

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDING
OF
SOUTH LAFOURCHE LEVEE DISTRICT
MAY 13, 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, May 13, 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 May was called to order by President Keith Guidry. Commissioner Brett DeRoche led the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Guidry directed the secretary to call roll.

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

Board members absent: Ronald Callais
Brian Marts

Also present were:

General Manager Nicholas Matherne	CPRD Daniel Dearmond
Administrative Assistant 6 Mary Punch	Wendy Thibodaux, Parish Tax Assessor
Administrative Assistant 3 Amy Gisclair	Caroline Theriot, US Senator John Kennedy
Levee Board Operations Superintendent Drake Baudoin	Daniel Lorraine, LPC District 9
Attorney Ryan Collins	Janet Rhodus, Launch Leeville
Engineering Personnel:	Robert Theriot
Joe Picciola	News media
Neil Angelette	
Nicholas Angelette	
John Plaisance	
Kevin Dezarn	
Laura Barnes	
Stevie Smith	

READING OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the April 8, 2024, Regular Meeting were approved unanimously upon a motion by Monty Vegas and seconded by McNeely Rome.

The minutes of the May 8, 2024, Special Meeting were approved unanimously upon a motion by Brett DeRoche and seconded by McNeely Rome.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

UPDATE FROM ALBL WORKSHOP

President Guidry announced that the annual ALBL Workshop in Baton Rouge was attended by several commissioners and staff members. He stated that the workshop was very informative.

PUBLIC HEARING FOR REVIEW OF AMENDED FY2024 BUDGET

President Guidry announced that a Public Hearing would be held on Monday, June 10, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. to consider the Amended FY2024 Budget. The Regular Meeting would be held at 3:05 or immediately after the Public Hearing.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF MAY 6, 2024

President Guidry briefed the board on items that were discussed during the Executive Committee Meeting held on May 6, 2024. Discussions included the following:

- MAC Membership
- Quotes on Tractor and Excavator
- Injury at LT Lock
- Breton Canal Weir
- Clovelly Discharge Pipes
- Siphon Vandalism/Theft at Pump Station No. 4
- NVI Pipe Inspection/Quote
- Possible Change Order for Section F Berm
- Hamilton Street Residents' Complaints

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

WENDY THIBODAUX – TAX ASSESSOR

Lafourche Parish Tax Assessor Wendy Thibodaux gave a presentation on Reassessment and Millages using her “faucet” visual aid. Since 2024 is a reassessment year, the presentation was helpful to the board and audience in understanding reassessed values.

DANIEL LORRAINE – LAFOURCHE PARISH COUNCIL, DISTRICT 9

Councilman Daniel Lorraine explained to the Board that there were two levees, Mobley and Serigny, south of the Leon Theriot Locks, that were built by the Parish over 41 years ago. He explained that the levees were built for tidal flow, not hurricane protection. There was one pump at each levee, but Hurricane Ida destroyed both. Mr. Lorraine stated that the Parish Administration was asked to replace the pumps but had not done so. He asked that the board support the replacement of the pumps. A brief discussion pursued.

JANET RHODUS – LAUNCH LEEVILLE

Ms. Janet Rhodus invited everyone to the Louisiana Boulettes & Balloons Festival at the Golden Meadow Park on May 17th and 18th. She added to the earlier discussion that the standing water issue with the small levees was causing a huge mosquito problem for people on both sides of the levee. Some of the property owners who live in that area have been working hard to pump water down at a huge cost to themselves by providing gas for their pumps, but that they could not keep the water out completely. Ms. Rhodus complimented the job that the SLLD board was doing and thanked them for their time.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

APPROVAL TO OBTAIN NEW CREDIT CARD

General Manager Nic Matherne stated that he had authorization to change the current credit card from Windell Curole's name to his, but that they had run into multiple issues trying to get that done. He informed the board that we have investigated other options and found an option for a Visa credit card through Chase bank. He added that the current American Express card had a \$95 annual fee. Chase Visa, which is more widely accepted, has no annual fee. He requested the board authorize him to cancel the American Express card and apply for the Chase Business Visa credit card in his name which would be used for SLLD daily business purchases.

Moved by McNeely Rome and seconded Scott Theriot, the board unanimously authorized General Manager Nic Matherne to cancel the SLLD's American Express credit card and apply for the Chase Visa Business credit card in Mr. Matherne's name on behalf of the South Lafourche Levee District.

