

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDING  
OF  
SOUTH LAFOURCHE LEVEE DISTRICT  
FEBRUARY 8, 2021**

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 8, 2021, 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 February was called to order by President Ronald Callais. Commissioner Roland Guidry led the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Callais directed the secretary to call roll.

Board members in attendance: Ronald Callais  
Roland Guidry  
Monty Vegas  
Mc Neely Rome  
Roland Curole  
Keith Guidry

Board members absent: Mitch Danos (Zoom)  
Brian Marts

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 Joe Picciola, John Plaisance, Neil Angelette, Stevie Smith, Mitch Marmande, CPRA Daniel Dearmond (Zoom); Reggie Dupre, Rep. Joe Orgeron (Zoom); and news media.

**READING OF THE MINUTES**

**The minutes of the January 11, 2020 Regular Meeting were approved unanimously upon a motion by Keith Guidry and seconded by Roland Guidry.**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**BOARD NOMINATION**

President Callais announced that Mr. Brent DeRouche had been nominated by Representative Joe Orgeron to fill the commissioners position left vacant by the passing of Mr. Bob Faulk.

**AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

There were no comments from the audience.

**GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

**SLIDE PRESENTATION**

General Manager Windell Curole showed slides of the work progressing at Section E-North where the height would be raised to +13.5 ft. Mr. Curole showed the construction at the Golden Meadow Pump Station Floodwall and explained that the dark portion of the wall had been constructed by the Corps. He added that the Levee District had requested the Corp put the wall to a height of 16 ft. but they only went to 13 ft. We informed the board that we were now raising the floodwall to a 17 ft. elevation to match the levees in that area. The next set of slides showed areas north of Bully Camp where the elevation was being raised to 18 ft. He explained that the 18 ft. height would give extra protection from storm surge if a hurricane made landfall from the west side with the eye traveling toward Lockport. The slides also showed terraces that were under construction. Reach K slides showed the marsh creation work that was filling in what was once open water. Final slides showed the Grand Bayou barge structure with aerials

that also showed Reaches K and L levees. Mr. Stevie Smith gave a brief update on the work in that area. A lengthy discussion pursued.

#### **FLOODWALL ELEVATION AT GM PUMP STATION**

- Change order to add stiffener plate to existing structure.

Mr. Curole announced that the board president had been authorized to spend up to \$50,000 without prior board authorization in certain situations. He explained that he received a call from the engineers saying they needed to add a stiffener plate to the Golden Meadow Pump Station Floodwall. Since it would not be wise to delay construction, President Callais authorized spending \$26K for the plate as recommended by the engineers. There were no objections from the board.

#### **LOOP RAMP AGREEMENT WITH BRET ALLAIN**

Mr. Curole presented a letter agreement that would allow digging of the D-North borrow pit on the Allain property. In doing so, 28,000 cubic yards of material would be removed and used for levee improvements. In exchange, the Levee District would replace Mr. Allain's stocked fish at a cost of \$2,500.00. Mr. Curole recommended the board approve the letter agreement as presented.

**Moved by Monty Vegas and seconded by McNeely Rome, the board unanimously authorized the board president or general manager to sign the letter agreement allowing the levee district to take materials from the Allain borrow pit, and to pay \$2,500.00 to restock the borrow pit with fish.**

#### **LETTER TO GOVERNOR EDWARDS FOR WATERSHED INITIATIVE FUNDS**

Mr. Curole stated that we had applied for \$5M from the Watershed Initiative. If received, those funds would be put towards the Larose Lock. We met with several entities and requested they send letters of support to help our efforts in receiving the funds.

#### **CASH FLOW FOR MORGANZA TO THE GULF PROJECTS**

Mr. Curole explained that we had paid several millions of dollars on the Morganza projects. Although those funds will be repaid to SLLD, it had caused a financial hardship for the levee district's cash flow last month. Since that time, we have spoken with the State and others, and the flow through on funds being reimbursed has greatly improved. We believe the flow will continue and funding should not be an issue moving forward. We will keep closely monitor our funding situation to avoid any problem in the future.

#### **D-SOUTH CRAWFISH FARM FLOODWALL**

Mr. Curole explained that we had received bids on the D-South floodwall with construction expected to begin in March. Approval was received from CPRA to award.

#### **EROSION ON BORROW CANAL**

Mr. Curole stated that there was some erosion on the inside of the borrow canal. He informed the board that some people were complaining about the erosion, but in our investigations, most of the erosion was from people spraying the grass and weeds in that area, or allowing cattle to degrass the bank. He added that there was no erosion where no spraying had occurred, and no erosion at all was found on the Levee District's side of the canal. Mr. Curole encouraged the public not to spray along the edges of the canal, but instead allow the natural growth of vegetation which should halt the erosion.

