

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDING  
OF  
SOUTH LAFOURCHE LEVEE DISTRICT  
APRIL 8, 2024**

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, April 8, 2024, 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 April was called to order by President Keith Guidry. Commissioner Brian Marts led the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Guidry directed the secretary to call roll.

Board members in attendance: Keith Guidry  
Ronald Callais  
Roland Curole  
Mitch Danos  
Brett DeRoche  
Brian Marts  
Mc Neely Rome  
Scott Theriot  
Monty Vegas

Board members absent: None

Also present were:

General Manager Nicholas Matherne  
Executive Secretary 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  
Neil Angelette  
John Plaisance  
Stevie Smith  
CPRA Daniel Dearmond  
Doug Cheramie, Gov. Landry's office  
Caroline Theriot, Senator John Kennedy's  
office  
News media

**READING OF THE MINUTES**

The minutes of the March 19, 2024, Regular Meeting were approved unanimously upon a motion by Roland Curole and seconded by Brett DeRoche.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**ALBL SPRING WORKSHOP – MAY 2-3, 2024**

President Guidry reminded the commissioners of the upcoming ALBL Workshop.

**TIER 2.1 FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE**

President Guidry stated that the Tier 2.1 Financial Disclosure was due in May. He asked each member to review their forms and get with Administrative Assistant Amy Gisclair for any corrections.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF APRIL 1, 2024**

Chairman Ronald Callais reported on the following items:

1. Amendment to ASCE engineering contract for BRIC application in the amount of \$10K.

2. Review of proposed FY2025 Budget.
3. Letter of No Objection from Chevron for A-East Water Retention project which passes over their pipeline.
4. Renewal of agreement with GLPC for lock operations.
5. First year employee evaluation for General Manager Nic Matherne.
6. Mooring piles north of Ted Gisclair Floodgate in Larose for vessels to tie up safely.

#### **AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

There were no comments from the audience.

#### **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

##### **ADD ITEM TO AGENDA: RESTORE OR RETREAT COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT**

General Manager Nic Matherne requested an item be added to the agenda so that a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement could be approved to donate \$500 to Restore or Retreat.

**On a motion by Ronald Callais and seconded by McNeely Rome, a roll call was taken to amend the agenda to add "Restore or Retreat Cooperative Endeavor Agreement". With 9 Yays, 0 Nays, 0 Absent and 0 Abstained, the motion passed, and the agenda was amended.**

##### **RESTORE OR RETREAT COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR AGREEMENT**

Mr. Matherne briefed the board on several projects Restore or Retreat was planning which would benefit our levees, and recommended the board enter into a CEA to support the organization.

**Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Scott Theriot and unanimously accepted, the board authorized the general manager or board president to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Restore or Retreat and to submit a donation in the amount of \$500.00 for the year 2024.**

##### **LETTER AGREEMENT WITH SCULLY CORPORATION FOR COVERING CLOVELLY PS DISCHARGE PIPES**

Mr. Matherne announced that the Letter Agreement with Scully Corporation would need to be pushed back until next month. He stated that he had sent the agreement to Scully for review but had not heard back from them.

##### **LONO FROM CHEVRON FOR A-EAST BAYOU WATER RETENTION**

Mr. Matherne explained that the A-East Bayou Water Retention was an open water acreage south of Pump Station No. 4 that we planned to enclose with a three-foot-high levee, and a couple of water control structures that would allow us to hold water in this large section thereby reducing the amount of water we would need to pump out of the bayou during a heavy rain event. Once the water was equalized, we would be able to open the gate and allow the water to recede without having to physically pump it out. One of the pipelines that we've crossed is owned by Chevron and listed on the Letter of No Objection. Mr. Matherne recommended the board accept the Letter of No Objection as presented.

