

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDING  
OF  
SOUTH LAFOURCHE LEVEE DISTRICT  
MAY 8, 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, May 8, 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  
   Roland Guidry  
   Bob Faulk  
   Mitch Danos  
   Clarence "CJ" Marts, Jr.  
   Mc Neely Rome  
   Roland Curole  
   Keith Guidry (arrived at 3:05 p.m.)

Board members absent:        Monty Vegas

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, Operating Engineer Master Berwick Cheramie; Attorney Ray Collins; Engineering Personnel Ben Hodson, Marc Picciola, Neil Angelette, Andre Uzee, Laura Barnes, and Clark Capone; CPRA Daniel Dearmond; Attorney General's Office Doug Cheramie; Lori Leblanc of Lori Leblanc, LLC, Jacob Callais of T Baker Smith; and news media.

**READING OF THE MINUTES**

**The minutes of the April 9, 2018 Regular Meeting were approved unanimously upon a motion by McNeely Rome and seconded by Bob Faulk.**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**RESOLUTION 18-02, ROBERT "BOBBY" EYMARD**

President Callais called up former board member, Bobby Eymard. President Callais presented Mr. Eymard with a plaque commemorating his years of service to the Board. President Callais also presented and read the following Resolution:

**RESOLUTION NO. 18-02**

**WHEREAS**, Robert "Bobby" Eymard, Sr. has served as Commissioner of the Board for the South Lafourche Levee District for the past 16 years;

**WHEREAS**, Robert "Bobby" Eymard, Sr., having served in the capacity of Chairman of Finance, Insurance, and Floodwall and Floodgate Committees, has worked diligently and to the best of his ability whenever the work needed to be accomplished for the South Lafourche Levee District;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Board of Commissioners of the South Lafourche Levee District commends Robert "Bobby" Eymard, Sr. for his many years of loyal service to the Board of Commissioners of the South Lafourche Levee District.

**UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED** on this 8th day of May 2018.

Mr. Eymard conveyed his appreciation and enjoyment in working with the office staff, field crew and fellow board members.

**ALBL WORKSHOP UPDATE**

President Callais announced that all board members had attended the ALBL Workshop the previous week and that the meetings were very informative. General Manager Windell Curole added that Frank Rivette with the National Weather Service gave a presentation, and that the NWS understands that five-day forecasts are not accurate. Mr. Rivette had explained in the meeting that there would always be misses in the path and landfall predictions with five-day forecasts. Mr. Curole explained that the reason for five-day forecasts was because in Virginia it took five days to man and supply aircraft carriers. Mr. Curole gave examples of past storms that were incorrectly predicted.

President Callais announced that Commissioner Roland Guidry had arrived at 3:05.

#### **ADOPTION OF MILLAGES TO TAKE PLACE AT JUNE 11, 2018 MEETING**

President Callais made the following announcement:

“Notice is hereby given that the Board of Commissioners of the South Lafourche Levee District, Parish of Lafourche, State of Louisiana (the “board”) plans to adopt a resolution levying the District’s ad valorem tax millage for 2018 at a 3:00 p.m. meeting of the Board on June 11, 2018 at the office of the South Lafourche Levee District, located at 17904 Hwy 3235, Galliano, Louisiana.”

#### **AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

There were no comments from the audience.

#### **GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT**

##### **SLIDE PRESENTATION**

With the approaching of hurricane season, General Manager Windell Curole began his slide presentation by briefing the board on historical storm surges and remarked that the highest storm surge recorded in Louisiana was Hurricane Katrina in St. Bernard Parish at 18.7 ft. He stated that the highest storm surges in the Gulf had been in Mississippi with the highest recorded at Pass Christian with a 28 ft. surge; also from Hurricane Katrina in 2005. Mr. Curole explained the devastation these storms could have caused if they had hit just to the west of our area. Mr. Curole reviewed levee elevations and the areas that were most critical.

