

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDING  
OF  
SOUTH LAFOURCHE LEVEE DISTRICT  
FEBRUARY 12, 2018**

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 12, 2018 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.  
   Mc Neely Rome  
   Roland Curole  
   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; Engineering Personnel Joe Picciola, Sandy Guidry, Andre Uzee, Clark Capone, Nic Matherne; CPRA Benjamin Hartman; MAC Roland Guidry; Lori Leblanc of MAC and Lori Leblanc, LLC; Lafourche Parish Drainage District #1 Ben Marts; and news media.

**READING OF THE MINUTES**

**The minutes of the January 8, 2018 Regular Meeting were approved unanimously upon a motion by Bob Faulk and seconded by Keith Guidry.**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**MARCH MEETING DATE CHANGED TO MARCH 19TH**

President Callais announced that due to a conflict, the March meeting would be moved to Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup>.

**ALBL WORKSHOP, MAY 3-4, 2018**

President Callais announced that the ALBL Workshop would be held in Baton Rouge on May 3-4, and that each attendee must register online for the Ethics Training that would be provided at the workshop.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

Vice-President Clarence Marts announced that the Executive Committee had met on Jan. 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss priority projects. He stated that the committee agreed to prioritize the projects as follows:

1. LA 1 elevation to 18 ft. at the Leon Theriot Lock
2. Larose "Ted Gisclair" Floodgate upgrade to 13 ft.
3. E-South Levee rehabilitation to 14 ft.

Chairman Marts stated that the committee had also discussed the random drug screenings of officer personnel and decided that no changes would be made.

Mr. Curole informed the board that the cost to raise the A-Frame walls at the Ted Gisclair Floodgate to 13 ft., and the cost to raise LA 1 at the Leon Theriot Lock to 18 ft. protection would be paid by State and CPRA funding at 100%. The board was ahead on State cost share resulting in no money out of our budget. Therefore, there would be no cost-share on either project. Mr. Curole recommended the board pass a resolution accepting the projects in their priority.

**Moved by Monty Vegas and seconded by Keith Guidry, the board unanimously accepted the projects to be constructed in the priority as presented.**

#### AUDIENCE COMMENTS

There were no audience comments.

#### GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

##### **SLIDE PRESENTATION**

General Manager Windell Curole presented slides starting with a map of 1892 overlaying a current map of the Fourchon to Chenier area. The maps indicated land loss that had occurred along the coast over the years.

Mr. Curole showed an area behind the office building where he proposed to dig earthen materials to be hauled and used on other area of levee. Another project would include a Borrow Canal Barrier. He explained that the barrier would reduce water from building up in the Golden Meadow area, should consistent north winds push water through the borrow canal. He stated it would cost approximately \$35,000 to \$60,000 to complete the earthen structure. Mr. Curole requested the board pass a resolution to allow President Callais to make the decision upon further review.

**Moved by Mitch Danos and seconded by McNeely Rome, the board unanimously agreed to authorize President Callais to move forward with any future plans in the building of the Borrow Canal Barrier.**

More slides included photos of the Hwy 3235 project in Larose. Engineer Joe Picciola updated the board on the project and stated that they were hoping to have that project complete sometime in April.

Mr. Curole showed the levees near the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Larose and explained the improvements made in that area. He explained that the levee on either side of the floodgate was at an 8 ft. elevation, but that they would be raising it to 13 ft. He stated that the entire project included both sides of the floodgate with an A-Frame wall, and steel sheetpile along the old Hwy 308 side. Mr. Curole asked if the project could be broken into two parts working on either side of the floodgate first, and doing the levee parallel to the highway as an addendum. Mr. Picciola stated that the project could be accomplished in that order.

Mr. Curole showed slides of a boat with a barge tied up to the Ted Gisclair floodgate waiting for the gate to open. Mr. Curole stated that the Harbor Police were notified and would be sending a report on the incident.

Mr. Curole showed before and after slides of the marsh, terraces and erosion abatement projects, and ended with storm surge and flooding from past hurricanes.

##### **APPROVAL TO ADVERTISE FOR PURCHASE OF DIRT**

Mr. Curole stated that there were dirt pits that that we would like to hire for small jobs and level dirt for us. Mr. Curole requested the board authorize to advertise for a general dirt contract that would allow us to order dirt at any time during the year at a locked-in price.

