

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDING
OF
SOUTH LAFOURCHE LEVEE DISTRICT
DECEMBER 11, 2017**

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, December 11, 2017 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
 Keith Guidry

Board members absent: Mc Neely Rome

Also present were: Executive Secretary and General Manager Windell Curole; Administrative Assistant 6 Mary Punch; Levee Board Operations Superintendent Drake Baudoin; Attorneys Ray Collins and Tyler Breaux; Engineering Personnel André Uzee, Ben Hodson, Neil Angelette, Stevie Smith, Mitch Marmande; Senator Norby Chabert; TLCD Director Reggie Dupre; MAC Melissa Cloutet and Roland Guidry; CPRA Daniel Dearmond; Attorney General's Office Doug Cheramie; LPC Daniel Lorraine; and news media.

READING OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the November 13, 2017 Regular Meeting were approved unanimously upon a motion by Monty Vegas and seconded by Bob Faulk.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Callais stated that the ALBL conference was attended by most of the board. The meeting went very well with informative talks. General Manager Windell Curole commented that the Corps was reexamining some things due to political situations and we are hoping they will allow a little more flexibility.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

PRIORITY PROJECTS

Vice President Clarence Marts announced that the Executive Committee had met on Friday, December 8th to discuss 2018 projects. Other topics included GOMESA and the Levee District's financial situation.

Mr. Curole added that GOMESA was intended for construction and not operations. In addition, our financial situation had gone down due to lack of oil revenues and the lawsuit where the judge awarded almost \$3M for land along the borrow canal. Mr. Curole stated that the Levee District would be shutting down some of its smaller projects now, and instead of four large projects, only proceed with one or two major projects that were most feasible. When finances improved, the other projects would be reviewed. Mr. Curole then requested Mr. Ben Hodson give an update on the Elevation of LA 1 Highway at Levee Crossing in Golden Meadow project.

Engineer Ben Hodson explained that the existing elevation of the LA 1 Highway was around 11.5' on the low side to 13' on the high end, and that the floodgate and A-frame wall on the east side was at a +16' elevation. He also stated that the levee on the west side was at a +18'. He explained that the new roadway would be straight and would be brought up to a 12.7' elevation with the gate giving an overall elevation of 18'. We should be ready to go to construction in the first quarter of next year. No lighting of the road was in the plans.

Mr. Curole reminded the board that in the past we had used Hesco baskets to close that portion of the LA 1 Highway. However, a strong storm surge could overtop the baskets and result in the loss of some of the baskets and their protection. If that happened, water would run through the gap over a period of several hours causing serious flood potential. Funding had already been dedicated to certain projects. A request was made for funding from the state to be used on additional major projects.

Vice President Marts added that while everyone would be grateful for the improvements to LA 1, truckers would be especially appreciative for the straightening of the LA 1 curve.

Mr. Hodson added that the gate on LA 1 would be similar to the Corps gate on the Delta Farms Road. He stated that several options had been reviewed, and the ideal solution would be to elevate the length of highway to a +18, but that would involve extending the roadway an additional 2,000 feet which SLLD presently does not have the right-of-way nor the funds to do so.

A brief discussion pursued.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Mr. Roland Guidry asked if higher baskets could be used on LA 1. Mr. Curole answered yes, but that it could not protect as well as the ramp and gate.

Mr. Reggie Dupre questioned if an emergency limestone road could be added around the gate. Mr. Curole responded that that was something that we could do, but that the gate would be set up so it could be closed in 30mph winds so there should not be traffic by that time.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

SLIDE PRESENTATION

General Manager Windell Curole presented slides and discussed warning signs that had been placed to help keep boats away from the newly place dirt at the Larose Floodgate Area – East. He also discussed the progress on the Elevation of Hwy 3235 in Larose. He showed a slide of the current gap at LA 1 near the LT Lock in Golden Meadow that was previously discussed. He completed the presentation with slides on the Morganza project which included a recent flyover showing portions of that project.

LAMP (LA MAPPING PROJECT)

Mr. Curole announced that the LAMP project was supposed to start Oct. 1st, but had not started yet. He cited the reauthorization of the flood insurance program as a possible reason it had not yet started.

FLOOD INSURANCE UPDATE

Mr. Curole stated that Congress was working on the five-year reauthorization which was not going well. He stated that the chairman of the House Committee wanted to do away with the flood insurance program. He added that it has been a tough battle and that the outcome would affect us in a big way. He stated that the SLLD had provided some funding for the coalition that was working for us which involved NLLD's Director Dwayne Bourgeois and President Cory Kief.

