

OFFICIAL PROCEEDING
OF
SOUTH LAFOURCHE LEVEE DISTRICT
DATE JUNE 10, 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, June 10, 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.

PUBLIC HEARING

At 3:00 p.m. a Public Hearing was called to order by President Keith Guidry. He directed the secretary to call roll.

Board members in attendance: Keith Guidry
Roland Curole
Mitch Danos
Brian Marts
Mc Neely Rome

Board members absent: Brett DeRoche
Scott Theriot
Monty Vegas

Also present were:

Executive Director Nicholas Matherne
Executive Assistant Mary Punch
Administrative Assistant Amy Gisclair
Operations Manager Drake Baudoin
Attorney Ryan Collins
Engineering Personnel:
Joe Picciola
Neil Angelette
John Plaisance
Stevie Smith

CPRA Daniel Dearmond
Rep. Joseph Orgeron
Lafourche Parish Councilman Daniel Lorraine
Ducks Unlimited Scott Graham and Amanda Voisin
Robert Theriot
News media

2024 REVISED BUDGET

President Guidry opened the floor for the discussion of the final revision of the Amended Fiscal Year 2024 Budget. The budget was presented for review and discussion.

With no comments or discussions, the hearing was unanimously adjourned on a motion by Brian Marts and seconded by McNeely Rome.

The regular meeting for the month of June was called to order by President Keith Guidry at 3:05 p.m. Commissioner Brian Marts led the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Guidry directed the secretary to call roll.

Board members in attendance: Keith Guidry
Roland Curole
Mitch Danos
Brian Marts
Mc Neely Rome

Board members absent: Brett DeRoche
Scott Theriot
Monty Vegas

READING OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the June 10, 2024, Regular Meeting were approved unanimously upon a motion by Brian Marts and seconded by Roland Curole.

ADOPTION OF THE AMENDED FY 2024 BUDGET

President Guidry presented the Amended Fiscal Year 2024 Budget for adoption.

Moved by McNeely Rome and seconded by Mitch Danos, the FY2024 Amended Budget was unanimously adopted as presented.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

PASSING OF COMMISSIONER ROLAND CALLAIS

President Guidry reported with great sadness, the passing of Commissioner Ronald Callais. President Guidry offered condolences to the family on behalf of the board and staff of the South Lafourche Levee District. He noted that Mr. Callais was a great asset to our board and to the community he served. He asked that everyone keep the Callais family in their prayers.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF MAY 28, 2024

President Keith Guidry announced that the Executive Committee had met on May 28th at 8:00 a.m. to discuss the following:

- Potential Budget Amendments for Equipment Purchases
- Section D-South Borrow Material
- Additional Pump Repairs
- DRIVE Initiative Call (potential consolidation of State Boards and Commissions)
- Lobbying Services

President Guidry stated that Mr. Matherne would be discussing some of those items in greater detail during the General Manager's Report.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

PRESENTATION BY DUCKS UNLIMITED

Mr. Scott Graham and Ms. Amanda Voisin gave a presentation on projects that Ducks Unlimited and its partners were providing which included marsh terraces and living shorelines to help combat coastal erosion as well as providing benefits for fish and wildlife.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

GENERAL AGRICULTURAL LETTER AGREEMENT – CLOVELLY DISCHARGE PIPES

Executive Director Nic Matherne stated he had been working with General Agricultural Services and Little Lake Land on a letter agreement that would allow us to cover their pump station discharge pipes in Section E-North. We received the signed letter of agreement on June 6th and, as per the Board's previous approval, Mr. Matherne signed and returned the letter agreement the same day. New Gem Construction will begin covering those pipes using stockpiled material.

ALLAIN-LEBRETON AGREEMENT – SECTION D-SOUTH

Mr. Matherne announced that he was currently working on an agreement with the Allain-LeBreton Company to obtain material from their borrow pit to be used for Section D-North Ramp. We are also requesting additional materials to be used to cover discharge pipes at Pump Station No. 6. Our board attorney has drafted an agreement that is currently being reviewed by the Allain-LeBreton Company.

PUMP REPAIR UPDATE

Mr. Matherne stated that Boland Marine in New Orleans was completing repairs to Pump No. 1 at Pump Station No. 2. The pump should be reinstalled and operational before the end of July. As mentioned in the Executive Committee report, an employee noticed issues with the gearhead on Pump No. 5 at Pump Station No. 6. That pump was brought to Boland Marine for assessment and the issue was identified as a failed pinion shaft bearing along with damage to the shaft and housing. Because of the urgency in getting the pump back in operation, we have moved ahead with those repairs. Repairs should be complete by August ahead of the August 15th peak in hurricane season.

CAPITAL OUTLAY UPDATE

Mr. Matherne announced that CPRA had requested \$15M in surplus funding for the Ted Gisclair Lock. However, CPRA received no surplus funding this year. Mr. Matherne explained that all surplus funding went to LaDOTD so it could be spread over the entire state. We are hopeful that other sources of funding will be secured for the lock.