#### **INSTALLATION OF THE FLOODGATE AT LEON THERIOT LOCK**

Mr. Curole informed the board that the work on the south gate of the lock was going well and with no unforeseen interruptions, the gate should be reinstalled the week of Feb. 22<sup>nd</sup>.

#### **GRAND BAYOU BARGE STRUCTURE**

Mr. Curole stated the barge structure progress was discussed during the slide presentation.

#### **QUOTE FOR GRASS MAINTENANCE ON LEVEES**

Mr. Curole explained that we had trouble keeping up with grass cutting last year. He stated that we had an additional 10 miles of levees to cut this year that had been under construction last year. He stated that quotes were obtained on hiring a contractor to help with grass maintenance which would be more cost-effective than purchasing a third tractor. There were no objections from the board to contract a tractor with operator for help with maintaining grass on the levees during the grass-cutting season which would take about four months. The board instructed management to accept the lowest quote for the work.

**ENGINEERING REPORT**

**OFFICE OF COASTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION**

Mr. Daniel Dearmond 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:

- **Section E-South Grading and Shaping-Ph 2**

Low Land Construction Co., Inc. is the contractor. The contractor is complete with the project.

The Contractor has submitted Change Order No. 2 for 59 days of additional contract time due to Hurricanes Delta and Zeta and COVID issues.

The Contractor has submitted Pay Application No. 4 in the amount of \$3,000.00

**Moved by Keith Guidry, seconded by Roland Curole and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 4 in the amount of \$3,000.00.**

The Contractor has also submitted a Certificate of Substantial Completion.

**Moved by Roland Curole, seconded by Roland Guidry and unanimously accepted, the board approved Certificate of Substantial Completion.**

The Contractor has submitted Pay Application No. 14 in the amount of \$3,800.00

**Moved by Monty Vegas, seconded by Keith Guidry and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 14 in the amount of \$3,800.00.**

- **Section E-North Levee Improvements**

Grand Isle Shipyard, Inc. is the contractor. The contractor is currently on-site hauling borrow material on the levee section.

The contractor has submitted Pay Application No. 9 in the amount of \$57,548.57.

- Pay Request No. 9 in the amount of \$57,548.57

**Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Roland Guidry and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 9 in the amount of \$57,548.57.**

- **Section D-South Interim Levee Improvements – Phase 1**

SBL Construction, LLC is the contractor. The contractor is currently working on the excavating and hauling material.

The contractor has submitted Pay Application No. 11 in the amount of \$1,562.75.

- Pay Request No. 11 in the amount of \$1,562.75

**Moved by Monty Vegas, seconded by Roland Curole and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 11 in the amount of \$1,562.75.**

- **Section D-South Interim Levee Improvements – Phase 2**

SBL Construction, LLC is the contractor. The contractor is currently working on grading and shaping material.

There is no pay application this month.

- **Section F Levee Improvements**

Onshore Materials, LLC is the contractor. We held a Pre-Construction Meeting. The Notice to Proceed was issued on February 1, 2021.

There is no pay application this month.

- **Golden Meadow Pump Station Floodwall**

Sealevel Construction, Inc. is the contractor. The contractor is currently on-site tacking and welding pre-fabricating components of the wall.

The Contractor has submitted Change Order No. 1 for \$26,079.63 and 5 days of additional contract time for adding stiffener plates to the end of the structural beams.

The contractor has submitted Pay Application No. 4 in the amount of \$199,668.62.

- Pay Request No. 4 in the amount of \$199,668.62

**Moved by Monty Vegas, seconded by Roland Curole and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 4 in the amount of \$199,668.62.**

- **Maintenance of Sector Gate at Leon Theriot Lock Structure**

Circle, LLC is the Contractor. The sector gates are currently at their fabrication yard in Harvey, LA. They have been repaired and blasted and first coat of primer applied. They will begin painting top coats this week. Repairs were also made to miscellaneous steel structure, hinge bushing, composite fenders and gate latching device.

The Contractor has submitted Change Order No. 1 for \$41,996.99 and 4 days of additional contract time for Hinge Repairs, Composite Fender Replacement, Pintle Removal and Gate Latching Modifications.

**Moved by Roland Guidry, seconded by Keith Guidry and unanimously accepted, the board approved Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$41,996.99 to add four additional days to the contract.**

The contractor has submitted Pay Applications No. 2 in the amount of \$141,535.94.

**Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Keith Guidry and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 2 in the amount of \$141,535.94.**

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

Engineer John Plaisance reported the following:

- **A-East Bayou Water Retention**

We are still waiting on USACE to issue the permit

GIS continues discussions with LOOP and other pipeline companies to satisfy requirements necessary to cross their pipelines

GIS has developed servitude requirements for the project and forwarded the proposed maps to the SLLD attorney

GIS continues to develop the plans and specifications to begin advertising for bids once the permitting and land issues are resolved.

- **D-South Farm Floodwall Improvements**

Bids were opened for Phase I of improvements on 01/29/21.

GIS recommends award to Sealevel Construction in the base bid amount of \$1,648,822.00

GIS has sent the final plans and specifications for Phase II to CPRA & SLLD for their review on 02/02/2021.

- **Golden Meadow Boat Launch Ramp**

The construction contract was awarded to Low Land construction Company, Inc., in the amount of \$99,976.00. Low Land substantially completed construction of this project on December 29, 2020. There is some minor dressing up that needs to take place. There will be a change order for additional fill that was placed around Pump Station No. 1's discharge pipes. We are currently

waiting for the post-construction surveys to be completed to determine the amount of material that was needed.

- **Section D-North Ramp**

Eustis Engineering is finalizing the geotechnical report and is expected to be received by end of week 02/05/21.

GIS is coordinating with LOOP on finalizing the “LOOP-SLLD Crossing agreement”

- **Grand Bayou Flood Control Structure**

- Grand Bayou Bypass Channel Emergency Efforts (Hurricane Zeta) (Onshore)  
Pay Request in the amount of \$32,000 to Onshore Materials

**Moved by Monty Vegas, seconded by McNeely Rome and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request in the amount of \$32,000 to Onshore Materials.**

- Floodwall & Receiving Structure  
Completed jacket installations; including all 84” jacket piles and associated shear lugs  
Continued installed the 5 & 7 pile dolphins (timbers piles).  
Began installing the timber guide walls  
Installed and tested lift #4 & #5 on the east side surcharge area  
Installation has begun on the 30in battered pile for the west side floodwall

Pay Request No. 9 in the amount of \$752,220.34

**Moved by Roland Guidry , seconded by Keith Guidry and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 9 in the amount of \$752,220.34 to Sealevel Construction.**

Change Order No. 5 in the amount of \$168,609 (Hurricane Delta)  
Adds Thirty-three (33 Days to the Contract for Weather and Impacts from Emergency Efforts

**Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Monty Vegas and unanimously accepted, the board approved Change Order No. 5 in the amount of \$168,609.00 to add 30 days for weather and impacts from emergency efforts.**

Pay Request no. 10 in the amount of \$168,609 (Hurricane Delta)

**Moved by Keith Guidry , seconded by Roland Curole and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 10 in the amount of \$168,609.00 to Sealevel Construction.**

Change Order No. 6 in the amount of \$11,121.34 (Hurricane Zeta)  
**Moved by Keith Guidry, seconded by Roland Guidry and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 10 in the amount of \$168,609.00 to Sealevel Construction.**

Pay Request No. 11 in the amount of \$11,121.34 (Hurricane Zeta)  
**Moved by Roland Curole, seconded by Roland Guidry and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 11 in the amount of \$11,121.34 to Sealevel Construction.**

GIS Engineering Amendment No. 5 in the amount of \$19,512.50  

- Engineering Service for Hurricane Zeta Efforts.  
**Moved by Keith Guidry, seconded by Roland Curole and unanimously accepted, the board approved Amendment No. 5 to add \$19,512.50 to the engineering contract.**

- Barge Gate  
Fitting of gulf side main deck panels has been initiated  
Fitting and welding handrail stanchions on floodwall section frames 1 to 21  
All ballast piping has been set in their location inside of compartments and set 20” vertical fill pipe on 30” sea chest pipe  
Fabricating of Pivot Arm is under progress

Installation of 72" flap gate flanges onto flow thru tubes is under progress  
Completed welding of control house I-beam foundation  
Eight Access hatches have been on main deck  
Installed inland side of bottom seal keeps

Pay Request No. 4 in the amount of \$349,671.63

**Moved by Roland Guidry, seconded by Roland Curole and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 4 in the amount of \$349,671.63 to Sealevel Construction.**

- Hurricane Delta  
Emergency barge removal is complete. The barge was removed on December 2, 2020, opening the channel to navigation.  
All sandbags at the site and laydown yard were placed along Reach L heading north from the project site  
CBC MIAMI barge repairs are nearly complete, pending coating touch-ups and submittal of Canal Barge (barge owner) signed-off confirmation

#### **LEVEE 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

- **C-South Levee Improvements**

The contractor, Grand Isle Shipyard, LLC, is continuing with construction on this project. We are recommending approval of Pay Request No. 9 in the amount of \$145,442.06

- Pay Request No. 9 in the amount of \$145,442.06

**Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Keith Guidry and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 9 in the amount of \$145,442.06.**

- **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 currently being reviewed by the levee district and CPRA.

