

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDING  
OF  
SOUTH LAFOURCHE LEVEE DISTRICT  
JANUARY 13, 2020**

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, January 13, 2020 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 January 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  
                                      Monty Vegas  
                                      Mitch Danos  
                                      Mc Neely Rome  
                                      Roland Curole  
                                      Keith Guidry

Board members absent:     Clarence "CJ" Marts, Jr.

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 Ryan Collins; Engineering Personnel Ben Hodson, Neil Angelette, John Plaisance, Laura Barnes, Nic Matherne, Gavin Gillen; CPRA Daniel Dearmond; Dickie Bouvier, and news media.

**READING OF THE MINUTES**

**The minutes of the December 10, 2019 Regular Meeting were approved unanimously upon a motion by McNeely Rome and seconded by Monty Vegas.**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

President Callais opened the floor for the nomination of officers for the year 2020.

**Moved by Roland Guidry and seconded by Monty Vegas, the board agreed to keep all officers the same with Ronald Callais as President, Keith Guidry as Vice President, Monty Vegas as Treasurer and Windell Curole as Executive Secretary.**

**COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS**

President Callais provided each member with a list of assignments and stated that anyone wishing to be reassigned or removed from a committee should let him know before the February meeting.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

**PRIORITY PROJECTS – 2020**

Chairman Keith Guidry announced that the Executive Committee had met on Wednesday, Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss the priority of the 2020 projects. He provided a list of those projects in priority order and stated that each project would be discussed during the General Manager's report.

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

There were no comments from the audience.

**GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

**SLIDE PRESENTATION**

General Manager Windell Curole presented slides. He began with the LAMP map and discussed the importance of keeping the lower flood rates. He then discussed the priority projects beginning with the Golden Meadow Pump Station Floodwall with plans to raise to 18 ft. D-South levee will be raised with donated property. The D-South Floodwall was built by the Corps to 13.5 ft. Our plans are to get that wall up to a 16 to 18 ft elevation. On the Section F Berm, the levee had been raised to 13 ft, but the berm needed to be strengthened. The A-East Bayou Water Retention would reduce the amount of water that was now being siphoned to half that amount, which would allow the water in the bayou to be lowered twice as fast. We increased the height of the Larose Floodwall to 13 ft, but there were areas that were still only 10 ft from Bayou Lafourche to the area of the Hwy 308 overpass bridge, and from the area of the Hwy 308 overpass bridge back to Delta Farms Road that we need to raise to 13 ft. In addition, the Corps had stated that we needed protection along the floodwall from marine vessels in the IGWW, so a Vessel Impact Barrier was also in the plans for the Larose Floodwall. The last project would be the conversion of the Larose Floodgate into a navigational lock. Other slides showed marsh and terrace growth on the west side levee from Golden Meadow to Cut Off. Construction photos showed the progress that was being made just south (up to 16 ft) and north (up to 18 and 20 ft) of Pump Station No. 2 in the Bully Camp area. Slides were shown of the work progressing at the Larose Floodgate where steel A-frame walls were being installed to completely close in that area with flood protection. Mr. Curole added that the previous height of 8 ft had been increased to 13 ft. The final slides also included a short aerial video of Section E-North where the flood maps showed possible overtopping from the 100-year storm. He informed the board that work in that area would increase the height and stability of the levee.

**LA 1 COALITION – CEA FOR 2020 MEMBERSHIP DUES, \$1,000**

Mr. Curole announced that the membership dues in the amount of \$1,000 to LA 1 Coalition were due and recommended the board approve the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement for 2020 with payment.

**On a motion by McNeely Rome and seconded by Mitch Danos, the board agreed to continue the membership with LA 1 Coalition and authorized Mr. Windell Curole to sign the CEA and pay the dues in the amount of \$1,000.**

**WATERSHED INITIATIVE RESOLUTIONS**

Mr. Curole stated that there was money from the federal government that would be going to the state for Governor Edwards' Watershed Initiative. Mr. Curole presented two resolutions for review and requested they both be approved. He explained that one resolution was to help with funding of the Morganza and our mitigation levee by improving and strengthening the water control structures, and the other was a request to help pay for the Larose Lock.

