

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDING  
OF  
SOUTH LAFOURCHE LEVEE DISTRICT  
JUNE 13, 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, June 13, 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 June 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.  
   Roland Curole  
   McNeely Rome  
   Keith Guidry

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; Clerical Assistant Katherine Richardelle; Attorneys Ray Collins and Tyler Breaux; Engineering Personnel John Plaisance, Joe Picciola, Neil Angelette, Stevie Smith, Mitch Marmande and Mike D'Angelo; CPRA Daniel Dearmond, Lafourche Parish Council Daniel Lorraine, Wafayer Technologies Dale Robicheaux, Dickey Cheramie, EJ Richardelle, Darryl Richardelle, Joycelyn Renois; and news media.

President Callais announced that a roll call vote was needed to add the Purchase of Gearheads and Engines to the agenda.

**With 9 Yeas, 0 Nays, 0 Abstained and 0 Absent, the Purchase of Gearheads and Engines was added to item "J" on the agenda under the General Manager's Report.**

**READING OF THE MINUTES**

**With one change to correct the attendance list, the minutes of the May 9, 2016 Regular Meeting were approved unanimously upon a motion by McNeely Rome and seconded by Keith Guidry.**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**KATHERINE RICHARDELLE RETIREMENT**

President Callais announced the retirement of Clerical Assistant Katherine Richardelle. He and General Windell Curole presented Mrs. Richardelle with a certificate and plaque for 27 years of service. Mrs. Richardelle then expressed her gratitude to the board and staff saying she had enjoyed working for the Levee District and would miss it tremendously.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Chairman Clarence Marts announced that the Executive Committee had met on June 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> concerning the Cease and Desist Order issued by the US Army Corps of Engineers along the Larose

Floodwall. Mr. Marts directed General Manager Windell Curole to give the report. Mr. Curole stated that the area along the Larose Floodwall was one of the lowest areas and was difficult to address in flood situations. Mr. Curole stated that we want to look at various avenues to close that weak area. Mr. Curole explained the various options discussed during the meeting, including a lawsuit. The Committee decided to speak with Attorney Loulan Pitre. He continued saying that Mr. Pitre attended the second meeting and spoke with the committee. The committee made a recommendation that with the Attorney General's approval, the board hire Mr. Pitre to investigate and research a possible court challenge of the Cease and Desist.

**Moved by Clarence Marts and seconded by Bobby Eymard, the board unanimously agreed, upon Attorney General's approval, to hire Loulan Pitre as attorney on the Cease and Desist Order for the Larose Floodwall Project.**

#### AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Mr. Daniel Lorraine updated the board regarding the payment of the repairs to the Yankee Canal Levee. Mr. Lorraine explained that it was his understanding that the Parish would pay for the repairs made by the Levee District and afterwards the Levee District would take over the maintenance of that levee. To date, the Parish had not reimbursed the SLLD for payments made for those repairs. Mr. Lorraine further explained that he had requested the Parish meet with the Levee District. Mr. Lorraine informed the board that he would bring up that topic at the Parish Council meeting the following evening.

Mr. Dickey Cheramie announced that he had property along the Yankee Canal area that was being taken by the Levee District and used for levee repairs. Mr. Cheramie stated that he was not against the levee improvements, but it seemed that more of his land was being taken than was necessary. He added that he had asked who gave permission to use the right-of-way to take his property, but did not get an answer. Mr. Cheramie stated that he was losing land and would like to get the matter resolved. Mr. Curole ensured Mr. Cheramie that the Levee District would work with him to resolve the issue.

#### GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

##### **SLIDE PRESENTATION**

General Manager Windell Curole presented various slides showing flooding from past storms, gaps in the levee that had been closed and those soon to be closed and ongoing projects around the system.

##### **MS VALLEY FLOOD CONTROL ASSOCIATION – APPROVAL TO RENEW MEMBERSHIP FOR 2016**

Mr. Curole announced that it was time to renew SLLD's membership in the Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association and recommended the board approve the fee of \$1,000 for the 2016 membership.

**On a motion by McNeely Rome, seconded by Keith Guidry and unanimously approved, the board agreed to renew the membership in the Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association for 2016 at the membership fee of \$1,000.00.**

##### **PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST ON ELEVATION OF NORTH FLOODGATE PROJECT – LT LOCK**

Mr. Curole stated that the Levee District had received a Public Records Request concerning the elevation of the north floodgate project on the Leon Theriot Lock. Mr. Curole announced that the SLLD was complying with that request.