CLOVELLY DISCHARGE PIPE

Mr. Matherne explained that this was the lowest portion of our levee in E-North. He met with the Scully Corporation last fall at the site to discuss the possibility of filling in with dirt over, and in between their discharge pipes to get that level of elevation up to the rest of our levee. They verbally agreed, so Mr. Matherne drafted a letter agreement and submitted to their attorney for review. He recently received comments back and had sent those over to Attorney Ryan Collins. Their comments were to make sure we would be responsible and to make repairs for any damage caused by SLLD, no heavy equipment would be tracked across the pipes in the future other than zero-turn mowers, and in the future if they need to replace their pipes, we would work with them to remove the dirt so they could access their pipes. We would monitor any subsidence or gaps in the area. All requests were reasonable, and we don't foresee any issues with the agreement. Mr. Matherne recommended the board approve the letter agreement

with the Scully Corporation for the covering of the discharge pipes at Clovelly Farms pending the review and recommendation of the board attorney.

Moved by Roland Curole, seconded by Monty Vegas and unanimously approved, the board authorized the board president or general manager, contingent upon legal review, to sign the letter agreement, and any other relevant documents, between the South Lafourche Levee District and General Agricultural Services, LLC for the earthen embankment cover of the Clovelly Pump Station Discharge Pipes.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER COMMISSION HIGH WATER INSPECTION

Mr. Matherne explained that he attended the MS River Commission that held their high-water inspection on April 11th and 12th. Mr. Matherne stated that he was able to speak and give comments to key personnel and others on our situation in trying to get back into the Rehabilitation and Inspection Program (RIP).

MEDIA RELATIONS TRAINING

Mr. Matherne stated that the Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office hosted a Media Relations Training course for public bodies. Mr. Matherne explained the training he and others received concerning how to conduct interviews and use correct wording on social media posts to get the information to the right people at the right time during emergency situations and controlling rumor mills.

TED GISLCLAR LOCK FUNDING UPDATE

Mr. Matherne announced that CPRA Chairman Gordy Dove requested \$15M for us to receive in surplus funding this year for the Ted Gisclair Lock in Larose. He explained that all surplus funding went to DOTD to supply funds to the entire state rather than a few specific projects. Since that time, another possible \$80M had been identified in surplus funding and would be brought up on the Senate side to where that money would go. Mr. Matherne stated that the last conversation he had with CPRA was that they planned to request \$40M of the \$80M for various projects. We are pushing to get the full \$15M but may have to settle for less. Mr. Matherne stated he would continue to stay in contact with CPRA on this issue.

EAST SIDE DRAINAGE PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. Matherne explained that the East Side Drainage project was a Parish project that had received statewide funding from DOTD a few years ago. The project was to improve drainage canals inside the levee system between Bayou Lafourche and the eastern edge of our levee system on Hwy 308 side. He added that the Parish had completed a lot of internal drainage work and the last project was to construct a new drainage pump station. Their plans were to place the pump station at the end of the Valerie Canal which is south of Clovelly Farms, or a little north of our Pump Station No. 6. Mr. Matherne explained that he was in discussions with the Parish over that location because it allowed no access for our crew who would be manning the station without building a bridge and access road. Instead, Mr. Matherne was suggesting it be placed next to Pump Station No. 6, which would also be at the end of Breton Canal. With the proposed Breton Canal Weir in place, the new pumps could handle that extra water. DOTD engineers had no issues with the location we proposed as long as we could prove the hydraulics would not be different.

STATE/FEDERAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Matherne explained that we had requested \$400K through State Capital Outlay so we could put digital water and climate gages at all our pump stations and the two floodgates. Information would then be accessible through phone or website that anyone could access. The information given would be wind speed and direction, rainfall, temperature, and water levels inside and outside the system. This request was in the amended Capital Outlay bill, but in Priority 5 which basically means no funding. Mr. Matherne stated he was now working with Senator Fesi's office to get that moved to Priority 1 instead of Priority 5.

Mr. Matherne stated on the Federal side, the Morganza Action Coalition (MAC) had requested the SLLD rejoin with them. Part of the benefit would be that we would have access to their federal lobbyist, Mr. Mike Henry with Acorn Consulting-DC. Mr. Matherne explained that Mr. Henry had been working with him to fine tune the wording in the WRDA bill to help get us back into the USACE's RIP program and to get the Corps to acknowledge that the work we'd done since 2005 had not damaged their project at all, but that we have, in fact, improved our levees. Afterwards we would fight to get federal credit for all the work done. He informed the board that Congressman Garret Graves was also working with us on this and that Congressman Scalise's staff was also aware of what we were doing, and that we would keep them informed as we go.

ENGINEERING REPORT

OFFICE OF COASTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION

Mr. Daniel Dearmond stated that Mr. Matherne had already reported on the funding already and he had nothing more 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 Plans 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 19th. The contractor is on-site moving material when the weather permits.

Construction Site Specialties, LLC has submitted Pay Application No. 5 in the amount of \$74,228.01.

Moved by Brett DeRoche, seconded by Roland Curole and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 5 in the amount of \$74,228.01.

- **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 the project.