**Moved by Roland Curole and seconded by Roland Guidry, the board unanimously agreed to adopt the two Watershed Initiative Resolutions as presented.**

**AWARD CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES (GRAND BAYOU FLOODGATE) TO GIS**

Mr. Curole announced that the three levee districts presented scores of the proposals received for Construction Management Services on the Grand Bayou Floodgate and stated that GIS had received the highest rating. After reviewing and discussing with CPRA, Delta Coast Program Manager Mitch Marmande had reported and recommended to Mr. Curole that our board award to GIS. Mr. Curole recommended the board award the Construction Management Services to GIS with Mitch Marmande as Program Manager.

**Moved by Monty Vegas and seconded by Bob Faulk, the board unanimously agreed award the Construction Management Services for the Grand Bayou Floodgate to GIS with Delta Coast Consultants' Mitch Marmande as Program Manager.**

**A-EAST VINYL SHEET PILES – REJECT BIDS OF 12/18/2019 AND ACCEPT LOW QUOTE**

Mr. Curole informed the board that bids were accepted last month to replace sheet piles that had been damaged during Hurricane Barry. He stated that many of the bids were irregular and recommended the board reject all bids. He also stated that upon opening the bids, it was found that the project cost was low enough that a formal bid was not necessary. All bidders were notified, and quotes were received with SBL submitting the lowest quote for labor and equipment to remove and replace the sheet piles.

**Moved by McNeely Rome and seconded by Bob Faulk, the board unanimously rejected all bids received at the Dec. 18, 2019 bid opening for A-East Sheet Pile Excavator and Operator, and accepted the lowest quote from SBL Construction for equipment and labor to remove old sheet piles and replace with new owner-furnished sheet piles.**

**PURCHASE OF NEW PICKUP TRUCK**

Mr. Curole stated that within the next year the Levee District would need to purchase a new pickup to replace one that was going out. He recommended the board allow the staff to advertise to bid, or purchase on State Contract, a new pickup truck as needed in the year 2020.

**Moved by Keith Guidry and seconded by Roland Guidry, the board unanimously authorized General Manager Windell Curole to purchase a new truck when needed, whether advertised for bid or by State Contract.**

**PURCHASE OF NEW DOZER**

Mr. Curole stated that within the next year the Levee District would need to purchase a new dozer to replace one that had been repaired multiple times. The estimated cost would be around \$350,000, but that price should be lower if we decided to trade in the older dozer. He recommended the board approve the advertising for a new dozer as needed in the year 2020.

**Moved by Mitch Danos and seconded by Monty Vegas, the board unanimously authorized General Manager Windell Curole to advertised to purchase a new dozer as needed in the year 2020.**

**SECTION E-NORTH READY TO ADVERTISE**

Mr. Curole announced that we were ready to advertise E-North project which involved moving donated dirt from Clovelly Farms and placing it on the levee from the southwest corner of E-North to Superior Canal in areas that were more susceptible to overtopping.

**Moved by Keith Guidry and seconded by Roland Curole, the board authorized engineers Picciola and Associates to advertise for public bid, Section E-North Levee Improvements project.**

**SECTION E-SOUTH CONTRACTOR ON SITE**

Mr. Curole announced that the contractor was working on site and should be finished by Aug. 15, 2020.

**PONTCHARTRAIN PARTNERS – ADDITION OF 90,000 CY YDS AT \$3/CY (B-NORTH & SOUTH)**

Mr. Curole announced that there was still material available that we could remove at the continued low cost of \$3 per cubic yard. Mr. Curole requested the board extend the contract to include an additional 90,000 cubic yards of material.

**Moved by Roland Curole and seconded by Mitch Danos, the board authorized the extension of the Pontchartrain Partners contract for B-North and B-South to include an additional 90,000 cubic yards of material at the cost of \$3.00 per cubic yard.**

Commissioner McNeely Rome questioned the estimate for a computer backup system that was provided to the board. Administrative Assistant Mary Punch stated that the SLLD's IT person was recently made aware that Microsoft does not backup emails. Mrs. Punch informed the board that State Records Retention required public entities to retain all emails as per Email Retention Policy. She added that if at any time our emails were lost, we'd have no way to recover them. An estimate for email backup was presented with no objections from the board. Mr. Curole added that the cost was within his authorized limit of spending.