##### **RESOLUTION TO FUND C-SOUTH, B-NORTH AND B-SOUTH PROJECT (REQUESTED BY FP&C FOR CREDIT PURPOSES)**

Mr. Curole informed the board that the State would not be funding the C-South, B-North and B-South project, but would allow cost-share credit with upon a resolution and proof that the SLLD planned to fund the project. Mr. Curole requested the board give approval to fund the project.

**On a motion by Bob Faulk and seconded by Roland Curole, the board unanimously agreed to fund 100% of the estimated \$4,916,551.25 cost associated with the C-South, B-North and B-South Levee Improvement Project.**

##### **APPROPRIATION OF LAROSE FLOODWALL AREA**

Mr. Curole explained that the area of appropriation was just outside flood protected side. He stated that the Corps had rights in that area, but that the landowners who still own the property had no surface rights. Mr. Curole stated that in trying to resolve the Cease and Desist order, the appropriation

was needed and an appraisal would first need to be made. Mr. Curole requested permission to hire and direct the necessary people to do the appraisal and appropriation of the Larose Floodwall area.

**Moved by Monty Vegas and seconded by McNeely Rome, the board unanimously approved hiring and directing the necessary personnel to appraise the property along Larose Floodwall and move forward with the appropriation of the same.**

**QUARTERLY INSPECTION, CPRA**

Mr. Curole stated that Mr. Drake Baudoin had attended the Quarterly Inspection by the CPRA and reported that all went well.

**CORPS ANNUAL INSPECTION**

Mr. Curole stated that the Corps Annual Inspection had taken place a few weeks earlier and reported many items of concern. Mr. Curole explained that the Corps had certain standards that had not been met by SLLD. Mr. Curole added that he welcomed the Corps comments and stated that we should reach our goal of levee improvements in the next two years. Afterwards, the SLLD could focus on getting the levees to the Corps standards.

**HURRICANE SEASON REVIEW**

In preparation of the onset of hurricane season, Mr. Curole explained that we test the floodgates and look at the gaps in the system to see how quickly those could be closed in an approaching storm. He added that in speaking with Mr. Baudoin, he was assured that those areas could be closed with Hesco baskets in about 10 hours. He stated that they could start closing roads and gaps when the storm was about 30 hours out and people had already evacuated.

**UPDATED EMERGENCY MANUAL - 2016**

Mr. Curole requested the board pass a resolution to accept the updated emergency manual as presented.

**Moved by Keith Guidry, seconded by Bobby Eymard and unanimously approved, the board accepted the updated Emergency Operations Manual as presented.**

Mr. Curole added we continue to change the manual as necessary.

**PURCHASE OF GEARHEADS AND ENGINES**

Mr. Curole stated that several engines were in need of repair and that if a gearhead went out, it would take a minimum of three weeks to repair. He further stated that if we had spares for certain pieces of equipment, it would prevent down time in pumping. Mr. Drake Baudoin reported on the condition of the engines and the time it would take to repair. He stated that a spare engine would continue the pumping while the broken engine was being repaired. He requested permission to purchase one spare industrial engine, one spare De'ran gearhead and one spare Philadelphia gearhead at an estimated total cost of \$220,000.00.

**Moved by Bob Faulk and seconded by McNeely Rome, the board approved the purchase of one engine and two gearheads to prepare and be ready for hurricane season.**

**ENGINEERING REPORT**

**OFFICE OF COASTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION**

Mr. Daniel Dearmond reported on M2G Reach L stating that the Intergovernmental Agreement was awaiting approval from OCR. Mr. Dearmond announced that the project manager had changed. He stated that Dustin White had taken James McMennis' place.

**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 and shaping the levee section. They are complete with the project except for repairs to the borrow pit embankment.

There is no pay application this month.

- **A-East Dredging**

Plaisance Dragline & Dredging Co., Inc. is the contractor. They performed some dredging last month while they were down on the Yankee Canal Levee Dredging Project. They will begin work again once the dredging on the Yankee Canal Project is complete.

There is no pay application this month.

- **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 pouring concrete for the wall under the bridge. It is expected that all concrete work will be complete sometime next week.

