

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDING  
OF  
SOUTH LAFOURCHE LEVEE DISTRICT  
MAY 9, 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, May 9, 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 May 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.  
   Bob Faulk  
   Monty Vegas  
   Mitch Danos  
   Clarence "CJ" Marts, Jr.  
   Keith Guidry  
   Roland Curole  
   McNeely Rome

Board members absent:        None

Also present were: Executive Secretary and General Manager Windell Curole; Administrative Assistant 6 Mary Punch; Administrative Assistant 3 Amy Gisclair; Levee Board Operations Superintendent Drake Baudoin; Attorney Ray Collins; Engineering Personnel Joe Picciola, Ben Hodson, Neil Angelette, Andre Uzee, Mitch Marmande, and Mike D'Angelo; and news media.

**READING OF THE MINUTES**

**The minutes of the April 11, 2016, Regular Meeting were approved unanimously upon a motion by Bob Faulk and seconded by McNeely Rome.**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**RECAP OF 2016 ALBL WORKSHOP**

President Ronald Callais reported on the ALBL Workshop. He stated that lots of good information was received, and he then opened the floor for comments from the board on the workshop. Mr. Curole updated the board on the statements made by Mr. Dan Delich pertaining to the 408 permitting process and the Executive Order on wetlands regarding sea level rise and 100 year floodplains standard that could negatively affect us. He added that the flood insurance would be authorized in 2017, and that the issues with Biggert-Waters then, remained the same today. Another discussion made was the possibility of doing a fault study. Mr. Curole explained that there were several faults all over south Louisiana. Mr. Curole concluded by saying how satellites were picking up a huge amounts of information, and that it might be possible to have someone connected with the military to help us obtain levee data from those satellites.

**Committee Assignments**

President Callais offered the amended Committee Assignments list for acceptance.

**Moved by Clarence Marts, seconded by Mitch Danos and unanimously carried, the board accepted the 2016 Committee Assignments as presented.**

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

There were no audience comments.

**GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

**SLIDE PRESENTATION AND DRONE FOOTAGE**

General Manager Windell Curole stated that in addition to the slide presentation, he would be showing clips from the 30 minute levee system segment. He offered to prepare a copy of the entire segment for the commissioners upon their request.

Rainfall from April 30<sup>th</sup> to May 1<sup>st</sup> was the topic for the opening slides which showed high water levels in the Larose area. The next set of slides showed the new levee elevation maps provided by Angelette-Picciola. Mr. Curole gave a brief overall description of the new elevations, and discussed areas of concern.

A short video clip of the entire levee system showed levee construction, terraces, marsh growth, and flood control structures.

**APPROVAL TO OBTAIN REPORT FROM ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANT**

Mr. Curole informed the board that in 1986 we had mitigated the entire levee system and everything inside the system. We were supposed to be able to do all the work needed inside the levee system without having to mitigate. Recently, we've had some objections from DNR and the Corps stating they would not accept the techniques that they had accepted in the past. Mr. Curole stated that he would like to hire Coastal Environmental to do a report. He stated that he had already spoken with Mr. Ed Fike to review all the past reports and prepare an updated report for us. An estimate of \$4,230.00 was given, but Mr. Curole requested a budget of up to \$6,000 for the report. He added that should we go to court, this type expert work was what we would need to present our case.

**On a motion by Monty Vegas and seconded by Bob Faulk, the board unanimously agreed to enter into contract to hire Coastal Environmental to do a mitigation report on the levee system, and to give General Manager Windell Curole authority to sign any documents necessary to obtain the report with an approved budget up to \$6,000.00.**

**MORGANZA TO THE GULF UPDATE**

Mr. Curole reminded the board that the permit had been received for Reaches K & L. He added that a final review meeting had taken place earlier that day and plans were to advertise the contract for Reach K Haul In by the end of May. On Reach K On Site Excavation Section, All South Consulting Engineers was working on the preliminary design section with the geotechnical contractor. He added that the area of work was near our levee system and that he would meet with ASCE to urge them to complete that work. Mitch Marmande of Delta Coast Consultants added that they were going to move forward with the North Lafourche Levee District's marsh buggy excavator to do the mitigation with LA Wildlife and Fisheries, and that an effort was being coordinated. He further added that they were working on the design for the marsh creation further to the north. Mr. Curole requested the board authorize him to sign an agreement with Angelette-Picciola to move forward with the tainter gate which is in Reach L on Little Bayou Bleu.

**Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Roland Curole and unanimously accepted, the board authorized General Manager Windell Curole to sign the agreement with Angelette-Picciola for engineering services on the Bayou L'Bleu Gate/Structure project.**

Mr. Marmande explained the difference between the structural gates at the lock and a tainter gate saying the tainter gate lifts vertically, rather than side to side.

**408 PERMITTING (LA 1 BRIDGE & HWY 24 AREA)**

Mr. Curole announced that he had received another letter from the Corps on the project at LA 24 under the LA 1 Bridge. The letter suggested that we not continue with the work. However, they did not order us to stop the project. At this time, Mr. Curole stated, we would continue. He added that unlike other areas of Corps' concerns, there had never been a levee where the project was taking place. And for the past 12 years, the Corps and DOTD discussed putting a levee in that same area, but never proceeded. Other than a small portion adjacent to the bridge that might be subject to 408 permitting, the rest of the area was not subject. Therefore, we are asking the Corps to allow us to complete the project.

**APPROVAL TO PURCHASE NEW PICKUP ON STATE CONTRACT**

Mr. Curole announced that a new truck was needed for Levee Board Operations Superintendent Drake Baudoin. Mr. Curole added that the truck to be purchased was on State Contract.

**Moved by Keith Guidry, seconded by Bobby Eymard and unanimously carried, the board agreed to purchase a new 2016 Chevy Silverado pickup on State Contract in the amount of \$28,500.00 to be used by the Levee Board Operations Superintendent.**

Mr. Baudoin explained that several of the trucks were over 10 years old and had close to 200,000 miles. He added that we were spending a lot of money repairing some of the older trucks.

**LAROSE FLOODGATE CLOSURES**

Mr. Curole stated that the Larose Floodgate had closed to marine traffic for almost two days due to high tides. Water was on the road on the 308 side. He added that the lock had worked well locking in vessels with minimal water coming to the inside.

**SECTION F LEVEE SEEPAGE**

Mr. Curole informed the board that for the second time dirt had been added to the top of the levee in Section F. He explained that there were about five wet areas. The staff and engineers believe the seepage is due to the processing and stacking of material on the berm. He explained that to remedy the issue, they planned to put soil patches over the wet areas. Mr. Curole also requested that a geotech study be made of the entire area. Engineer Neil Angelette offered a proposal from Eustis Engineering in the amount of \$85,000. He stated that the proposal included about a dozen 3" soil borings to 85' and about two dozen CPTs which would supplement in between. The data obtained should give us new information that had not been available before. He explained that the soil had not been tested since the Corps' testing in the 1970's.

**Moved by Bobby Eymard, seconded by Clarence Marts and unanimously carried, the board accepted the proposal for a geotechnical study of the Section F levee system at the price of \$85,000.00.**

**RAINFALL FOR APRIL 29<sup>TH</sup> THROUGH MAY 3RD**

Mr. Curole discussed rainfall during the slide presentation. He added that all the pumps were started at 3:00p Saturday and continued running through Tuesday. Water in the borrow canal was at a -7' on Saturday. Sunday the water had risen to about a -4'. Everything was back to normal by Monday.

**REACH L, BAYOU L'BLEU GATE/STRUCTURE: POSSIBLE APPROVAL OF CONTRACT WITH ANGELETTE-PICCIOLA FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES**

Mr. Curole explained that the agreement was approved earlier in the meeting.