**Moved by Brett DeRoche, seconded by Brian Marts and unanimously accepted, the board authorized the execution of the Letter of No Objection, by the general manager or board president, from Chevron for the A-East Bayou Water Retention project.**

##### **NFIP LAWSUIT UPDATE**

Mr. Matherne reminded the board of the multi-party lawsuit against FEMA. Mr. Matherne updated the board on a timeline of events that had happened since the suit was filed. He added that the judge denied FEMA's request to dismiss the lawsuit. Our motion for a preliminary injunction was also denied. FEMA will be allowed to continue using Risk Rating 2.0 during the lawsuit. There were no further updates from the Attorney General's office, but Mr. Matherne stated he would share any new updates with the board as he received them.

**IDA NON-FEDERAL PA MATCH CEA**

Mr. Matherne stated that after Hurricane Ida we had disaster repairs on the levee and buildings that had to be repaired which were covered under FEMA’s Public Assistance program. However, there was a local cost-share that was required on certain items. ASCE applied for a Community Development Block Grant from the State’s Division of Administration, Office of Community Development. That grant would have allowed the State to cover our cost-share portion so Hurricane Ida repairs would be at no cost to us. This grant will cover a portion of our repairs. Mr. Matherne stated that the agreement would cover our share of the remaining Category A debris removal which totaled a little over \$4.9M with our share being \$469,103.72. He stated that the grant would cover that amount fully, but that there were other areas that were not covered under the initial grant application. He added that we have the ability to go back and request more CDBG dollars to cover the project worksheets that had already been obligated, meaning reviewed and approved by FEMA. Mr. Matherne stated that having just received the CEA today, legal counsel had not had a chance to review. He recommended the board approve the agreement contingent upon legal counsel’s review and advice. The CEA offers \$469,103.72 to cover our 10% cost-share for debris removal. He added that the agreement could be amended in the future to cover other expenses.

**Moved by Ronald Callais, and seconded by Scott Theriot, the board unanimously approved the execution of the Ida Non-Federal PA Match Cooperative Endeavor Agreement, contingent upon legal counsel’s review and advice, and authorized the general manager or board president to sign the agreement.**

**ENGINEERING REPORT**

**OFFICE OF COASTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION**

Mr. Daniel Dearmond stated 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:

- **Larose Lock Project**  
Project Plans and Specifications are 95% complete. All permitting is complete. We are now preparing the Final Plan and Specifications for Issuance to Bid and Right of Way Plans.
- **Section E-North Levee Improvements Southeast Corner to Northeast Corner**  
Construction Site Specialties, LLC is the contractor. The Notice to Proceed was issued on June 19<sup>th</sup>. The contractor is on-site moving material when weather permits.

There is no pay application this month from Construction Site Specialties, LLC.

- **Maintenance of North Sector Gates at Leon Theriot Lock**  
Sealevel Construction, Inc. is the contractor. The Notice to Proceed was issued on February 5, 2024. The contractor has completed blasting and painting the gates. They are currently re-installing the gates in the lock.

Sealevel has submitted Pay Application No. 2 in the amount of \$313,205.50

**Moved by Mitch Danos, seconded by Brett DeRoche and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 2 in the amount of \$313,205.50.**

- **A-East Interim Levee Improvements**  
Project Plans and Specifications are complete. They have been submitted to CPRA for approval. We spoke to CPRA and requested Eustis Engineering provide a proposal for

additional geotechnical analysis. Eustis has completed all of the field work and are working on the geotechnical lab work and engineering analysis.

Acceptance of engineering agreement.

**Moved by Monty Vegas and seconded by McNeely Rome, the board unanimously approved the engineering agreement for A-East Levee Improvements as presented by Joe Picciola of Picciola and Associates.**

- **Replacement of Discharge Pipe at Pump Station No. 8**

Sealevel Construction, Inc. is the contractor. The Notice to Proceed was issued on February 5, 2024. The contractor has completed fabricating the discharge pipe and is currently on site installing new pipe.

Sealevel has submitted Pay Application No. 2 in the amount of \$66,838.50.