The contractor has submitted Pay Application No. 3. The pay application includes embankment and concrete work completed May 2016.

- Pay Request No. 3 in the amount of \$ 274,996.50

**Moved by Bob Faulk, seconded by Roland Curole and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 3 in the amount of \$274,996.50.**

- **Yankee Canal Levee Repairs**

Plaisance Dragline & Dredging Co., Inc. is the contractor. They continued to dredge on the 2<sup>nd</sup> pass. They are nearing completion with the projects.

There is no pay application this month.

**J. WAYNE PLAISANCE, INC.**

Engineer John Plaisance reported the following:

- **Bayou Lafourche Water Level Control (A-East Reservoir)**

We have a progress meeting scheduled with DNR to discuss the permit for the isolation area.

- **Pump Station No. 4 Upgrades**

This project consists of the replacement of the crane at Pump Station No. 4 and the expansion. The crane exhaust will need to be rerouted so we'll have experts come in to do that.

Mr. Curole explained that when the building was built, the Levee District didn't have funds to add an overhead wench like at the other pump stations. Because of this, our guys are doing a lot of work in lifting the gearheads and engines in an unsafe situation. Mr. Curole stated that the cost would be high, but it needed to be done to improve safe work conditions.

Mr. Curole requested that with no objections, the Bayou Lafourche Water Level Control project be renamed to A-East Reservoir. There were no objections from the board.

**LEVEE IMPROVEMENTS – ANGELETTE-PICCIOLA, LLC**

Engineer Neil Angelette reported the following:

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

Plans and specifications for this project are being reviewed by Facility Planning and Control. We are requesting approval to advertise pending approval from the State.

**Moved by Bobby Eymard and seconded by Clarence Marts, the board agreed to advertise for bid the B-South, B-North & C-South, Apache Farm to Golden Meadow Park project as soon as we have approval from Facility Planning & Control.**

- **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 and are finalizing the 408 permit application.
- **Bason Pump Station Area Seepage Analysis**  
The contractor, Sealevel Construction, Inc., is continuing with the installation of the sheet piles and expects to be finished construction in about 4 to 6 weeks. We are recommending approval of Pay Request No. 2 for \$99,055.32.  
  
**Moved by McNeely Rome and seconded by Roland Curole, the board unanimously approved Pay Request No. 2 in the amount of \$99,055.32.**
- **Morganza to the Gulf, Reach L**  
We are proceeding with the preliminary design for this project.

**MORGANZA TO THE GULF**

**ALL SOUTH CONSULTING ENGINEERS**

Engineer Stevie Smith reported the following:

- **Reach K & L Permit**  
The SLLD has received the LA DNR Coastal Use Permit and the COE permit for this project. The COE permit was received March 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- **Reach K Levee Project – Haul In**  
The advertisement for this project began today, June 13, 2016. The pre-bid is scheduled for June 29, 2016 at the SLLD office, and the bid opening will be July 11, 2016.
- **Reach K Levee Project – On Site**  
All South delivered a preliminary set of plans to the SLLD and the State on May 27, 2016. This set is under review at this time.

We anticipate advertisement and bidding of this project in August 2016.

**CB & I ENGINEERS**

Engineer Mike D'Angelo reported the following:

- **Grand Bayou Structure**  
We continue to prepare the preliminary report for the Grand Bayou floodgate structure and are reviewing three options for the structure. The first option is a permitted structure with sector gates with sluice gates. The second is a swing barge gate with sluice gates, and the third is to take the entire width of the opening of the steel swing barge gate.

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

Chairman Mitch Danos announced that no permit requests were received for review.

**BOARD ATTORNEY**

Attorney Tyler Breaux reported the following:

We attended a few meetings on the Cease and Desist Order from the Corps of Engineers. We met with Attorney Loulan Pitre's firm, Kelly Hart & Pitre, regarding taking some action potentials. We've produced a legal memorandum to legal as well as Mr. Pitre's firm. They have a draft petition that they've already completed, but is still under review. We're just looking different avenues at this point to get the objective to this mission accomplished.

Mr. Curole stated that he was working with Mitch Marmande on proposed WRDA language to help us with 408 permitting.

**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 did not meet earlier as scheduled, but would reschedule at a later date, if needed.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no old business.

**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