**SLLD, NLLD & TLCD: FORMATION OF A TRI-LEVEE DISTRICT COALITION**

Mr. Curole stated that due to environmental issues, along with lawsuits and 408 permits, he spoke with Terrebonne and North Lafourche levee districts, and we believe that we should hire a governmental liaison. Mr. Curole stated that Terrebonne and LA 1 Coalition had been using Mike Henry on the federal level. He explained that they would like to use him in DC with some of the WRDA issues and 408 permits, among others. We've also spoken with a lady who works at the state level for Terrebonne and Lafourche Parishes. We've estimated a cost of \$300,000 to be cost-shared with \$60,000 from SLLD, \$90,000 from NLLD and \$150,000 from TLCD. Mr. Curole explained that the majority of the work would be for Morganza to the Gulf.

**Moved by Mitch Danos, seconded by McNeely Rome and unanimously carried, the board agreed to spend up to \$60,000 on a governmental liaison as part of a partnership with North Lafourche and Terrebonne Levee Districts to help with environmental, WRDA, 408 permitting and other issues.**

**ENGINEERING REPORT**

**COASTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION AUTHORITY**

Mr. Daniel Dearmond stated that he had nothing to report.

**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 is complete with hauling of material out of the borrow pits and with grading the levee sections now. They are complete with the project except for repairs to the borrow pit embankment.

There is no pay application this month and Change Order No. 3 is for the addition of embankment for the ramps over the levee.

Change Order No. 3 - \$191,114.80

**Moved by Monty, seconded by Bob and unanimously accepted, the board approved Change Order in the amount of \$191,114.80, and accepted Substantial Completion.**

We are holding back approximately \$230,000 until work on the borrow pit is complete. The contractor did put about 30,000 cubic yards of extra material on the levee. By contract we are not required to pay him for that material. After discussions with Mr. Curole, I would recommend that the board negotiate with the contractor to fix the borrow pit to where it's supposed to be before submitting payment.

Mr. Curole added that the dirt was there now, and at some point we would have had to contract to add that dirt anyway, so it seems right to pay for it. In answer to President Callais' question, if the contractor does not fix the borrow pit, the SLLD could take the retainage and hire another contractor to complete that work. Mr. Curole added that if the contractor did not fix the borrow pit, we could also withhold payment for the additional dirt he placed on the levee.

**Moved by Roland Curole, seconded by Keith Guidry and unanimously accepted, the board authorized Picciola & Associates to negotiate with Apeck Construction by withholding final payment and payment for additional material that was added to the levee, until Contractor has made the necessary repairs to the borrow pit.**

- **A-East Dredging**

Plaisance Dragline & Dredging Co., Inc. is the contractor. They performed some dredging last week while they were down on the Yankee Canal Levee Dredging Project.

The contractor has submitted Pay Application No. 1. The pay application includes dredging completed in April 2016 (3,000 cu. yds.).

- Pay Request No.1 in the amount of \$ 13,221.00.

**Moved by Bob Faulk, seconded by Clarence Marts and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 1 in the amount of \$13,221.00.**

Eustis Engineering has submitted a proposal for soil borings for five miles of levee in the amount of \$107,700.00. We recommend approval for soil borings and a geotech report.

**Moved by Monty Vegas, seconded by Mitch Danos and unanimously carried, the board agreed to contract Eutis Engineering for geotechnical work in the amount of \$107,700.00.**

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

Sealevel Construction, Inc. is the contractor. The roadway is currently barricaded and they are working on embankment, grading and prepping to pour the seepage wall under the bridge.

The contractor has submitted Pay Application No. 2. The pay application includes embankment completed April 2016.

- Pay Request No. 2 in the amount of \$ 32,863.35

**Moved by Bobby Eymard, seconded by Mitch Danos and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 2 in the amount of \$32,863.35.**

- **Yankee Canal Levee Repairs**

Plaisance Dragline & Dredging Co., Inc. is the contractor. They began dredging on February 16<sup>th</sup>.

The contractor has submitted pay Application No. 3. The pay application includes dredging completed in April 2016 (16,230 cubic yards).

- Pay Request No. 3 in the amount of \$31,376.88

**Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Roland Curole and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 3 in the amount of \$31,376.88.**

**J. WAYNE PLAISANCE, INC.**

Engineer John Plaisance reported the following:

- **Bayou Lafourche Water Level Control**

In speaking with Jay Pecot, he has informed us that he has been trying to reach other entities to set up a meeting, but has had no success at this point.

