

Jefferson County

Drainage District No. 6

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Established in 1920

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Business Manager

Stephen LeBlanc
Operations Manager

John Murff
Project Manager

Nelson Nixon
Superintendent

December 10, 2019

A. ADDITIONAL MAINTENANCE ITEMS SINCE NOVEMBER 8, 2019 UPDATE

Concrete-Lined Ditch Sections Being Cleaned: James Castille and his crew are currently cleaning the concrete-lined ditch sections throughout the District. Below is a list of ditches they are currently working on. To perform this work, this crew is utilizing three of the District's on-road dump truck and two skid steers.

Ditch No. 117-from Laura Street to where it dumps into Ditch No. 100-A

Ditch No. 100-A from Sparrow Way to Bristol

Ditch No. 115-from IH-10 to Ditch No. 100-A

Ditch No. 116-from Laura Street to where it ties into Ditch No. 100-A.

Aerial Inspections: On December 4th, Stanley Shipper of the Sheriff's Aerial Department took us up in the Sheriff Department's helicopter for an aerial inspection of the District's on-going projects and completed projects; such as the J.D. Murphree Outfall, Oil Cut Outfall, the Needmore windows, Needmore Diversion Channel, North Fork of Taylor's Bayou, and the 7-gate and 8-gate structures on Taylor's Bayou. These inspections are vital to the District as they give us a better perspective of our projects and save a considerable amount of time by eliminating a lot of driving to look at various projects. Using the Sheriff Department's helicopter, we are able to cover the county in about two hours. We are especially thankful to Mr. Shipper and the Sheriff's Department for making this possible, as they are normally available when inspections are called for.

Ditch No. 002 – Lucas: Sherman Ard repaired a washout on this ditch; located on Lucas by the concrete boxes. This washout was caused by rapid running water during Imelda. Sherman repaired the headwall area with 3-sack cement stabilized sand.

Ditch No. 123 – Folsom Road: Joey Simon and crew completed the silt and debris removal from the concrete-lined section of this ditch. The section cleaned is located off Folsom Rd. and Major Drive, headed east toward the District's detention pond.

Ditch No. 562 – Taylor's Landing: Calvin Mathew, equipped with the District's long-stick slashbuster, continues to clear the ditch right-of-way. This ditch is a major outfall for Taylor's Landing located off Hwy-73.

Ditch 603 - S. China Road: Mike Sterling and a small crew have completed the repair work for a major washout around two tank cars that tie into Ditch 600. This ditch is often referred to as "the Precinct ditch" and is located off S. China Road, south of Lawhon Road, and it parallels Lawhon Road.

Ditch No. 100-A – Between E. Caldwood and Sparrow Way: Joe Malbrough is overseeing all of the concrete crews on this project. Joe's crew completed the concrete work on the east side of Sparrow Way. Next week they will complete the finish grading associated with this crossing. The city of Beaumont is scheduled to install the guardrails, concrete curbs and any asphalt patching that needs to be done at this crossing. When the city finishes their work on Sparrow Way, this area of the project will be complete. Tim Lazare's crew and Tom Picou's crew have been clearing the remaining trees off of the new detention pond area. The crews still have two (2) inlet paving to pour, all slope paving and four (4) transition boxes to pour on this project.

Ditch 600 / 60-In Washout Repair: Palmer Miller's crew and Robert Smith and his crew have moved to Ditch 600 to begin the repair work associated with the 60-in HDPE pipe that was installed as part of the NRCS Phase III Project. The crews removed all of the temporary barriers and have installed a temporary coffer dam at the toe of Ditch 600 to be able to dry out the area of repair. This should keep the normal water out of this area while the repair work is being completed. The rains Thursday halted progress for this week. The crews should be able to pump out the area and begin work next week. The District's 108 LinkBelt dragline, a mini-excavator and a rented long-stick trackhoe are being used on this project.

Ditch 8202 / White's Ranch Outfall No. 2: As mentioned previously, the District finally received the Corps of Engineers Permit for this project. Robert Smith has built two 20-ft x 8-ft cattle guards that will be installed at the cross fences. I am expecting to start construction of the all-weather road after the first of the year when most employees return from their vacations. This project will require the use of most of the District's on-road dump trucks to haul the limestone base for the road project. This all-weather road will be constructed using geogrid fabric and Mirafi® under a limestone base, and it will be approximately 1.5 miles long, 13 feet wide, topped with 8 inches of limestone.