**Moved by Scott Theriot, seconded by Roland Curole and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 2 in the amount of \$66,838.50.**

- **Repairs to North Gate Structure (Leon Theriot Lock)**

We are preparing Plans and Specifications for repairs to concrete, structural steel and timber fenders. We have prepared a damage report to detail the extent of damage and the investigations performed thus far.

Acceptance of engineering agreement.

**Moved by Monty Vegas and seconded by McNeely Rome, the board unanimously approved the engineering agreement for A-East Levee Improvements as presented by Joe Picciola of Picciola and Associates.**

Advertise for Bids

**Moved by Roland Curole and seconded by Brett DeRoche, the board unanimously agreed to authorize Picciola and Associates to advertise for bid the Repairs to North Gate Structure project.**

## **GIS ENGINEERING, LLC**

Engineer John Plaisance reported the following:

- **A-East Bayou Water Retention – GIS# 39130-1251/1252**

USACE issued their permit for the project on November 29, 2021. The USACE permit expires on August 31, 2026. LaDNR issued their permit for the project on March 5, 2024. The LaDNR permit requires that work begin by March 5, 2026.

GIS is coordinating with pipeline and utility companies to satisfy requirements necessary to cross their pipelines. GIS continues to coordinate with Chevron (Arcadis) to prepare a Letter of No Objection.

GIS developed servitude requirements for the project and re-sent the proposed maps to the SLLD attorney.

Plans and specifications for the project have been completed. We can begin advertising for bids once the permitting and land issues are resolved.

Estimated Advertise Date: Q3 2024

Estimated Completion Date: Q3 2025

Proposed Elevation: +3'

- **D-North Ramp Lift (Material Stockpile) – GIS# 39130-1249/1457**

SLLD met with the property owner to determine which borrow area will be used for the D-North Ramp project. We are awaiting final approval before moving forward with the Material Stockpile project.

Approval to award Material Stockpile project to Outer Limit at the cost of \$234,800.

**Moved by Brian Marts, seconded by Brett DeRoche and unanimously accepted, the board awarded D-North Ramp Lift, Material Stockpile Project to Outer Limit at the cost of \$234,800.00.**

**D-North Ramp Lift – GIS# 39130-1249/1457**

GIS began design of completion of the ramp lift work. Once the material stockpile project is completed, GIS will finalize the bid package.

Estimated Advertisement Date: June 2024 (Pending Landowner Negotiations)

Estimated Completion Date: October 2024 (Pending Landowner Negotiations)

Proposed Elevation: +16.0'

- **Reconnection of Breton Canal to Bayou Lafourche – GIS# 39130-1329**

Advertising for Bids began on March 19, 2024, with receipt of bids scheduled for April 18, 2024.

Estimated Construction Cost: \$950,000 (with 15% contingency)

- **D-South Floodwall at Crawfish Farms, Phase III Improvements – GIS# 39130-TBD**

GIS has submitted the Final Design Package to SLLD. After review by SLLD and CPRA, we can proceed to advertising.

Estimated Advertisement Date: Q2 2024

Estimated Construction Cost: \$785,000

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

Engineer Neil Angelette reported the following:

- **C-North Levee Improvements**

The contractor, Compeaux & Sons Construction, LLC is continuing work on the project to shape the levee to +13.5'. We are recommending approval of Invoice #1244 in the amount of \$72,675.00.

**Moved by Mitch Danos, seconded by McNeely Rome and unanimously accepted, the board approved Invoice No. 1244 to Compeaux & Sons in the amount of \$72,675.00.**

- **C-South Floodside Repairs**

The contractor, Compeaux & Sons Construction, LLC is continuing work on the project to rebuild the flood side berm of the levee. We are recommending approval of Invoice #1245 in the amount of \$48,440.00.

**Moved by Brett DeRoche, seconded by Brian Marts and unanimously accepted, the board approved Invoice No. 1245 in the amount of \$48,440.00.**

- **Larose Floodwall Vessel Impact Barrier**

The contractor, Low Land Construction Company, Inc. is continuing with work on the project. We are recommending approval of Application for Payment No. 4 in the amount of \$141,521.50.

