

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDING
OF
SOUTH LAFOURCHE LEVEE DISTRICT
FEBRUARY 15, 2016**

The Board of Commissioners of the South Lafourche Levee District met in a regular session at its regular meeting place, 17904 Highway 3235, Galliano, Louisiana, on Monday, February 15, 2016, at three (3:00) o'clock p.m., pursuant to the provisions of a notice of regular session duly promulgated and posted in accordance with the law.

The regular meeting for the month of February was called to order by President Ronald Callais. Commissioner Clarence Marts led the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Callais directed the secretary to call roll.

Board members present: Ronald Callais
 Robert "Bobby" Eymard, Sr. (arrived at 3:05p)
 Bob Faulk
 Mitch Danos
 Clarence "CJ" Marts, Jr.
 Brent Duet
 Keith Guidry

Board members absent: Monty Vegas

Also present were: Executive Secretary and General Manager Windell Curole; Administrative Assistant 5 Mary Punch; Administrative Assistant 3 Amy Gisclair; Levee Board Operations Superintendent Drake Baudoin; Attorneys Ray Collins and Tyler Breaux; Engineering Personnel Andre Uzee, Joe Picciola, Neil Angelette, Stevie Smith, Mitch Marmande, Mike D'Angelo; Lafourche Parish Councilman Daniel Lorraine; McNeely Rome, Roland Guidry and Rodney Gisclair; and news media.

READING OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the January 11, 2016, Regular Meeting were approved unanimously upon a motion by Bob Faulk and seconded by Brent Duet.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President Callais suggested postponing the election of officers until after reappointments. There were no objections.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Lafourche Parish Councilman Daniel Lorraine requested an update on the Yankee Canal levee where the council had agreed to pay for the repairs that would be made by the Levee District. Mr. Curole explained that due to the urgency of the repairs, the Board decided to move ahead with the project, and after completion, the council would transfer the maintenance over to the Levee District. Mr. Curole explained that an emergency was declared and that a low bid had been received by Plaisance Dragline who would be starting work on Tuesday, February 16, 2016. Mr. Lorraine thanked the board for their actions on the parish levee.

Mr. Rodney Gisclair announced that he was a candidate for Commission Seat D on the Greater Lafourche Port Commission's board, and encouraged everyone to get out and vote on March 5th.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

SLIDE PRESENTATION

General Manager Windell Curole showed slides of the eroded trash screens at Pump Station No. 8 and the new screens that replaced the old. Other slides included the levee elevation over the discharge pipes at Pump Station No. 8, the areas inside the pump station where the SLLD crew maintained a clean working environment, gate removal by the Corps contractor on Delta Farms Road, levee elevation work running from Pump Station No. 1 to Apache, erosion protection and restoration project, Larose Floodwall project that was halted through a Cease and Desist order from the Corps, and the wave action along a New Orleans floodwall during Hurricane Gustav.

Mr. Curole presented slides provided by Ducks Unlimited on a partnership proposal for marsh apron terraces. He showed areas along our levee system where Ducks Unlimited had plans for building terraces. He reminded the board that they had previously authorized \$1M for restoration projects and requested that \$100,000 of that designated funding be used to partner with Ducks Unlimited for improving our environment. Action was taken later in the meeting.

Mr. Curole presented a video clip of a drone flight provided by Dustan Adams, Over The Top Photography. He explained that Mr. Adams had videoed the entire levee system and offered the entire video for a price of \$2,000. Mr. Curole stated that he would like to purchase the video if the board was in agreement.

Moved by Brent Duet, seconded by Keith Guidry the board unanimously agreed to appropriate \$2,000 to purchase the drone flight of the SLLD levee system from Over The Top Photography.

VOTE TO ADD YANKEE CANAL REPAIRS TO AGENDA

Mr. Curole requested the board vote to add Yankee Canal Levee Repairs to the agenda.

On a motion by Bob Faulk and seconded by Keith Guidry, with a roll with 7 Yeas, 0 Nays, 0 Abstained, and 1 Absent, the Yankee Canal Repairs-Awarding of Contract was added to the agenda.