B. UPDATES TO NOVEMBER 8, 2019 MAINTENANCE LIST

Ditch No. 100-A / New Detention Pond at Oriole Street: Due to issues related to Imelda, Doug Canant decided to construct a small detention pond (approx. 2 to 3 acres) just off Oriole Street. Tom Picou and his crew have excavated approximately 25% of this pond, which will help drain East Calwood and Sparrow Way. Tom's crew is using one of the District's large trackhoes, a small dozer and ten on-road dump trucks. The excavated material is being hauled to the City's landfill. Working six 10-hr days, this crew has completed about a quarter of the project.

UPDATE AS OF DECEMBER 9, 2019: Tom Picou and his Crew have now completed 60% of this project.

Ditch No. 118-B / Ivanhoe Lane and Afton Lane Outfall: Jason Jones and John Murff recently met with Larry Domingue who lives at the end of Afton Lane. Mr. Domingue received water in his home during Imelda and requested that the District cleanout Ditch 118-B, which is located behind his home and drains into Ditch 118. We told him we would get the District's Engineering Department to review the District's right-of-way in that area to see if there was any way the existing ditch could be widened and deepened. Mr. Domingue was very grateful for the District's quick response in addressing his concerns.

UPDATE AS OF DECEMBER 9, 2019: Mark Matak completed the field topography work. This information will be reviewed by our Engineering Department to determine if the District could improve drainage in this area by deepening and enlarging this existing ditch.

Ditch No. 200 / East Lane Outfall: Red Castillo and crew, consisting of Calvin Matthews operating a long-stick trackhoe, a couple of on-road dump trucks, and the old Michigan front-end wheel loader, have cleaned this section of the concrete-lined ditch.

UPDATE AS OF DECEMBER 9, 2019: This work has been completed.

Ditch No. 200 and 202 / Willow Creek Outfall: Mark Latta, equipped with the District's long-stick slashbuster, completed slashing the trees on Ditches 200 and 202 from Brooks Road to IH-10. On October 11th, Doug Canant met with residents of the Willow Creek Addition, who resided on Coral Creek Street, to address their flooding concerns. Doug indicated that the District would clean up the outfall ditch/right-of-way area and look into the possibility of installing some type of ditch or spillway from the end of Apremont Circle/Coral Creek Rd. to Ditch 202.

UPDATE AS OF DECEMBER 9, 2019: This work has been completed.

Ditch No. 202-E / Amelia Farms Outfall (Major Dr./Dishman Rd.): This ditch is located just off Major Dr. on Dishman Rd., north of the detention pond where the City of Beaumont water tower is located. Doug Canant, Bernie Daleo and John Murff met with Kevin Cronin, owner of Amelia Farms Restaurant, to discuss some drainage issues he had and the recent flooding of his restaurant. Doug and John have put together a plan to improve drainage in the area, as well as redirect floodwaters off of Dishman Rd. directly into the soccer field detention area. Note that one pipe crossing Dishman Rd. would be a 30-in pipe. John Murff spoke with Jody Janise with Precinct 1 and he said that they would be willing to participate in this one crossing. The District agreed to excavate the pipe installation site if Precinct 1 would furnish the pipe, backfill materials, handle traffic control, and repair the road once the project has been completed. A trackhoe has been moved to this location and are looking to start the project within in the next week or two, as soon as James McDonald completes his work on Ditch 618 in China.

UPDATE AS OF DECEMBER 9, 2019: James McDonald is currently mopping out the ditches and he is about 60% complete. He has also completed about 40% of the pipe work. This work will continue until it is 100% complete.

Ditch Nos. 403A, 403-A1 and 403-A1A: These three ditches are located just west of Labelle Rd. One ditch is the primary outfall to what is referred to as the Dairy Ridge Subdivision and the other two ditches drain water off of Hwy-365. The District has right-of-way on all three of these ditches, and Randy Smith, equipped with the Fecon mulcher has been assigned to this area to mulch all the trees. Once the mulching work has been completed, we will bring in an excavator equipped with a cleanout bucket to clean and reshape these three ditches to provide better drainage.

UPDATE AS OF DECEMBER 9, 2019: Randy Smith completed the clearing of these ditches using the District's FECON mulcher. The District needs to acquire additional right-of-way on Ditch 403-A1 to improve an existing ditch that will connect to one of the bigger outfall ditches.