2017 HURRICANE SEASON

Mr. Curole remarked that the 2017 hurricane season had been busy, but not for us. Hurricane Nate moved away from us, so we were not affected. Texas was hit hard by Harvey with a storm surge at Aransas Pass of 12.5 ft.

CORPS' LEVEE REPORT RATED UNACCEPTABLE

Mr. Curole presented the Corps' report that said we were conducting unauthorized construction. He explained that a Corps Study may have taken years to develop and that it was not a guarantee that Congress would authorize the work. And in any case, we would not have had the levees to the elevation they are now. Instead of waiting on the report, we improved on our levee system the best we could and the result was elevations of up to five and six feet higher than they were pre-Katrina.

The Corps rated our levees unacceptable which took us out of the RIP program which meant that they won't pay for any repairs to the levee structure should damage occur. We do receive acceptable ratings from the State's inspections stating that our levees are maintained and will function properly.

MEETING AT CENTER OF PLANNING EXCELLENCE

Mr. Curole explained that the talk was on coastal restoration, and that he learned that there was basically no consensus.

VISIT BY SECRETARY OF THE US INTERIOR DEPT, RYAN ZINKE

Mr. Curole stated that Mr. Ryan Zinke from Montana had visited in Thibodaux. His presentation concerned improving government approval of needed permits for coastal work.

PURCHASING PROCEDURES & GUIDELINES

Mr. Curole presented a copy of the Purchasing Procedures & Guidelines to the board and stated that the guidelines had recently been updated.

BID OPENING FOR PARTS FOR SPARE ENGINE – ACCEPTANCE OF LOW BID

Mr. Curole announced that Marine Services, Inc. was the low bidder for Parts for Spare Engine, and recommended the board accept the low bid.

Moved by Bob Faulk and seconded by Keith Guidry, the board unanimously accepted the low bid for Parts for Spare Engine from Marine Services, Inc. at the bid price of \$34,809.35, including core charge.

ENGINEERING REPORT

OFFICE OF COASTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION

Mr. Daniel Dearmond reported the following:

We received bids on Reach L. Phyllway was the low bidder and the contract has been awarded. They should begin construction in early January.

Each year CPRA prepares its Annual Plan. A draft plan has been developed and will be presented Wednesday at the CPRA meeting in Baton Rouge. It will then be available on the CPRA website. Regional public meetings will be held for Houma and Terrebonne Parish on Jan. 9th with Lafourche Parish meeting on Jan. 8th.

CORPS OF ENGINEERS (JOEY WAGNER)

There was no one in attendance from the Corps.

PROJECT ENGINEERS

PICCIOLA & ASSOCIATES

Program Manager Ben Hodson gave the following report:

- **Elevation of LA Highway 32335 at Larose Crossing in Larose, LA**
LA Contracting Enterprise, LLC is the contractor. The contractor has completed the first phase of the project which involved elevating the southbound lanes of Highway 3235 and a portion of Highway 24. Currently the northbound lanes of Hwy 3235 are closed. They are hauling embankment and base course for the northbound roadway and Highway 24. The pile driving for the floodwall is scheduled to begin later this week.
 - Pay Request No. 7 in the amount of \$ 377,378.02
The contractor has submitted Pay Application No. 3 in the amount of 377,378.02.

Moved by Bobby Eymard, seconded by Keith Guidry and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 3 in the amount of \$377,378.02.

- Change Order No. 2 to add \$6,685.68 to contract price for addition work
The contractor has submitted Change Order No. 2 in the amount of \$6,685.68. The change order is for LA DOTD's requirement of a new caution light at LA Hwy 24 and for saw cutting of the asphalt roadway.

Moved by Monty Vegas, seconded by Roland Curole and unanimously accepted, the board approved Change Order No. 2 for additional work in the amount of \$6,685.68.

- **Mechanic Shop**

The project is complete. The contractor has provided a clear lien certificate and is requesting payment of the retainage in the amount of \$37,820.00.

- Pay Request No. 10 in the amount of \$ 37,820.00

Moved by Mitch Danos, seconded by Roland Curole and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 10 in the amount of \$37,820.00.

- **A-East Small Dredge Project**

The project is complete. The contractor has provided a clear lien certificate and is requesting payment of the retainage in the amount of \$21,731.94.

- Pay Request No. 4 in the amount of \$ 21,731.94

Moved by Bobby Eymard, seconded by Keith Guidry and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 4 in the amount of \$21,731.94.