- **Pump Station No. 4 Upgrades**

This project consists of the replacement of the crane at Pump Station No. 4 and the expansion. A preliminary estimate of \$600,000 is for all improvements.

**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 is still on hold due to the Cease and Desist Order issued by the Corps of Engineers. We are continuing to work with the Levee District to resolve this as quickly as possible.

- **Bason Pump Station Area Seepage Analysis**

The contractor, Sealevel Construction, Inc., has started installing the sheet piles and expects to be finished with construction in about 6 to 8 weeks. We are recommending approval of Pay Request No. 1 for \$860,402.99

**Moved by Bobby Faulk, seconded by Clarence Marts and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 1 in the amount of \$860,402.99.**

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

The surveying and geotech field work are complete, and we are expecting the geotech lab data back in about two weeks to continue with the levee design.

**MORGANZA TO THE GULF**

**CB & I ENGINEERS**

Engineer Mike D'Angelo reported the following:

- **Grand Bayou Structure**

We are continuing to work on the preliminary report of the Grand Bayou Gate Structure.

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

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

**On a motion of Mitch Danos, seconded by Clarence Marts, the following permits were approved:**

**1. SOUTH LAFOURCHE LEVEE DISTRICT**

**LOCATION:** Lafourche Parish, LA; In Yankee Canal, Section 22, T19S-R22E, near Golden Meadow, Louisiana, within the East Canal Louisiana Coastal hydrologic unit (HUC 08090301), as shown on the attached drawings (Latitude 29.390807 N, Longitude -90.252611 W). An Emergency Authorization (MVN-2016-00068-CY) was issued on January 13, 2016 to authorize the immediate dredging of Yankee Canal to reinforce the existing levee.

**DESCRIPTION:** The applicant has requested Department of the Army authorization to dredge the Yankee Canal and discharge the dredged material on the Yankee Canal Levee. Approximately 95,042 cubic yards of material would be dredged from approximately 7.1 acres of open water and deposited in a 10.6 acre area to achieve desired levee grade elevation requirements. A preliminary analysis has determined wetlands to be present at the project site; however, extent of coverage and impacts is undetermined at this time pending wetlands delineation.

**BOARD ATTORNEY**

Attorney Ray Collins reported that they were still awaiting a decision from the Court of Appeals on the Jason Adams Class Action Lawsuit. A writ has been filed on the Chad Jarreau case from the decision of the first circuit with the Louisiana Supreme Court. We've secured several right-of-ways between the Intracoastal Canal and the Larose Floodgate for the Larose Floodwall Elevation project. There will be no need for Executive Session.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**INVOICES**

Commissioner Monty Vegas announced that the Finance Committee had reviewed the invoices and recommended they be paid.

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

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Commissioner Monty Vegas announced that the Personnel Committee had met and agreed to hire one part-time summer laborer. He recommended the board authorize Mr. Drake Baudoin to hire the applicant.

**Moved by Monty Vegas, seconded by Mitch Danos and unanimously carried, the board authorize Levee Board Operations Superintendent Drake Baudoin to hire one applicant for 2016 Summer Laborer position.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Curole requested a motion to add 'South Lafourche Crawfish Pond, Inc.' to the agenda.

**With a roll call of 9 Yeas, 0 Nays, 0 Absent and 0 Abstained, 'South Lafourche Crawfish Pond, Inc.' was added to the agenda.**

**SOUTH LAFOURCHE CRAWFISH POND DRAINING CANALS**

Mr. Curole announced that the South Lafourche Crawfish Pond had several drainage canals that were dredged periodically. Mr. Curole stated that he spoken to, and received a favorable response from the owners about using the dredged dirt on our Section D levees. He added that Attorney Ray Collins was putting together an agreement and he'd like the authority sign that agreement once complete.

**Moved by Keith and seconded by Bobby, the board unanimously agreed to authorize General Manager Windell Curole to sign an agreement with South Lafourche Crawfish Pond, Inc. to dig out their drainage canals in exchange for retaining the materials to be used on the Section D levees.**

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

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

/s/Ronald Callais, President

/s/Windell A. Curole, Executive Secretary