Mr. Curole showed slides of the newly completed elevation of Hwy 3235 in Larose near LA 24. He explained that DOTD would not allow the ramp on both sides of the highway, so the northbound lane now had a temporary barrier that would be put in place during emergency storm situations.

Other slides included the building of terraces, levee work that involved taking dirt from the canal to be used to elevate the levee, mitigation levees that border on the Morganza project, and damage to the levee in the Clovelly area by Entergy marsh buggies crossing over the levees without permission. Mr. Curole stated that the Levee District would be sending a letter to Entergy regarding those damages.

##### **LETTER FOR DOTD PERMIT OF LA 1 ELEVATION AT GOLDEN MEADOW, LA**

Mr. Curole explained that we had problems getting DOTD to permit our work on the LA 1 highway ramp at the lock. He further explained that there had been at least 10 soil borings conducted in the past in that area and DOTD wanted more geotechnical work performed. After much negotiation, we came to an agreement with DOTD that, in exchange for no new geotechnical work, the Levee District would pay for any subsidence that might occur over the first three years after completion. Mr. Curole stated that the project would not only elevate the highway to the height of the levee on either side, but would also straighten the highway so there would be less of a curve at that location.

##### **EROSION SURVEY, WEST SIDE OF BORROW CANAL**

Mr. Curole informed the board that wave action along the banks was causing erosion that needed immediate attention. He stated that approximately 4,800 ft., of vinyl sheet piles in 8 ft. lengths was needed to start the repairs of the erosion. Mr. Curole recommended the board authorize spending up to \$150,000 for vinyl sheet piles and a contractor for the first section of repairs in the B-North area.

**Moved by Roland Guidry and seconded by Mitch Danos, the board authorized the spending of up to \$150,000 for the first segment of combating erosion along the banks of the west side borrow canal which would include contractor and all necessary materials and equipment to install vinyl sheet piles.**

#### **13 YEARS AFTER KATRINA**

Mr. Curole stated that the Corp would soon turn over the levee work in New Orleans to the SE Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East and SE Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-West. He stated that after Katrina several laws were passed and we were on the negative side of some of those, including the changes in levee standards which hurt us. The Corps decertified our levees and Congress did not include our project in Katrina legislation. Mr. Curole added that he would formulate a resolution asking that State officials reassess what worked and what didn't work since Katrina, and improve on those changes. The resolution would be sent to the Governor, legislators and CPRA.

#### **FUNDING FOR GRAND BAYOU FLOODGATE**

Mr. Curole attended some meetings with the governor and the Morganza Action Coalition, and learned that Lafourche Parish was eligible to receive some of the emergency money that had been set aside for flooding from Hurricane Harvey and the rainfall flooding. There was a possibility that an estimated \$25M of that money could be used for building the Grand Bayou Floodgate.

#### **LEGISLATION – MULTIPLE BILLS**

Mr. Curole informed the board that several bills were going through that could benefit the South Lafourche Levee District. He explained that one of the bills (by Rep. Jerome Zeringue) was a renewal that allowed levee districts to complete up to \$1M in-house projects. Mr. Curole reminded the board that before Katrina we were limited to \$150,000 in-house, but then Senator Reggie Dupre presented the bill that allowed \$1M spending. He added that the bill had been a tremendous help to our levee district, and to local contractors who benefited from it. He informed the board of another bill, a Public-Private Partnership, that would allow us to design a project, the contractor would then provide the funding and do the work under a "pay as you go" agreement. There were also some mitigation laws that would be beneficial to us.

#### **MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMMISSION - TESTIMONY**

Mr. Curole stated that the MRC had conducted their annual high water trip. He stated that in this year's testimony Mr. Curole spoke on the permitting being too slow, adding that it took five years to obtain for the Reach K and L project. He addressed the problems remaining with Section 408, although some progress had been made, he stated that there was another law, Section 208.1, which could be used by the Corps to improve or make changes o levees. Lastly, levee standards after Katrina made it too hard to build levees. Mr. Curole briefed the board on the problems with those standards.