J. WAYNE PLAISANCE, INC.

In the absence of Program Manager Andre Uzee, Mr. Windell Curole stated that there was nothing new to report.

LEEVE IMPROVEMENTS – ANGELETTE-PICCIOLA, LLC

Engineer Neil Angelette reported the following:

- **B-North & B-South Levee Improvements**

The contractor, Pontchartrain Partners, LLC, is continuing with construction on this project. We are recommending approval of Pay Request No. 7 in the amount of \$361,109.80.

- Pay Request No. 7 in the amount of \$ 361,109.80

Moved by Clarence Marts, seconded by Keith Guidry and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 7 in the amount of \$361,109.80.

- **C-South Levee Improvements**

The contractor, RLB Contracting, Inc. is continuing with construction on this project. We are recommending approval of Pay Request No. 5 in the amount of \$456,399.19.

- Pay Request No. 5 in the amount of \$ 456,399.19

Moved by Bobby Eymard, seconded by Roland Curole and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 5 in the amount of \$456,399.19.

- **Section F Improvements**

The contractor, Onshore Material, LLC is continuing with construction on this project. We are recommending approval of Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$4,920.00. We are recommending approval of their Pay Request No. 4 in the amount of \$95,751.72.

- Change Order No. 1 addition cost of \$4,920.00
- Pay Request No. 4 in the amount of \$ 95,751.72

Moved by Monty Vegas, seconded by Clarence Marts and unanimously accepted, the board approved Change Order No. 1 for addition cost of \$4,920.00

Moved by Bobby Eymard, seconded by Roland Curole and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 4 in the amount of \$95,751.72.

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

We are proceeding with the design phase for the levee portion of this project, and we are coordinating with Delta coast Consultants and the landowner on options for the final design on the bayou structure.

MORGANZA TO THE GULF

DELTA COAST CONSULTANTS

Program Manager Report (Mitch Marmande)

- **Update on Reach K Mitigation Project**
We are close to 50% complete and we are ahead of schedule. Equipment has been moved out with only North Lafourche working.
- **Update on Reach L Project**
We will be wrapping up the design work on Reach L and have that ready the beginning of next year.

ALL SOUTH CONSULTING ENGINEERS

Engineer Report (Stevie Smith)

- **Update on Morganza to the Gulf Reach K & L**
 - **Reach K On Site Excavation Section**
 - Contractor mobilized to site on Oct 4th
 - Dredging operations began on Oct 5th
 - Complete first pass to Station 215 + 00, approximately half of the project area.
 - Contractor has experienced multiple equipment issues in the last two weeks. As a result, the contractor has made little progress in that time.
 - **Reach K Marsh Mitigation**
 - All South has been working with our geotechnical contractor to resolve anticipated settlement issues. Those issues have been resolved
 - Plans and specifications schedule to be complete by Jan 15th

APTIM ENGINEERS

Nick Matherne reported the following:

- **Grand Bayou Floodgate Structure**
Aptim is continuing with the 30% preliminary design package to be submitted January/February 2018. We will be meeting with Administration in the next couple of weeks to discuss additional design criteria.

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

Chairman Mitch Danos announced that one permit request was received for review and had been recommended for approval by Landman Lee Bloch.

- **Seismic Permit – LLOLA, LLC**
Seismic activity in the area of Mud Lake involving the parishes of Jefferson, Lafourche and Plaquemines.

Moved by Mitch Danos and seconded by Roland Curole, the board unanimously approved the Seismic Permit for LLOLA, LLC

BOARD ATTORNEY

Attorney Ray Collins had nothing to report.

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 REPORT

Chairman Monty Vegas reported that each December the Personnel Committee received authorization from the board to grant pay increases for SLLD employees for the coming year. He recommended the board authorize the Committee to grant employee pay increases based on individual evaluation ratings for the year 2018.

Moved by Monty Vegas and seconded by Keith Guidry, the board unanimously authorized the Personnel Committee to grant employee pay increases based on individual evaluation ratings for the coming year 2018.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Bobby Eymard read a letter of resignation thanking former Senator Reggie Dupre and current Senator Norby Chabert for allowing him to continue on the South Lafourche Levee District board. He added that he enjoyed working with everyone for the past 16 years and entrusted Senator Chabert to replace him with another dedicated member of the board. President Callais thanked Mr. Eymard for his service on the board. Senator Chabert also thanked Mr. Eymard and stated that he looked forward to speaking with community members on a suitable replacement. Finally, Mr. Curole offered his sincere appreciation to Mr. Eymard.

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

/s/Ronald Callais, President

/s/Windell A. Curole, Executive Secretary