Ditch No. 406 / Kidd Gully Bridge: Robert Smith and crew have started driving the pilings for this bridge rebuild. This crew is using a large trackhoe, a manlift and the District's 108 LinkBelt dragline to accomplish this task. To date, they have driven 32 pilings. This work has been placed on hold waiting on the remainder of the bridge material, which include the bridge decking. The project will resume once the materials have been received.

UPDATE AS OF DECEMBER 9, 2019: Robert Smith is working on this project in between his everyday work. All of the bridge caps have been properly installed and fastened to the pilings. On December 4th Robert started placing the bridge stringers. After the stringers have been installed, he will begin placing the decking boards.

Ditch No. 407 / Green Acres: Nathan Stansbury has been clearing the trees off Ditch 407, which runs through the Green Acres area. He is using a smaller trackhoe, Kubota KOX80, equipped with the new Fecon attachment the District recently purchased. Clearing this right-of-way will provide the District with access to both sides of this ditch for maintenance purposes. This ditch was a concern brought to the Board's attention at one of our recent meetings.

UPDATE AS OF DECEMBER 9, 2019: Joey Simon completed the slashing of this ditch on the north bank. He has moved over to the south bank and is working east toward the water treatment plant. Joey will continue slashing trees with the District's new Fecon attachment until all the right-of-way has been cleared. This small Fecon attachment has proven to be a vital asset to the District's equipment inventory.

Ditch No. 500-XA / Off Craigen Rd. West of Prince Property Fill Site:

Doug and John Murff met with Robert Castilaw who was in attendance at the October 15, 2019 Board meeting. He was concerned about some spoil placed on Bob Ford's property, just behind his house. Mr. Ford agreed that the District could do as it sees fit to keep water off Mr. Castilaw's property. Therefore, we will remove a portion of the dirt, cut some swale ditches behind his home, and install some additional downspouts. Danny Elrod has started this project.

UPDATE AS OF DECEMBER 9, 2019: Danny Elrod started this project just before his vacation. I anticipate Mike Sterling will be moved to this site the first of next week to continue the work until Danny returns.

Ditch No. 506 / Deaton Ranch: Mike Sterling and his crew are currently working on replacing some pipe that washed out during Imelda. They are also adding some dirt to low spots in the road along this ditch where water overflowed out of the ditch, over the road, and onto Mr. Deaton's property. This crew is using one of the District's dump trucks, a large trackhoe and a large dozer to accomplish this work.

UPDATE AS OF DECEMBER 9, 2019: This project has been completed. Also, pursuant to a Letter of Agreement with Carl Deaton, Joey Rosetta has completed approximately 500 feet of fence work with two 16-ft farm gate openings. In this agreement, District also agreed to install a cattle guard and build a new 5-strand barbed wire fence along Mr. Deaton's entire property, where it parallels Taylor's Bayou. Mr. Deaton informed the District that he does not want the fence and cattle guard at this time. We plan to have a new Letter of Agreement concerning the fence and cattle guard for board consideration at a future meeting. Mr. Deaton has been very cooperative in working with the District on the Taylor's Bayou Project, and we are currently negotiating with him for right-of-way along Ditch No. 710, a major outfall for the Hamshire area.

Ditch No. 618 / Center of China Outfall: This ditch is located at the dead end of Amanda and Joseph Streets and dumps into the upper end of Ditch 600. James McDonald is adding a 30-in culvert to both roads and a 60-in pipe is being installed where this ditch ties into Ditch 600. This work will create an access for better maintenance of this ditch, as well as along the north side of Ditch 600. James will also be regrading and improving Ditch 618 in its entirety. This small maintenance project should be completed by the end of next week. A citizen at one of our recent meetings voiced concerns about the condition of this ditch.

UPDATE AS OF DECEMBER 9, 2019: James McDonald has completed this project.

Ditch No. 1100 – Cotton Creek: This job is ongoing. Mark Latta will be slashing the District’s right-of-way on this ditch from Old Grayburg Rd. to Hwy-90. This ditch is the major outfall for the west side of Nome and is located in the Pine Island Bayou Watershed. As you may recall, this ditch was mentioned by a Nome citizen during our public comment section at the last meeting.

UPDATE AS OF DECEMBER 9, 2019: Mark Latta completed the right-of-way clearing from Hwy-326 to Hwy-90. He has moved to Ditch 1112 to continue clearing right-of-way. Ditch 1112 is the outfall ditch for the north Nome area.