#### **GOMESA UPDATE**

Mr. Curole reminded the board of a letter that the Levee District sent out to Gov. Kathleen Blanco in 2004 requesting that she not agree to offshore lease sale. The reason was because we were seeking a share of the revenues so we could take care of the problems that the drilling had caused. Mrs. Blanco had responded to our letter that it was a good idea, but she didn't feel we'd be successful. As a result, we formed an ad hoc committee and met a few times before Hurricane Katrina hit. In March 2006 there was another lease sale and we again sent a letter to Gov. Blanco asking for an objection to the offshore sale. The governor sued to stop the sale which helped the passage of GOMESA. This year \$82M will come to the state to be used for restoration and flood protection work.

#### **SCIA BANQUET**

Mr. Curole explained that Mr. Cory Kief was the president of SCIA and that his term was ending. A final banquet would be held on June 14<sup>th</sup> and they would like all board members to attend. Information would be sent to each member as it became available.

### **ENGINEERING REPORT**

#### **OFFICE OF COASTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION**

Mr. Daniel Dearmond stated that Mr. Curole had given an update during the slide presentation. He added that Sea Level Construction would be the subcontractor filling in the canal on Reach L.

#### **CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

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 3235 at Levee Crossing in Larose, LA**

LA Contracting Enterprise, LLC is the contractor. The contractor is complete with the project. The floodwall was fitted in place last Thursday. Approval of the Certificate of Substantial Completion is on the agenda for approval and we recommend acceptance.

- Pay Request No. 8 in the amount of \$ 7,290.90
- Change Order No. 3 for a credit of \$8,227.03
- Acceptance of Substantial Completion

**Moved by Roland Curole, seconded by Roland Guidry and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 8 in the amount of \$7,290.90.**

**Moved by Keith Guidry, seconded by Clarence Marts and unanimously accepted, the board approved Change Order No. 3 in the credited amount of \$8,227.03.**

**Moved by Mitch Danos, seconded by McNeely Rome and unanimously accepted, the board approved Substantial Completion for the Elevation of LA Highway 3235 at Levee Crossing in Larose, LA.**

**J. WAYNE PLAISANCE, INC.**

Engineer Andre Uzee reported the following:

- **Bayou Lafourche Water Level Control**

I have nothing new to report.

- **Pump Station No. 4 Upgrades**

We sent engineering drawings to the contractor to get a cost estimate. We will need to raise the roof and the cost will be more than we had anticipated.

**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. 12 in the amount of \$140,415.50.

- Pay Request No. 12 in the amount of \$140,415.50

**Moved by Bob Faulk, seconded by McNeely Rome and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 12 in the amount of \$140,415.50.**

- **C-South Levee Improvements**

The contractor, RLB Contracting, Inc., is continuing with construction on this project. We are recommending approval of Pay Request No. 8 in the amount of \$139,437.09.

- Pay Request No. 8 in the amount of \$139,437.09

**Moved by Clarence Marts, seconded by Roland Curole and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 8 in the amount of \$139,437.09.**

- **Section F Improvements**

The contractor, Onshore Materials, LLC, has completed the work on the project. We are recommending approval of Change Order No. 2 which is for an additional 3,000 cy and an additional 89 days due to weather. We are also recommending approval of Pay Request No. 7 in the amount of \$1,996.02. We are also recommending approval of their final invoice (Pay Request No. 8) for retainage in the amount of \$45,527.00 pending the clear lien certificate.

- Change Order No. 2 in the amount of \$19,950.00 with additional 89 days to the contract
- Pay Request No. 7 in the amount of \$1,996.02
- Pay Request No. 8 in the amount of \$45,527.00

**Moved by Roland Curole, seconded by Keith Guidry and unanimously accepted, the board approved Change Order No. 2 in the amount of \$19,950.00.**

**Moved by Bob Faulk, seconded by Mitch Danos and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 7 in the amount of \$1,996.02.**

**Moved by Roland Guidry, seconded by Mitch Danos and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 8 in the amount of \$45,527.00, pending receipt of Clear Lien Certificate.**

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

We have had several meetings with Delta Coast Consultants over the past month to review the plans and finalize the first phase design for the levee portion of this project. We are scheduling a meeting with Delta Coast Consultants and the landowner to finalize the levee plans and continue our options for the bayou structure.