**Moved by Mitch Danos, seconded by Monty Vegas and unanimously accepted, the board agreed to a blanket authorization to advertise for a general dirt contract to purchase at any time during the year at a locked-in rate.**

**PUMP STATION NO. 8 ENGINE REPAIR – MSI LOW QUOTE OF \$9,879.56 FOR PARTS**

Mr. Curole announced that MSI had submitted the lowest quote for replacement parts for engine repairs. He informed the board that the Levee District's mechanic would do the repairs and that the quote was for parts only.

**Moved by Clarence Marts, seconded by Roland Curole and unanimously accepted, the board accepted the low quote for parts to repair an engine at Pump Station No. 8 at the price of \$9,879.56.**

**POSSIBLE EXCAVATION FOR LEVEE BOARD PROPERTY**

This item was discussed earlier during the slides presentation.

**BORROW CANAL BARRIER**

This item was discussed earlier during the slides presentation.

**LAROSE FLOODWALL REACH 2A (DELTA FARMS ROAD)**

Mr. Curole announced that the Corps had redirected money due to the New Orleans Katrina funding. The Corps had used that money to raise a portion of the floodwall in Larose, and install a gate at the Delta Farms Road. That project was now complete, and a letter was sent to the Corps stating we had no comments on their operations and management.

**WORK ON REACH L, APACHE FARM**

Mr. Curole stated that as a part of the Morganza to the Gulf, CPRA was in charge of the Reach L project, and that the contractor had been given a notice to proceed on the job.

**FLOOD PROTECTION 12 YEARS AFTER HURRICANES KATRINA AND RITA**

Mr. Curole stated that New Orleans had spent \$14B on flood protection upgrades since Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, but that the flood authorities were struggling with funding to maintain their levees and hard structures.

**BUDGET ADJUSTMENTS**

Mr. Curole announced that we were continuing to monitor the budget closely, but it looked like things were getting better.

**LOUISIANA FLOOD RISK COALITION - \$5,000**

Mr. Curole explained that the flood insurance laws were reviewed every 5 years and that this year it would be reviewed again. Louisiana Flood Risk Coalition fought to change the law. Due to the Coalition's help and the SLLD's levee system, a large number of homeowners had received a significant decrease in their premiums after being declared Preferred Risk policies. We would like to continue to support the Coalition and ask that the board approve a donation of \$5,000 for 2018.

**Moved by Monty Vegas and seconded by Roland Curole, the board unanimously approved the donation of \$5,000 to the Louisiana Flood Risk Coalition.**

**MORGANZA ACTION COALITION ANNUAL DUES - \$38,000** which included The South Lafourche, North Lafourche, and Terrebonne Levee Districts. Mr. Curole stated that we had the chance to make big changes concerning the issues with the 408 and 404 permitting. With a change in regulation, we could reduce the costs of projects. Mr. Curole requested the board approve the annual dues in the amount of \$38,000.

Ms. Lori Leblanc stated that she was the managing director for MAC and stated that she represented each of the three levee districts. Ms. Leblanc explained that the dues, which paid for lobbying, were proportional to the population of the levee district which put TLCD at \$110,000, NLLD at \$72,000 and SLLD at \$38,000. She added that contributions from private citizens were received as well. Ms. Leblanc stated that positive things were going on in Washington, and that several members of MAC would be going up for the Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association in March. President Trump just released an infrastructure package. Ms. Leblanc stated that she hoped to take advantage of some of that package, and that they also hoped to see a WRDA bill which would address the 404 and 408 policy issues.

**Moved by McNeely Rome and seconded by Bobby Eymard, the board unanimously approved the annual dues to Morganza Action Coalition in the amount of \$38,000.**

**UPDATED LEVEE CROWN ELEVATION**

Mr. Curole explained that we attempt to have an engineer check the crown of the levees each year. That information was being used in the flood insurance maps and there was a program out that gave us credit for those elevations. Mr. Curole stated that he had received a quote of \$8,000 from Picciola & Associates for that work. He requested the board authorize the engineer to begin the elevation survey on the crown of the levee.