Ditch No. 8000 / Needmore Diversion Channel: During the Needmore channel excavation, the spoil was placed on the District’s right-of-way along the channel. This spoil material is very sandy causing it to erode very easily. Washouts have been an ongoing battle since the completion of this channel and have become a problem for the livestock that is being grazed in this area. Justin Morgan (Temp. Employee/Heavy Equip. Oper.) was sent to the site and using one of the District’s large dozers, he has made repairs to a section of the washed-out areas. As Justin completes a section, we will reseed and fertilize it with a winter rye grass mix for erosion control.

UPDATE AS OF DECEMBER 9, 2019: Justin Morgan completed the repairs to the east spoil bank from Needmore Road to the Intracoastal Canal. Justin disturbed approximately 60 acres of property, and the District will be reseeding the area right before the next rain event. Justin is currently on vacation and this job will resume after the first of the year. Note that the major washout repairs have been completed. The east bank of the Needmore channel does not erode as bad as the west bank. Brandon Wright is currently mowing the spoil piles with the batwing mower.

Ditch Nos. 1107 & 1109– Old Grayburg Rd. Outfall: James McDonald is cleaning out these ditches using one of the District’s large trackhoes. This maintenance work will allow for better drainage of Old Grayburg Rd. where it intersects with the Nome Spur Road. These ditches are located off of Old Grayburg Rd., approximately halfway between Hwy-326 and Hwy-90.

UPDATE AS OF DECEMBER 9, 2019: James McDonald has completed this project.

Ditch No. 8001 / Needmore Diversion Channel: Joey Rosetta and a one-man crew have been repairing gates and replacing fencing along the Needmore right-of-way and access road all the way to the structure. This crew has replaced six 10-ft gates and completed all the fence work. These repairs were necessary due to the turbulent waters that occurred during Imelda.

UPDATE AS OF DECEMBER 9, 2019: Joey Rosetta completed the fence repair work.

Ditch No. 8101 / Mayhaw Diversion Channel: Debris from the Imelda event damaged three major gates on this ditch. Joey Rosetta and a one-man crew were dispatched to take care of the necessary repairs.

UPDATE AS OF DECEMBER 9, 2019: Joey completed one swing gate. It takes approximately one week to build a new gate to cross this channel. We have three more swing gates to construct and they will be worked on between Joey's other fence work.

Ditch No. 8102 / Alligator Ditch: Ditch 8102 is a major outfall for the southern portion of Jefferson County and is located southwest of the Big Hill Strategic Petroleum Reserve. Danny Elrod has spent two days digging out water hyacinths and lilies that floated downstream during Tropical Storm Imelda. Most of these plants were dead as a result of the District's spraying program. This collection of debris is a common occurrence after large rain events due to the flow in this ditch that brings the debris to one centrally located area.

UPDATE AS OF DECEMBER 9, 2019: This project has been completed.

Duck Hilgemeier / Dragline Service Contract: Duck's dragline has been inoperable for the last couple of weeks. As soon as the repairs have been completed, he will move to Ditch 8102-B1 located on Donnie Deaton's ranch. This ditch is the major outfall for the Deaton Ranch and the District does have right-of-way on this ditch. Imelda caused a considerable amount of silt to build up in this ditch and Donnie ask if the ditch could be cleaned out. Duck believes his dragline will be up and running by next week and at that time he will be working six 10-hr. days on his ditch cleaning efforts.

UPDATE AS OF DECEMBER 9, 2019: Since Duck's machine is up and running again, he has accomplished approximately 1,000 feet of ditch work. Duck is very experienced and does a great job meeting the District's expectations.

Bobby Hardy – Contract Mower: Bobby Hardy is the District’s contract mower and he provides the District with one long-stick mower/slashbuster and one long-stick mower. He will be working six 10-hr days until the maintenance work is caught up; weather permitting. At that time, he will go back on 40-hr work weeks.

Bobby is currently slashbusting on Ditch 200, along Frint Rd. He is working on the south side of the bridge, west bank, and headed south. His boom mower is located on Hwy-326 at Cotton Creek (Ditch 1100) and is mowing the east side of the bridge, south bank headed toward Hwy-326. When the boom mower reaches Hwy-326, he will go back around to the north bank and cut toward Hwy-326. Once the slashbusting work has been completed on Ditch 200, which should take about four weeks, the slashbuster will be reassigned to a different area.

UPDATE AS OF DECEMBER 9, 2019: Bobby Hardy completed the Cotton Creek mowing (Ditch 1100). He is currently mowing the west bank of Ditch No. 1103 headed south. After Bobby has completed Ditch 1103, he will move to Ditch No. 1102 to continue the maintenance mowing of the ditch.