- **Larose Floodwall Height Improvement, West End A-Phase 5 to 13.5 Ft.**

We received bids on February 4, 2021 for this project. The apparent low bidder, Picciola Construction Co., Inc., has submitted a request for withdrawing his bid. Based on the information provided by the contractor and my review of the public bid law, I am recommending that the board accept Picciola Construction Co., Inc.'s request to withdraw his bid and award the project to Sealevel Construction, Inc. for \$876,600.00, all pending approval from the State of Louisiana.

**Moved by Monty Vegas, seconded by McNeely Rome and unanimously approved, the board agreed to allow Picciola Construction Co., Inc. to withdraw their bid and award the project to Sealevel Construction, Inc. for \$876,600.00, all pending approval from the State of Louisiana. The board further authorized President Ronald Callais or General Manager Windell Curole to accept the withdrawal, award the project to Sealevel and sign any documents necessary to proceed with the project upon receipt of State approval.**

#### **MORGANZA TO THE GULF**

##### **DELTA COAST CONSULTANTS**

Program Manager Report (Mitch Marmande)

- Mr. Marmande stated that he had been working hard to make sure the certification of invoices was processed in a timely manner and requested the Levee District bring to his attention any issues that need to be addressed. Mr. Curole added that Ms. Mary Punch had been successful in catching up with the invoices and keeping track of the cash flow. He added that Delta

Construction and the State had also completed their tasks to satisfaction for the continuous flow of funds for all projects.

**ALL SOUTH CONSULTING ENGINEERS**

Engineer Report (Stevie Smith)

- **Emergency Rehabilitation of Reach K Spoil Material (Phase I)**

Project is complete and is in the clear lien period

Pay Application No. 4 Low Land Construction in the amount of \$12,540.00

**Moved by Keith Guidry, seconded by McNeely Rome and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 4 in the amount of \$12,540.00**

- **Emergency Rehabilitation of Reach K Spoil Material (Phase II)**

Sealevel continues work on west bank of Grand Bayou. They have completed clearing and grubbing the entire 23,000 LF project area as well as shaping the flood side berm. Approximately 17,000 LF of the protected side berm is complete and 10,000 LF of the levee is shaped into template. Contractor has begun moving material along the length of the levee as needed and has completed approximately 1,500 LF of levee utilizing this construction technique.

Proposed Encroachment Agreement with Williams Pipeline.

This is the Discovery line that passes through Reach K. Since we're now bringing equipment to the area, they've requested we sign an encroachment agreement. We would ask for approval of the agreement pending legal approval.

**Moved by McNeely Rome and seconded by Roland Curole, board authorized President Roland Callais or General Manager Windell Curole to sign the proposed Encroachment Agreement with Williams Pipeline, pending legal counsel's review.**

Pay Application No. 4 to Sealevel Construction in the amount of \$118,437.01

**Moved by Keith Guidry, seconded by Roland Guidry and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 4 in the amount of \$118,437.01**

- **Supply & Deliver Material Lost to Reach K (Hurricane Barry)**

Sealevel has hauled approximately 10,000 CY of the 55,000 CY contract. 5,000 CY of the 10,000CY has been delivered to the southern end of the project via highway trucks and then rehandled with track trucks. Also, 5,000 CY of material has been barged to just south of the northern water control structure.

Pay Application No. 2 to Sealevel Construction in the amount of \$216,477.45

**Moved by Roland Guidry, seconded by Roland Curole and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 2 in the amount of \$216,477.45**

Mr. Reggie Dupre informed the board that the 55K cubic yards of material would be enough to raise all of Reach K to 8-8.5 ft. on all but around 2,000 feet of levee, or 12,000 cubic yards of material. He stated that they would seek Capital Outlay funds for the remaining material. Mr. Dupre also added that the project was double-funded by both the State and FEMA, and that FEMA funds, once received, would be used to repay the State so those funds could be used on another project.

- **FEMA Program Management (Grant Management)**

Amendment to engineering agreement with increase of \$25,000.

**Moved by Keith Guidry, seconded by Roland Curole and unanimously carried, the board authorized the increase of \$25,000.00 to the engineering contract for Grants Management services in connection with filing FEMA claims.**

Mr. Dupre informed Mr. Curole that Ms. Lucy Naquin had contacted him regarding concerns over using the road to transport the pipe piles. Mr. Curole said he would contact Ms. Naquin and assure her that the road would be returned to better condition than before transporting the pipes. A brief discussion pursued.

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

**OLD BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

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

/s/Ronald Callais, President

/s/Windell A. Curole, Executive Secretary