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Charlotte A. Randolph, *Parish President*

## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: 7:00 P.M.  
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### **T. Baker Smith to Draft Drainage Master Plan for Lafourche**

Lafourche Parish Government has hired T. Baker Smith, Inc. to engineer a “Drainage Master Plan” for Lafourche Parish. The Lafourche Parish Council approved the contract, which cannot exceed \$750,000, at their meeting Tuesday night. The funding for the plan came through the State of Louisiana from the federal government.

“We all realize this is something critical for Lafourche as we move forward with development,” said Parish President Charlotte Randolph. “We’ve all seen the effects of drainage throughout the parish, and this plan will help us to determine how to solve these problems, as we simultaneously move forward with an overall *Master Plan* for Lafourche along with this drainage plan.

The plan will take approximately 18 months to complete. T. Baker Smith will hold public meetings throughout the parish at all stages to keep the public informed as well as provide an opportunity for public comments. The firm will also post the plan’s progression on a website. This website will allow public access to real-time review of progress and submittals associated with this project. Lafourche Parish Government’s website will feature a link to this website when it is made available by the firm.

Overall management and coordination of the project will be based out of T. Baker Smith’s Thibodaux office, and Jimmy Ledet will serve as overall project manager. “T. Baker Smith has experience working on drainage projects for many, many years,” said Ledet. “We are excited to be able to work on this project and serve the Lafourche community.”

The funding for this project came from a federal grant through the state. Due to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005, Congress appropriated funds to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program for use through the State of Louisiana for disaster recovery. The State’s proposal to HUD included using \$200 million to providing funding for the implementation of the local long-term recovery plans in the most heavily impacted areas of the state. As part of Lafourche Parish’s share of the recovery funds, \$750,000 was granted for the development of a drainage master plan.

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