Bobby Hardy’s long-stick, equipped with a slashbuster, continues to work on Ditch 200. He should have this work completed in approximately two weeks.

Taylor’s Bayou Debris Removal Project: Phase I, which encompassed the area from the Needmore windows to Boondocks Rd. has been completed. Excavation Technologies will move on to Phase II of this project, which goes from Boondocks to Craigen Rd. They are making good progress and have not run into any obstacles. As the weather permits, they are working six 10-hr. days. Two of the District’s employees, Ben Grammier and Britt Stifflemire, are assisting with the tree debris placement using one of the District’s large dozers and a large trackhoe.

UPDATE AS OF DECEMBER 9, 2019: Excavation Technologies is currently working on Phase II of this project, and they are about 60% complete. This project slowed down due to the recent holiday, but they have resumed working six 10-hr days. Ben and Britt are both on vacation and Calvin Mathew is working with Excavation Technologies in their absence.

Ditch No. 600 – Green Pond NRCS Project: Due to the recent spell of dry weather, Scott Tinkle and crew completed 1,000 feet of the levee rebuild. Ten compaction tests have been run and all passed. So far, this crew has completed 2,000 feet of the original 5,800 feet. They are using a variety of the District’s equipment to include a large trackhoe, two off-road dump trucks, three dozers, a tractor with disk, a sheepsfoot compactor and a smooth compactor. This is definitely a dry weather job, any rain at all compromises the progress of this job.

UPDATE AS OF DECEMBER 9, 2019: We have completed and planted 4,000 feet of the levee rebuild with a winter erosion mix. Scott Tinkle is continuing to work vigorously on this project to try and complete it while we have dry weather. We are hopefully expecting to be completed by the end of this year, but the weather is a key factor in whether we can accomplish this goal.

Ditch No. 1000 / Bridge on Bean Property: The deck of a 105-ft long timber bridge floated during Tropical Storm Imelda and more or less settled back on the bridge. This is the second time this bridge deck has floated, the first time being back in 1994. When looking at the bridge to reconnect the deck, it was discovered that most of the pilings and caps are rotten, along with many of the stringers and deck boards. It is time for this bridge to be replaced.

In order to reconstruct this long bridge, it will be necessary to walk the dragline across the ditch on the bridge to drive the pilings. Therefore, to ensure the bridge can support the dragline, we will be installing steel stringers. We plan to place this bridge project on our schedule as our workload permits.

UPDATE AS OF DECEMBER 9, 2019: This work will take place after the first of next year.

C. MAINTENANCE COMPLETED AS OF NOVEMBER 8, 2019 UPDATE.

Ditch No. 307 / Blewett Rd. Outfall: Paul Owens, a resident of Blewett Rd. came in and was very vocal about a ditch that he said had not been mowed, Ditch No. 307, which the District does have right-of-way on. This ditch parallels the manmade ski lake located off Blewett Rd. and it is the major outfall for the Blewett Rd. area. John Murff visited with Mr. Owens for approximately 40 minutes and told him that the District would see to it that the ditch was mowed. As soon as Mr. Owens left our office, John Murff called Colton Bresee and asked him to mow it, and the task was completed to Mr. Owens’ satisfaction.

Ditch No. 309 / Flap Gates: During the Imelda rain event, water in Ditch 300 backed up into Ditch 309, which made the water run backwards in Ditch 309-A as far as Chance Rd. The District recently completed Ditch 309-A and three 48-in pipe crossings were installed at the LNVA lateral. Robert Smith and his crew installed flap gates on these three pipes to prevent water from flowing backwaters during large rain events. This gate work was completed October 11th.

Ditch No. 406-E1: This ditch is located behind John Rollins Trucking on Hwy-124, just east of the Goodyear plant. Back in June of this year, the District's mowing contractor, Bobby Hardy, cleared the right-of-way of brush and trees using his long-stick slashbuster. On December 4th Sherman Ard, equipped with a small DD6 trackhoe and two on-road dump trucks, began hauling stabilized sand for the resetting of three undersized downspouts and the relocation of a ditch crossing. This ditch is a major outfall for the area just south of Cheek.

Ditch No. 505-A1: This ditch is located off Hwy—365 and parallels Sandy Lane. It is the Major outfall for Sandy Lane and is just east of Gilbert Lake Estates. A citizen present at one of our recent meetings approached the Board about this ditch. Since that meeting, Calvin Matthews, using a long-stick trackhoe, has cleaned this ditch from IH-10 to Hwy-365.