**ENGINEERING REPORT**

**OFFICE OF COASTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION**

Mr. Daniel Dearmond gave the following report:

**TE-78 Sheet Pile Walls**

I've requested a meeting with FEMA's project manager to discuss the issues with the sheet pile walls.

**CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

There was no one in attendance from the Corps.

**PROJECT ENGINEERS**

**PICCIOLA & ASSOCIATES**

Engineer Joe Picciola gave the following report:

- **LA 1 Highway Realignment and Floodwall at Levee Crossing, Golden Meadow, LA**  
Byron E. Talbot Contractor, Inc. is the contractor. They are complete with the project and the Lien Period has expired. BET is disputing the assessment of \$61,000.00 in stipulated damages. We are discussing a path forward with Ray Collins and Windell Curole.

At this time, we are recommending the board rescind the previously approved Change Order No. 1.

We are presenting a revised Change Order No. 1 for an increase of \$36,326.87 and eight (8) days of contract time.

**Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Mitch Danos and unanimously accepted, the board agreed to rescind the original Change Order No. 1, and approved the revised Change Order No. 1 for an increase of \$36,326.87 and eight (8) contract days.**

Mr. Curole stated that the board would need to enter Executive Session to further discuss.

- Pay Request No. 10 in the amount of \$71,636.25

**Moved by Keith Guidry, seconded by Roland Guidry and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 10 in the amount of \$71,636.25.**

- **Larose Floodgate Improvement and Protection – A Frame and I Wall**  
Sealevel Construction, Inc. is the contractor. The contractor is currently driving sheet piles and fabricating the A-frames on the job site.

- Pay Request No. 6 in the amount of \$691,947.70

**Moved by Roland Guidry, seconded by Monty Vegas and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 6 in the amount of \$691,947.70.**

- **Section E-South Shaping and Grading -Ph 2**  
Low Land Construction Co., Inc. was the low bidder. The Notice to Proceed was issued on December 2, 2019. The contractor is currently on-site degrassing and moving material on the levee section.

- Pay Request No. 1 in the amount of \$45,065.62

**Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Mitch Danos and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 1 in the amount of \$45,065.62.**

- **Section E-North Levee Improvements**  
The project surveying and plans/specifications are complete. We have received approval from the State for the plans/specifications. We are planning to begin advertising for bids soon. Approval to advertise was obtained earlier in meeting.

- **Section D-South Interim Levee Improvements**  
SBL Construction, LLC was the low bidder in the amount of \$582,501.37. The contract documents are being processed. We are awaiting approval of Right of Ways prior to proceeding.

- **Section F Levee Improvements**  
Field surveying is complete. We are currently working on the project plans. We request board approval to advertise for bids.

**Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Monty Vegas and unanimously accepted, the board authorized Picciola and Associates to advertise for public bid, Section F Levee Improvements.**

- **Section A-East Levee Improvements**  
Field surveying is complete. We will begin working on the project plans soon.

- **Golden Meadow Pump Station Floodwall**  
The preliminary project plans are complete. We will review with management and then go out for bids soon. We are awaiting approval from the state and request board approval to advertise, pending State approval.

Mr. Curole recommended the board approve all agreements for this project.

**Moved by Mitch Danos, seconded by Keith Guidry and unanimously accepted, the board authorized Picciola and Associates to advertise for public bid, the Golden Meadow Pump Station Floodwall project, pending State approval, and to authorize General Manager Windell Curole or President Ronald Callais to sign any and all agreements and documents necessary to move forward on the project.**

#### **GIS ENGINEERING, LLC**

Engineer John Plaisance reported the following:

- **Bayou Lafourche Water Level Control**  
We are still working with the Corp on obtaining the permit. The project is estimated at \$1M but should come in a little lower.

- **Section D-South Floodwall Improvements**  
We are budgeting \$1M for this project. The topographic surveys are done and we are hoping to get geotech information back by the end of the month. At that time, we will assess the elevation that we might obtain for the \$1M budget. We will present this information next month for Board decision.
- **LAMP Flood Insurance Maps**  
Mr. Curole requested that I report a little more on the flood map that he spoke on briefly during the slide presentation. One of the things that LAMP did was to check the overtopping. They went through the entire system and stated how much overtopping would occur at which points. All the places they calculated the water coming over the system were areas that Mr. Curole had already planned to be repaired. We will continue this work and get the report to Mr. Curole.