**On a motion by Clarence Marts and seconded by Monty Vegas, the board authorized the survey work of Picciola & Associates to take elevations on the levee crown at the quoted price of \$8,000.**

**ENGINEERING REPORT**

**OFFICE OF COASTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION**

Mr. Ben Hartman introduced himself and said he had nothing to report.

**CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

There was no one in attendance from the Corps.

**PROJECT ENGINEERS**

**PICCIOLA & ASSOCIATES**

Engineer Joe Picciola 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 currently pouring the concrete foundation and walls for the floodwall.

The Contractor has submitted Pay Application No. 5 in the amount of \$223,645.52.

- Pay Request No. 5 in the amount of \$ 223,645.52

**Moved by Bobby Eymard, seconded by Roland Curole and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 5 in the amount of \$223,645.52.**

**J. WAYNE PLAISANCE, INC.**

Program Manager André Uzee reported the following:

**Bayou Lafourche Water Level Control**

There is nothing new to report on the permitting situation.

**Pump Station No. 4 Upgrades**

There is nothing new to report.

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

Engineer Sandy Guidry 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. 9 in the amount of \$884,799.08.

**Moved by Clarence Marts, seconded by Keith Guidry and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 9 in the amount of \$884,799.08.**

- **C-South Levee Improvements**  
The contractor, RLB Contracting, Inc., is continuing with construction on this project.

- **Section F Improvements**  
The contractor, Onshore Materials, LLC, has completed the work on this project. We are recommending approval of their Pay Request No. 6 in the amount of \$58,955.04.

**Moved by Bob Faulk, seconded by McNeely Rome and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 6 in the amount of \$58,955.04.**

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

We are continuing with the design phase for the levee portion of this project, and we are coordinating with Delta 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)

Program Manager Mitch Marmande was not in attendance.

**Update on Reach K Mitigation Project**

In the absence of Mr. Marmande, Mr. Windell Curole reported that the first pass of throwing dirt up was not impressive, but the second pass was stacking very well.

**ALL SOUTH CONSULTING ENGINEERS**

Engineer Report (Clark Capone)

Project Manager Clark Capone reported the following:

**Reach K On Site Excavation Section**

- Contractor mobilized to site on Oct. 4th.
- Dredging operations began on Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 23% of contract time has elapsed.
- Completed first pass to Station 124+00, basically just north of south water control structure.

**Reach K Marsh Mitigation**

- Final plans and specifications delivered to SLLD last week.
- Advertising & bidding should begin March 1<sup>st</sup>.

**On a motion by Monty Vegas and seconded by Mitch Danos, the board unanimously authorized the advertising for bid of the Marsh K Marsh Mitigation project.**

**APTIM ENGINEERS**

In the absence of Project Manager Laura Barnes, Nic Matherne reported the following:

- **Grand Bayou Floodgate Structure**  
APTIM has completed the initial 30% design and the package is going through an Internal Technical Review (ITR). Once any revisions have been made, the package will be submitted to CPRA for review and comment. We anticipate the submission in the next few weeks.

**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 and Ray Collins were not in attendance.

Mr. Windell Curole stated that some payments to landowners had not been sent out. In speaking with Bourgeois-Bennett, they said we would need an attorney to send a letter. We will contact our attorney, Ray Collins, to see what we can do.

**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 Mart, and unanimously carried, the board approved the payment of the invoices as presented.**

**MAINTENANCE & EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE**

**LONG REACH EXCAVATOR**

Chairman Keith Guidry announced that with a 50% savings, we would return the current rental excavator and rent through La Cat for about \$4,000/mo.

**Moved by McNeely, seconded by Roland Curole and unanimously accepted, the board agreed to return the current rental excavator to Scott Equipment and rent a new excavator through La Cat at a cost of around \$4,000 per month.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

Commissioner Keith Guidry questioned the new sign for the front of the building. Administrative Assistant Amy Gisclair reported that she was waiting quotes from Winners Circle for the brass sign on the building and explained that they were under new owners who were presently setting up accounts. She stated that she had spoken with a couple of people regarding the brick work for the sign by the road, but was still waiting for price quotes.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioner Keith Guidry stated that he and Mr. Clarence Marts toured the Morganza levee with Stevie Smith. He stated it was a very positive trip.

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

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Ronald Callais, President

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Windell A. Curole, Executive Secretary