YANKEE CANAL LEVEE REPAIRS – AWARDING OF CONTRACT

Mr. Curole explained that an emergency declaration was made so that urgently needed repairs to the Yankee Canal Levee could be started. He then presented the bid tab results for Yankee Canal Repairs project and requested approval to accept the low bid in the amount of \$194,877.28, and to award the contract to Plaisance Dragline & Dredging.

Moved by Clarence Marts, seconded by Bobby Eymard, in accordance with the Emergency Declaration SLLD Resolution 16-01, the board authorized awarding the contract for the Yankee Canal Levee Repairs to the low bidder, Plaisance Dragline & Dredging, at the bid price of \$194,877.28.

CORPS REPORT, LAROSE TO GOLDEN MEADOW SYSTEM POLDER

Mr. Curole briefed the board on comments that were made by the Corps as a result of their latest levee inspection report. He stated that we would work on the items that needed to be addressed.

DUCKS UNLIMITED: MARSH APRON TERRACES

Mr. Curole requested the board authorize him to sign and return the Ducks Unlimited NAWCA partnership letter for building marsh apron terraces, and to designate \$100,000 to the partnership from the restoration budget that was previously set aside for such projects.

Moved by Mitch Danos, seconded by Clarence Marts and unanimously accepted, the board authorized General Manager Windell Curole to enter into a partnership with North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA) and to designate \$100,000 for the building of marsh apron terraces from the SLLD Restoration Budget.

HOLY ROSARY CHURCH

Mr. Curole stated that a representative of the Holy Rosary Church had brought to our attention a section of property that was not recorded in the courthouse. We researched, but couldn't find anything in the files so we hired Tarpon Appraisal to appraise the property. Mr. Curole requested approval to pay Holy Rosary Church for the right-of-way valued at \$12,450.

Moved by Bob Faulk and seconded by Keith Guidry, the board unanimously agreed to purchase the right-of-way for Tract 12-01-E from Holy Rosary Church in the amount of \$12,450.

NATIONAL FLOOD INSURANCE

Mr. Curole announced that he had attended a Flood Risk Management Workshop in New Orleans. He stated that he and NLLD's Executive Director Dwayne Bourgeois had breakfast with Mr. Roy Wright, FEMA's Deputy Associate Administrator for Insurance and Mitigation. He explained that Mr. Bourgeois was working with a group to help get reasonable flood insurance laws passed and that Mr. Wright showed an interest in working with us.

GEARHEAD REPAIR ISSUES

Mr. Curole stated that there were issues with the gearheads at PS #4 which was the pump station near Yankee Canal. Levee Board Operations Superintendent Drake Baudoin explained the difficulty in changing parts on the gearheads due to the amount of time it takes the companies to obtain parts. One gearhead was out at PS #1 and was being repaired in Alabama where it would take approximately 14 weeks. Mr. Baudoin stated that the cost was \$35,000 for each gearhead that was sent for repairs. Mr. Curole added that they were considering sending Operating Engineer Master Berwick Cheramie for training on the gearheads so they could be repaired in house.

CEASE AND DESIST OF THE LAROSE FLOODWALL PROJECT

Mr. Curole said he would be meeting with the Corps on Tuesday to discuss issues with the Cease and Desist Order on the Larose Floodwall Project.

ENGINEERING REPORT

OFFICE OF COASTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION

Mr. Trung-Quan Nguyen was not in attendance.

CORPS OF ENGINEERS (JOEY WAGNER)

There was no one in attendance from the Corps.

PROJECT ENGINEERS

PICCIOLA & ASSOCIATES

Engineer Joe Picciola gave the following report:

- **D-North Levee Improvements**

Apeck Construction is the contractor. The contractor has been hauling material out of both borrow pits. They are approximately 95% complete with the project.

The contractor has submitted Pay Application No. 20. Their pay application includes embankment complete in November 2015 through January 2016 (51,923 cubic yards).

- Pay Request No. 20 in the amount of \$412,862.50.

Moved by Mitch Danos, seconded by Keith Guidry and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 20 in the amount of \$412,862.50.

