and aquatic ecosystems in compliance with federal law.

SECTION 4: The Lafayette City Council and the Lafayette Parish Council encourage partnership among the federal, state, and local levels of government, as well as academic institutions such as the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and stakeholders in Lafayette and adjacent Parishes, to ensure technical rigor, community transparency, and resilience-oriented project delivery.

SECTION 5: The Lafayette City Council and the Lafayette Parish Council call on our federal delegation, comprised of our United States House of Representatives and Senate members, to continue advocating for and securing dredging authorities and budgeted support through the USACE Civil Works program, Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection, and Restoration Act funding streams, Infrastructure law provisions, and other federal investment vehicles.

SECTION 6: The Lafayette City Council and the Lafayette Parish Council direct the Lafayette Mayor-President and Lafayette Consolidated Government executive leadership to provide regular updates to both Councils, as well as the public, regarding project milestones, funding commitments, permit approvals, construction schedules, and modeled flood-risk reduction outcomes.

SECTION 7: The Lafayette City Council and the Lafayette Parish Council request that attested copies of this Joint Resolution, once approved, be forwarded to:

- a. The Louisiana Congressional delegation;
- b. Federal agencies including the USACE New Orleans District, Environmental Protection Agency, and FEMA;
- c. Governor of Louisiana;
- d. University of Louisiana at Lafayette;
- e. Acadiana Planning Commission;
- f. Louisiana Watershed Initiative.

SECTION 8: All resolutions, or parts thereof, in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote on behalf of the Lafayette City Council thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Broussard, Naquin, Hebert, Hooks, Boudreaux

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

This resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote on behalf of the Lafayette Parish Council thereon was as follows:


YEAS: Tabor, Richard, Stansbury, Guilbeau, Rubin

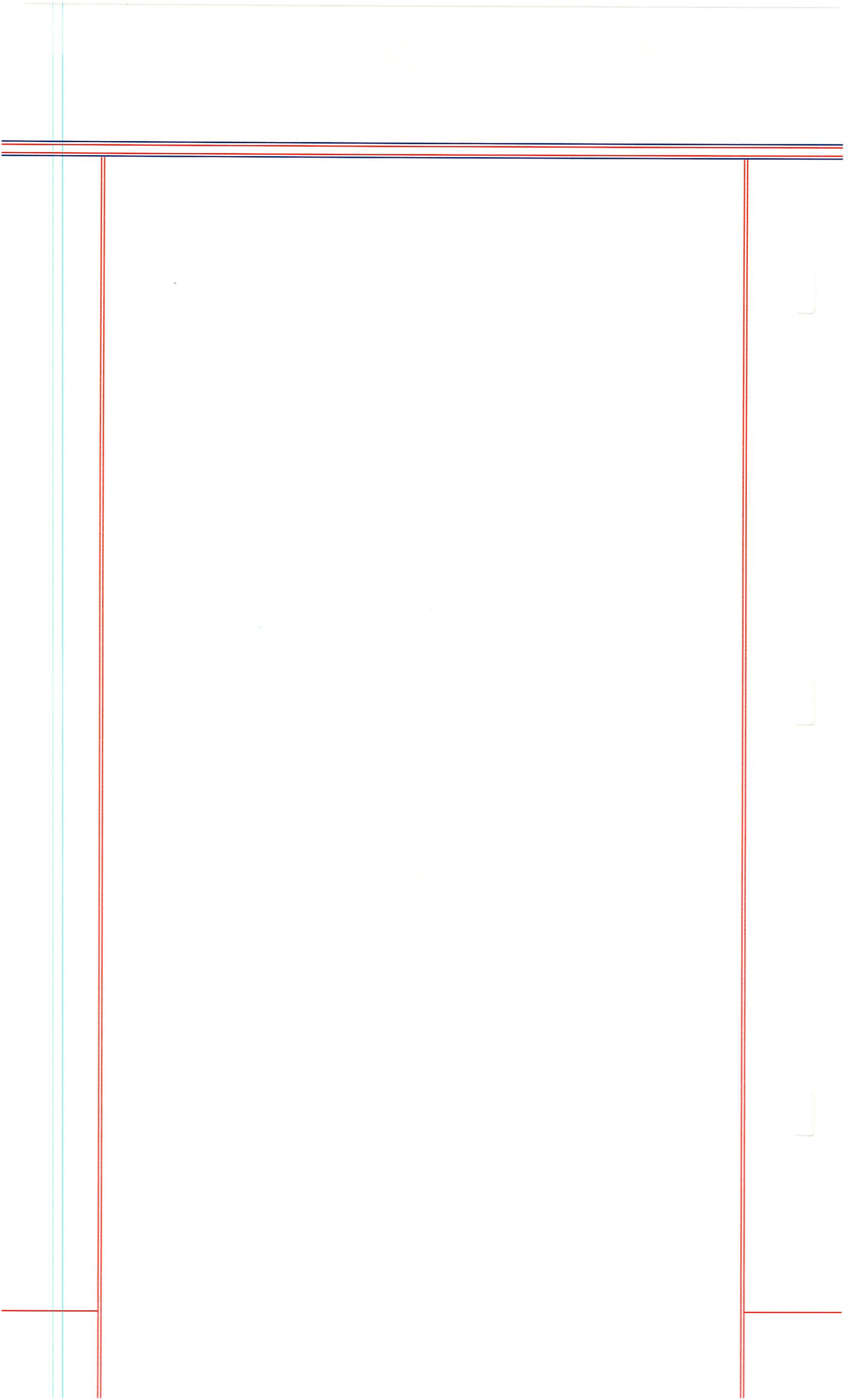
NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

ABSTAIN: None

AND the resolution was declared adopted on this, the 1st day of July, 2025.


JOSEPH GORDON-WILTZ
LAFAYETTE CLERK OF THE COUNCIL



LAFAYETTE JOINT COUNCIL MEETING

AGENDA ITEM SUBMITTAL FORM

- 1) **JUSTIFICATION FOR REQUEST:** A joint resolution of the Lafayette City Council and the Lafayette Parish Council expressing support for federal assistance for dredging the Vermilion River
- 2) **ACTION REQUESTED:** Adoption of resolution
- 3) **REQUESTED ACTION OF COUNCIL:**
 - A) INTRODUCTION: 07-01-2025
 - B) FINAL ADOPTION: 07-01-2025
- 4) **DOCUMENTATION INCLUDED WITH THIS REQUEST:**
 - A) Resolution
 - B) Submittal Form
- 5) **FISCAL IMPACT:**

_____ Fiscal Impact (Explain)

_____ X _____ No Fiscal Impact

AUTHORED BY:

/s/ Liz Hebert
LIZ HEBERT, Vice-Chair
Lafayette City Council, District 3

/s/ Bryan Tabor
BRYAN TABOR
Lafayette Parish Council, District 1

s/ Kenneth "Ken" Stansbury
KENNETH "KEN" STANSBURY
Lafayette Parish Council, District 3