Sealevel Construction, Inc. has submitted Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$37,500.00 for extra work performed and six (6) additional contract days.

Moved by Mc Neely Rome, seconded by Monty Vegas and unanimously accepted, the board approved Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$37,500.00.

Sealevel Construction, Inc. has submitted the Certificate of Substantial Completion.

Moved by Scott Theriot, seconded by Brett DeRoche and unanimously accepted, the board approved Substantial Completion as submitted.

Sealevel Construction, Inc. has submitted Pay Application No. 3 in the amount of \$129,437.50.

Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Monty Vegas and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 3 in the amount of \$129,437.50.

- **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.

- **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 the project.

Sealevel Construction, Inc. has submitted Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$4,7200.00 for extra work performed and six (6) additional contract days.

Moved by Scott Theriot, seconded by Roland Curole and unanimously accepted, the board approved Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$4,720.00.

Sealevel Construction, Inc. has submitted the Certificate of Substantial Completion.

Moved by Monty Vegas, seconded by Mitch Danos and unanimously accepted, the board approved Substantial Completion as submitted.

Sealevel Construction, Inc. has submitted Pay Application No. 3 in the amount of \$22,684.50.

Moved by Brett DeRoche, seconded by Mitch Danos and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 3 in the amount of \$22,684.50.

- **Repairs to North Gate Structure (Leon Theriot Lock)**
We have prepared Plans and Specifications for repairs to concrete, structural steel and timber fenders. We are advertising for bids starting on May 10th and will accept bids on June 6, 2024.
- **Repairs to Pump No. 1 at Pump Station No. 2**
We met with Boland Marine and developed a scope of work. We solicited bids from three (3) contractors and will be awarding bids at the Special Meeting held on May 8th at 1:00 pm.

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. LaDENR issued their permit for the project on March 5, 2024. The LaDENR 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 resent 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 waiting final approval before moving forward with the Material Stockpile project.
- **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: October 2024 (Pending Landowner Negotiations)
 - Estimated Completion Date: February 2025 (Pending Landowner Negotiations)
 - Proposed Elevation: +16.0'
- **Reconnection of Breton Canal to Bayou Lafourche – GIS# 39130-1329**
 - Vote to add “Bid Recommendation and Award” to agenda
With 7 Yays, 0 Nays, 2 Absent and 0 Abstained, the Board amended the agenda to add “Bid Recommendation and Award” to Reconnection of Breton Canal to Bayou Lafourche-GIS# 39130-1329.
 - Bid Recommendation and Award
Bids received on April 25, 2024. Lowest responsive and responsible bid received from Garden Environments, Inc., in the amount of \$999,000.00. GIS recommends awarding the construction contract to Garden Environments.
Moved by Monty Vegas and seconded by Brett DeRoche, the board unanimously approved and accepted the low bid from Garden Environments for the Reconnection of Breton Canal to Bayou Lafourche project in the amount of \$999,000.00.
- **D-South Floodwall at Crawfish Farms, Phase III Improvements – GIS# 39130-TBD**
 - GIS has submitted the Final Design Package to SLLD and CPRA. SLLD has provided comments; we are waiting on CPRA’s review and comments.

- Estimated Advertisement Date: Q3 2024
- Estimated Construction Cost: \$785,000

LEEVE 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 #1253 in the amount of \$124,817.50.

Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Mitch Danos and unanimously accepted, the board approved Invoice No. 1253 in the amount of \$124,817.50.

- **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 #1252 in the amount of \$73,893.75.

Moved by Roland Curole, seconded by Scott Theriot and unanimously accepted, the board approved Invoice No. 1252 in the amount of \$73,893.75.

- **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. 5 in the amount of \$369,360.00.

Moved by Monty Vegas, seconded by McNeely Rome, and opposed by Mitch Danos, by a majority the board approved Pay Request No. 5 in the amount of \$369,360.00.

- **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. 7 in the amount of \$586,910.00.

Moved by Brett DeRoche, seconded by Mitch Danos and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 7 in the amount of \$586,910.00.

Change Order No. 1 to add 10,000 cubic yards of material at the current contract price of \$20.20 per yard for a total amount of \$202,000.00.

Moved by Brett DeRoche, seconded by Roland Curole and unanimously accepted, the board approved Change Order No. 1 for 10,000 cubic yards of additional material in the amount of \$202,000.00.

MORGANZA TO THE GULF

DELTA COAST CONSULTANTS

Program Manager Report (Mitch Marmande)

There was no one in attendance from Delta Coast.

ALL SOUTH CONSULTING ENGINEERS

Engineer Report (Stevie Smith)

Golden Meadow Marsh Terraces

- All South submitted a FEMA BRIC grant application for a marsh restoration project on February 15, 2024.
- LA submitted their application by February 29, 2024, which included this project.
- This project includes 0.7 miles of dike at +4' elevation impounding 48.3 acres to be filled to +3.0' with dredge material. Assuming it will settle to a +2.0' elevation.
- Estimated Project Budget was \$3.7 million with SLLD share being approximately \$881,000.