- **A-East Dredging**

Weeks Marine, Inc. is the contractor. The contractor is 100% complete with the project.

The Contractor has submitted Pay Application No. 7 for retainage along with a Clear Lien Certificate.

- Pay Request No. 7 in the amount of \$50,505.53.

Moved by Bobby Eymard, seconded by Bob Faulk, abstained by Brent Duet and accepted by all others, the board approved Pay Request No. 7 in the amount of \$50,505.53.

- **A-East Dredging - Additional Work**

We received bids on January 28th. Plaisance Dragline & Dredging Co., Inc. was the low bidder in the amount of \$89,224.48. We recommend awarding of the contract.

Moved by Mitch Danos, and seconded by Brent Duet, the board unanimously approved the awarding of the contract for A-East Dredging - Additional Work to the low bidder, Plaisance Dragline & Dredging Co., Inc. in the amount of \$89,224.48.

- **Larose Floodgate Improvement and Protection, Ph 2 Interim Project – Floodwall below LA Hwy 1, Intracoastal Bridge**

We received bids on November 18th. Sealevel Construction was the low bidder in the amount of \$772,356.00. We held a Pre-Construction Meeting and issued a Notice to Proceed for the project on February 22nd.

The Hesco baskets will be removed and replaced with a 14 ft. concrete floodwall to connect the levee from underneath the LA 1 Bridge. The road will be closed at that location. Plans by the Parish for an alternate road are in the works. A lengthy discussion pursued.

- **Yankee Canal Levee Dredging**

We were able to get the State and the US Army Corps of Engineers to issue an Emergency Authorization Permit to construct this project. We received bids on February 3rd. Plaisance Dragline & Dredging Co., Inc. was the low bidder in the amount of \$194,877.28. We held a Pre-Construction Meeting and issued a Notice to Proceed for the project on February 15th. Acceptance of low bidder was approved under the General Manager's report.

J. WAYNE PLAISANCE, INC.

In the absence of Engineer John Plaisance, Program Manager André Uzee reported the following:

- **Bayou Lafourche Water Level Control - Permit**

I have revised the alignment of the levee along Bayou Lafourche to cut down on the wetlands that were affected. We are still waiting on the hydraulic study.

- **Pump Station No. 4 Upgrades**

This project consists of the replacement of the crane at Pump Station No. 4 and the expansion of the fuel tank building. We have met with staff and chosen a new crane type. We are working with the structural engineer to design a supporting structure.

We are working on the design and layout of the expansion of the fuel tank building to accommodate another fuel tank.

We are also investigating the replacement of the wall at the eastern access ramp to the pump station and installing some type of check valve on the discharge pipe.

LEVEE IMPROVEMENTS – ANGELETTE-PICCIOLA, LLC

Engineer Neil Angelette reported the following:

- **B-South, B-North & C-South, Apache Farm to Golden Meadow Park**

Plans for this project are complete and ready to submit to Facility Planning and Control for approval.

- **Larose Floodwall Elevation, Ph 1 & 2**

Construction has stopped due to the Cease and Desist Order issued by the Corps of Engineers. We have submitted a design report to the Corps and area meeting with them tomorrow to discuss this further.

- **Bason Pump Station Area Seepage Analysis**

The contractor, Sealevel Construction, Inc. is currently fabricating and painting the sheet piles and will begin installation in about 4 to 6 weeks.

- **Morganza to the Gulf, Reach L**

The surveying and geotech field work are complete and we are working on the preliminary levee design.

MORGANZA TO THE GULF – ALL SOUTH CONSULTING ENGINEERS

Engineer Stevie Smith reported the following:

- **Reach K & L**

The SLLD has received the LA DNR Coastal Use Permit for this project.

Regarding the COE permit, we have negotiated an acceptable conservation servitude between the COE and the Landowner. This clears the way for the COE to prepare the permit.

The COE is preparing the draft permit now. The SLLD should receive this draft shortly.

The COE has not yet approved this method.