**MORGANZA TO THE GULF**

**DELTA COAST CONSULTANTS**

Program Manager Report (Mitch Marmande)

Mr. Marmande was not in attendance.

- **Update on Reach K Mitigation Project**

**ALL SOUTH CONSULTING ENGINEERS**

Engineer Report (Clark Capone)

**Reach K & L On Site Excavation**

- Contractor mobilized to site on Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>, 2017.
- Dredging operations began on Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>. Approximately 35% of contract time has elapsed.
- Completed first and second pass for the entire stretch of levee.
- Contractor has excavated approximately 591,971 cubic yards of material from canal (50%).
  
- **Reach K Access Road**
  - Pay Request No. 4 in the amount of \$298,765.50
  - Pay Request No. 5 in the amount of \$183,417.69

**Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Mitch Danos and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 4 in the amount of \$298,765.50.**

**Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Mitch Danos and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 5 in the amount of \$183,417.69.**

**Reach K Marsh Mitigation**

- Plans and specifications are complete, and have been delivered to CPRA for review. Engineers estimate for this project is \$1.5M.

**Grand Bayou Interim Structure**

- All South received Notice to Proceed from SLLD on Jan. 23, 2018.
- All South has acquired geotechnical and other data to support interim plan.
- All South presented briefing on draft report on March 20, 2018.
- All South finalizing report this week.

**APTIM ENGINEERS**

Laura Barnes reported the following:

- **Grand Bayou Floodgate Structure**

Internal Technical Review revisions should be complete this week. APTIM is coordinating a gate operation meeting with Windell, Operations Personnel and electrical engineer to discuss design/operation criteria.

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

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

**BOARD ATTORNEY**

Attorney Ray Collins had nothing to discuss.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**INVOICES**

In the absence of Commissioner Monty Vegas, Vice President Clarence Marts announced that the Finance Committee had reviewed the invoices and recommended they be paid.

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

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

**FILL VACANT POSITION OF MOBILE EQUIPMENT OPERATOR 1**

In the absence of Commissioner Monty Vegas, Commissioner Mitch Danos announced that the committee had met earlier and recommended the board authorize the Personnel Committee, after further review of employment applications, to hire a suitable applicant for the vacant position of Mobile Equipment Operator 1.

**Moved by Mitch Danos, seconded by Roland Guidry and unanimously approved, the board authorized the Personnel Committee to hire a suitable applicant for the position of Mobile Equipment Operator 1, upon further review of all applications received.**

**MAINTENANCE & EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE**

**REPLACEMENT OF SMALL EXCAVATOR**

Chairman Keith Guidry announced that the small excavators used to clean out vegetation around the pump station siphons were in need of replacement. He stated that the excavators were in extremely poor condition and unsafe for employees to operate. Price quotes for the excavators which were on State Contract had been received. Mr. Guidry stated that one excavator was already budgeted for FY 2019 and recommended the board authorize the purchase of two mini excavators as the budget allowed.

**Moved by Roland Curole, seconded by McNeely Rome and unanimously accepted, the board approved the purchase of two mini excavators; one at the beginning of Fiscal Year 2019, and the second to be purchased as the budget allowed.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

Mr. Windell Curole thanked Bobby Eymard again for his many years of service and complimented his work while on the board.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Mr. Windell Curole stated that Mr. Roland Guidry had taken a tour of the levee. Mr. Guidry had several questions to which Mr. Curole answered.

**With no further business to discuss, the board unanimously adjourned the meeting on a motion of Mitch Danos and seconded by McNeely Rome.**

s/Ronald Callais, President

s/Windell A. Curole, Executive Secretary