**Moved by Monty Vegas, seconded by McNeely Rome, with one opposition by Mitch Danos, the board approved Pay Request No. 4 in the amount of \$141,521.50.**

- **Section F Berm Improvements**

The contractor, Sealevel Construction, Inc. is continuing with work on the project to improve the protected side berm. We are recommending approval of Application for Payment No. 6 in the amount of \$203,062.50.

**Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Scott Theriot and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 6 in the amount of \$203,062.50.**

**MORGANZA TO THE GULF**

**DELTA COAST CONSULTANTS**

Program Manager Report (Mitch Marmande) was not in attendance.

**ALL SOUTH CONSULTING ENGINEERS**

Engineer Report (Stevie Smith)

- **Golden Meadow Marsh Terraces**

The Levee District has applied for the BRIC (Building Resistant Infrastructure & Communities) grant, a federal program that will fund marsh protection such as the one in Golden Meadow. The application was submitted at the end of February for this particular 48-acre site along B-South. The grant is around \$3.5M.

Amendment No. 1 to the Engineering Contract to cover costs of applying for the grant. Moved by Ronald Callais, and seconded by McNeely Rome, the board unanimously approved Amendment No. 1 to the All South Consulting Engineers agreement to add engineering costs for submitting the Golden Meadow Marsh Terraces grant application through BRIC.

- **Reach K Marsh Mitigation Emergency Rehabilitation Phase II**

Reach K terraces were damaged during Hurricane Barry. We have submitted a FEMA claim to pay for the repairs. Terrebonne Levee & Conservation District (TLCD) will be making the repairs with their own people and equipment and invoices SLLD for those costs. SLLD will submit the costs to FEMA for reimbursement.

- **Hurricane Ida Response**

We continue to work on Hurricane Ida Response with FEMA and the Corps. We received a letter from the Corps stating that we are not included in the RIP program which means the Corps will not pay for the repairs. Therefore, this should make us eligible for FEMA payments, but FEMA has still not acknowledged that.

**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 announced that the appeal for LA Contracting suit had been launched. He stated that he would let the board know as soon as he had an update.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**INVOICES**

Commissioner Monty Vegas announced that the Finance Committee had reviewed the invoices and recommended they be paid.

**On a motion of Ronald Callais, seconded by Brett DeRoche, and unanimously carried, the board approved the payment of the invoices as presented.**

**ADOPTION OF FY2025 PROPOSED BUDGET**

Commissioner Monty Vegas stated that the budget for Fiscal Year 2025 had been reviewed by the Finance Committee and it was recommended that the board approve as presented.

**Moved by Brian Marts and seconded by Roland Curole, the board unanimously approved the Fiscal Year 2025 Proposed Budget as presented.**

Mr. Matherne informed the board that out of the \$64M of Capital Projects that are earmarked for Fiscal Year 2025 spending, \$50M of that would come from the State through grants so our cost-share would be low.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

**ONE-YEAR EVALUATION: NIC MATHERNE**

Commissioner Monty Vegas announced that Nic Matherne had met his one-year mark serving as general manager and had a favorable review.

**REVISIONS TO POLICIES AND PROCEDURES MANUAL**

Mr. Vegas announced that Administrative Assistant Mary Punch had finalized revisions for the Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual, and recommended the board accept the revisions as presented.

**On a motion of Mitch Danos, seconded by McNeely Rome, and unanimously carried, the board approved the revisions to the Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual as presented.**

**REVIEW OF PERSONNEL JOB TITLES AND PAY SCALE**

Mr. Vegas announced that the Levee District was working to simplify job titles and pay scales which would be presented at the May meeting for adoption.

**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 Monty Vegas and seconded by Mitch Danos.**

/s/Keith Guidry, President

/s/Nicholas Matherne, General Manager