**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. 31 in the amount of \$223,047.33.
  - Pay Request No. 31 in the amount of \$223,047.33

**Moved by Bob Faulk, seconded by Mitch Danos and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 31 in the amount of \$223,047.33.**

- **C-South Levee Improvements**  
We are currently designing several options for improvements to this section from the Bason Pump Station to Apache Farms. This section is currently at an elevation of +13'. Our estimate to raise it to +16' is \$1.1 million and the +18' is \$1.6 million. We will be reviewing this with the District over the next month and will be recommending an advertisement at the next meeting.
- **Morganza to the Gulf, Reach L**  
Plans and specifications for the levee construction from Apache Farm to Grand Bayou, including options for the Bayou L'Bleu structure, are ready for review.

**MORGANZA TO THE GULF**

**DELTA COAST CONSULTANTS**

Program Manager Report (Mitch Marmande)

- Mr. Marmande was not in attendance

**ALL SOUTH CONSULTING ENGINEERS**

Engineer Report (Gavin Gillen)

**Reach K Hurricane Barry Rehabilitation**

- The SLLD authorized the engineering contract with All South at its October meeting.
- All South has acquired the necessary survey data for this work.
- All South is developing a program to address the low area of Reach K in a phased approach.

**Reach K Marsh Mitigation**

- Construction settlement period has ended and the contractor was approved to begin dredging operations on 12/27.
- Contractor completing repairs to dredge equipment, mobilizing pipeline, and setting grade stakes.
- Contractor to begin dredging on 1/14.
- Completion date tentatively projected for 3/22 pending performance of dredge equipment. Date will be shortened as much as possible once performance is observed.

**Reach K Reshaping (Phase I)**

- Plans and Specs are currently under review.
- This project focuses on shaping the levee between the starting location for Access Road (Phase II) and the southern water control.
- ASCE hopes to begin advertising this project within the next few weeks.

**Reach K Reshaping (Phase II)**

- The work on preliminary plans of this phase to start on January 13, 2020.
- This project focuses on shaping the levee between the floodgate and the starting location for Access Road (Phase II).
- ASCE is aiming to begin advertising in early March.

**APTIM ENGINEERS**

Nic Matherne reported the following:

- **Grand Bayou Floodgate Structure**  
The bid package for this project is ready to go. We will be meeting with Mr. Curole and Mr. Marmande in the next few weeks to discuss our position during this process.

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

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

**BOARD ATTORNEY**

Attorney Ryan Collins stated that the board would go into Executive Session at the end of the meeting.

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

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

**ACCEPTANCE OF NEW ON-CALL ROTATION POLICY FOR 2020 AS AMENDED**

Commissioner Monty Vegas announced that the Personnel Committee had met on Dec. 11, 2019 to discuss changes to the on-call rotation schedule. It was agreed that all able-bodied field personnel, except for LBOS Drake Baudoin, would return to On-Call Rotation. In addition, Levee Foreman Kevin Terrebonne would take one week per month of supervisory calls to relieve Mr. Baudoin.

**Moved by Monty Vegas and seconded by Roland Guidry, the board accepted the amended On-Call Rotation policy as presented that would require, as a condition of employment, all able-bodied field personnel to be on rotation for On-Call duty, except the LBOS, Drake Baudoin.**

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

President Callais announced that the board would go into Executive Session to discuss legal matters concerning the contractor for LA Hwy 1 Realignment and Floodwall Project, Byron E. Talbot.

**Under the direction of President Ronald Callais, a motion was made by Monty Vegas to enter into Executive Session with a second by Mitch Danos. The Secretary was asked to call the roll. With 8 Yea's, 1 Absent, 0 Nay's and 0 Abstained, the board entered into Executive Session.**

**Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Mitch Danos and unanimously approved, the board exited Executive Session and re-entered Regular Session.**

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

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Ronald Callais, President

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Windell A. Curole, Executive Secretary