- **Reach K Haul In Section**
All South is now finalizing the design for this reach. All South should have a design deliverable by COB Friday.
- **Reach K On Site Excavation Section**
Survey work and geotechnical field work for this section is complete. The final geotechnical report is due in February. All South is working on preliminary design in the interim with the geotechnical contractor.
- **Reach K ROW**
The necessary ROW has been acquired from La DWF.

Conoco Phillips has provided an amended ROW document for approval by the SLLD.

Apache ROW map currently being prepared.

CB & I ENGINEERS

Mike D'Angelo reported the following:

- **Grand Bayou Floodgate Structure**
The geotechnical field work has been completed. Laboratory testing of the soil is being conducted by Eustis and we should receive their report in the next 30 days.

LEGAL, PERMITS, AND RIGHT-OF-WAYS COMMITTEE REPORT

Chairman Mitch Danos announced that one permit request was received for review and did not interfere with the levee.

On a motion of Mitch Danos, seconded by Bobby Eymard, the following permits were approved:

1. **GREATER LAFOURCHE PORT COMMISSION**
CUP NO: P20140043 (AMENDED, EXTENDED)
LOCATION: Lafourche Parish, LA; Section 3, T23S-R22E; Section 10, T23S-R22E; Port Fourchon, 70357; Lat. 29° 08' 44.62"N, Long. -90° 13' 19.29"W.
DESCRIPTION: Proposed maintenance dredging of the 300 foot navigation channel of a 6,000 foot section of Bayou Lafourche. Dredging will maintain the channel to a depth of -27 NGVD. Two dredge events will displace ~467,613 cu. yds. and ~375,000 cu. yds. Material will be hydraulically dredged and placed in an area for marsh creation. Approximately 26,604 cubic yards of native material will be stacked for containment of the marsh creation area. Approximately 107.73 acres of non-vegetated water bottom may be directly impacted by the proposed work.
AMENDMENT 1: Construction of the tidal creek to maintain/re-establish tidal ingress/egress from Bayou Lafourche to area north of beneficial use site.
REVISION 2: Request to extend authorization.

BOARD ATTORNEY

Attorney Tyler Breaux stated that he had nothing to report.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

INVOICES

In the absence of Commissioner Monty Vegas, Mr. Curole announced that the Finance Committee had reviewed the invoices and recommended they be paid.

On a motion of Clarence Marts, seconded by Mitch Danos, and unanimously carried, the board approved the payment of the invoices as presented.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Curole requested a motion be made to add an item, Rescind the Appropriation of Apache Property, to the agenda.

Moved by Bob Faulk, seconded by Mitch Danos and unanimously accepted, by a roll call of 7 Yeas, 0 Nays, 0 Abstained, and 1 absence, Rescind the Appropriation of Apache Property was added to the agenda.

RESCIND THE APPROPRIATION OF APACHE PROPERTY

As discussed by ASCE Engineer Stevie Smith earlier in the meeting, the contingent agreement to appropriate the Apache property was no longer needed and should be rescinded.

Moved by Bob Faulk, seconded by Keith Guidry and unanimously accepted, the board agreed to rescind the appropriation of Apache property for mitigation of Reaches K & L of the Morganza to the Gulf Project.

Mr. Curole announced that Swift Energy was in Bankruptcy and that he had requested Attorney Ray Collins to suggest an attorney to file a proof of claim before the June deadline.

Mr. Mitch Marmande with Delta Coastal Consultants stated that Mr. Tim Allen with Apache had worked with us and signed the conservation servitude for Reaches K & L, which was something he did not want to do, but because he knew it was in the best interest of flood protection. He suggested drafting a letter of gratitude to send to Mr. Allen from Mr. Curole on behalf of the board.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Brent Duet questioned TLCD's Executive Director Reggie Dupre on the Governor's budget cuts. Mr. Duet asked if there was a possibility that dedicated project funds that would not be spent within the next year would be lost. Mr. Dupre explained that Capital Outlay funds already obligated to designated projects would not be withdrawn.

With no further business to discuss, the board unanimously adjourned the meeting on a motion of Brent Duet and seconded by Keith Guidry.

/s/Ronald Callais, President

/s/Windell A. Curole, Executive Secretary