Reach K Terraces Repairs

- Approximately 6700 linear feet of terraces had a crown elevation of less than +2.0 feet.
- TLCD began rehabilitation work in mid-April. They are elevating the crown and reestablishing the slope to the berm.
- Approximately 4000 linear feet (south half) will be completed by the end of May.

Reach K Levee – South

- Reach K – South is from the access gate at Oak Point Road (Station 0) to the south water control structure (Station 105).

- The levee is completed and tested to a +11 elevation from the water control structure to Station 45. From Station 45 to 18 is elevated to +11 but is not yet tested.
- Stations 18 to 7 to elevation +11 and from the access gate to the PAC Flood Gate to elevation +12 by the end of June.

Reach K Levee – Center

- Reach K – Center is between the south water control structure (Station 105) and the north water control structure (Station 206).
- The mats to cross the south water control structure should have been moved on site on Friday, May 10th.
- The rehabilitation will start as soon as Reach K – South is completed.

Hurricane Ida Update

- We feel we've finally gotten FEMA and GOHSEP to understand the work that was done in Grand Bayou with the debris, and that the claim should be processed soon.

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

Chairman Mitch Danos announced that three permit requests were received for review, and that none interfered with the levee.

On a motion of Brett DeRoche, seconded by Monty Vegas and unanimously carried, the board approved Letters of No Objection for the following requests:

1. LAFOURCHE PARISH GOVERNMENT

CUP NO: P20240216

LOCATION: Lafourche Parish, LA; LAT 29-34-56.2N, Long -90-22-28.53W; Section 62 T17S R21E; Intracoastal Waterway; Larose, LA.

DESCRIPTION: To improve the Larose Public Boat Launch by removing existing boat ramps and installing a new ramp with wharves & erosion protection. Approx. 152 cy will be excavated and hauled offsite. Approx. 303 cy of concrete/gravel/sand needed for fill.

2. BOLLINGER FOURCHON, LLC – BOLLINGER FOURCHON NORTH

CUP NO: P20240203

LOCATION: Lafourche Parish, LA; LAT 29-7-52.89n, Long 90-11-41.63W; Section 13 T23S R22E; Bayou Lafourche, Golden Meadow, LA.

DESCRIPTION: Maintenance dredging of slip C. Excavated material will be deposited in a previously permitted location south of slip C using a hydraulic pump line. Initial dredging event of a 300' x 140' area to a depth of 35' (approx. 7,778 cy). Request for maintenance dredging of the 300' x 560' slip area to a depth of 35' (approx. 31,111cy).

3. COASTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION AUTHORITY (CPRA)

CUP NO: P20231051

LOCATION: Jefferson, Lafourche, Plaquemines, St. Bernard Parish, LA; Lat. 29-51-19N, Long. -90-12-17W (see plats for additional coordinates)

DESCRIPTION: Installation of ten 32" diameter mono-piles that will support a data gage platform to monitor site conditions. Dredging to access site DCP-2 is required. Approx. 17,114 cy will be excavated and placed onsite, and approx. 105 cy of riprap and 59 cy of flowable fill is required.

Mr. Nic Matherne explained that the permit for Lafourche Parish Government was for the improvements to the Mercer Boat Launch along the ICWW in Larose. The Parish's proposed permits stop at the cyclone fence, but on the other side of that is a grassy area that belongs to the SLLD. We recommended to the Parish that they remove the cyclone fence and add additional parking on our property. We would need to get board approval and have agreements in place first, but it would allow us to not have to cut the grass while offering the public additional parking and hopefully deter illegal parking on our levee.

BOARD ATTORNEY

Attorney Ryan Collins reported the following:

LA Contracting Enterprise, LLC v. SLLD, et al-Docket 148539

Appellee Brief has been submitted to the 1st Circuit. Oral arguments will be set once the time delays have elapsed. Once we have an update on that, we will follow up with the board.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

INVOICES

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

On a motion of McNeely Rome, seconded by Scott Theriot, and unanimously carried, the board approved the payment of the invoices as presented.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Commissioner Monty Vegas announced that the Personnel Committee had reviewed the proposed new employee job titles and pay scale that had been developed to offer clarification to jobs. Along with this, the pay plan had been revised to match each employee's title. A copy of the job titles and revised pay plan had been reviewed and accepted by the Personnel Committee and they recommended that the board accept as presented.

Moved by McNeely Rome and seconded by Scott Theriot, the board unanimously approved and accepted the revised employee job titles and pay plan as presented.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no new business.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

/s/Keith Guidry, President

/s/Nicholas Matherne, Executive Director