Mr. Matherne informed the board that the \$400,000 initially requested to install digital gages at the lock, floodgate and pump stations did not originally make it into the Capital Outlay bill, but Rep. Joe Orgeron fought and was able to get it into the 1st amendment, but in Priority 5. After speaking with former senator Norby Chabert, Mr. Chabert was able to get the \$400,000 moved in HB2 and placed in the LA Transportation & Infrastructure fund so we should be getting that money this year.

LOBBYING SERVICES PROPOSAL

Mr. Matherne stated that the Executive Committee discussed using the services of Norby Chabert as a lobbyist to help secure maximum funding for our projects. The quote to use Claitor & Chabert was \$3,000 per month for the first year. Mr. Matherne recommended the board accept the proposal and hire Claitor & Chabert for lobbying services.

Moved by McNeely Rome and seconded by Roland Curole, the board unanimously agreed to hire Claitor & Chabert for lobbying services, pending review of legal contract by the board's attorney. The board authorized the executive director and board president to sign the contract with Claitor & Chabert for lobbying services upon the advice and recommendation of legal counsel.

WRDA UPDATE

Mr. Matherne stated that he had been working with a federal lobbyist on some of the language included in the WRDA bill. Mr. Matherne added that he had been working with Congressman Graves' staff to include language that would reinstate the SLLD back into the RIP program allowing us to get local cost-share credit for work we've done since Katrina in 2005.

ENGINEERING REPORT

OFFICE OF COASTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION

Mr. Daniel Dearmond reported that CPRA was preparing a new agreement with SLLD that would cover E-North and the D-South Crawfish Farm Floodwall which would extend the time of the projects. That agreement should be ready soon.

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.

There is no Pay Application for this project this month.

- **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 is complete and the project is in the Lien Period.
 - **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 is complete and the project is in the Lien Period.
 - **Repairs to North Gate Structure**
We have prepared Plans and Specifications for repairs to concrete, structural steel and timber fenders. We advertised for bids starting on May 10th and accepted bids on June 6, 2024. We have reviewed the bids received and the low bidder is TLP Construction, Co., LLC with a total bid amount of \$115,000. We recommend awarding the bid to TLP Construction.
- Moved by Mitch Danos and seconded by Roland Curole, the board accepted the low bid for Repairs to North Gate Structure (Leon Theriot Lock) from TLP Construction, Co., LLC in the total bid amount of \$115,000.00. In addition, the board authorized the board president and executive director to sign any agreements or documents necessary to move forward with the repairs to the north gate structure.**
- **Repairs to Pump No. 1 at Pump Station No. 2**
We met with Boland Marine and developed a scope of work. They are working on repairing the pump.

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 presented 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# 39130-1457**
 - SLLD negotiated with the property owner the use of both potential borrow areas in the area of the D-North Ramp project. We received approval from the property owner to move forward with the Material Stockpile project. We expect excavation to begin at the triangular pit this month.
- **D-North Ramp Lift – GIS# 39130-1457**
 - 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
 - Estimated Completion Date: February 2025
 - Proposed Elevation: +16.0' (GIS is also looking at raising the elevation to +18.0'.)

- **Reconnection of Breton Canal to Bayou Lafourche – GIS# 39130-1329**
 - SLLD has awarded the construction contract to Garden Environments, Inc., in the amount of \$999,000.00. The signing of the contracts is moving forward.

Moved by Mitch Danos and seconded by McNeely Rome, the board unanimously authorized the board president and executive secretary to enter into agreement with Garden Environments for construction of the Breton Canal Weir.

- GIS will schedule a Pre-Construction Conference. We anticipate issuing a Notice to Proceed by the end of June.
- Estimated Construction Cost: \$999,000.00

- **D-South Floodwall at Crawfish Farms – Phase III Improvements – GIS# 39130-1485**
 - 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

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 #1265 in the amount of \$111,970.00.

Moved by Mitch Danos, seconded by McNeely Rome and unanimously accepted, the board approved Invoice No. 1265 in the amount of \$111,970.00.

- **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 as well as hauling materials from the area behind the shooting range. We are recommending approval of Invoice #1263 in the amount of \$15,835.00, Invoice #1264 in the amount of \$139,857.50 and Invoice #1266 in the amount of \$35,043.75.

Moved by Roland Curole, seconded by Brian Marts and unanimously accepted, the board approved Invoice No. 1263 in the amount of \$15,835.00.

Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Mitch Danos and unanimously accepted, the board approved Invoice No. 1264 in the amount of \$139,857.50.

Moved by Brian Marts, seconded by Roland Curole and one opposed by Mitch Danos, the board approved Invoice No. 1266 in the amount of \$35,043.75.

- **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. 6 in the amount of \$416,284.63.

Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Roland Curole and opposed by Mitch Danos, by a majority the board approved Pay Request No. 6 in the amount of \$416,284.63.

- **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. 8 in the amount of \$351,085.33. We are also recommending approval of Change Order No. 2 for an increase of \$606,000.00 for additional material to complete the project.

Moved by Mitch Danos, seconded by Brian Marts and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 8 in the amount of \$351,085.33.

Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Mitch Danos and unanimously accepted, the board approved Change Order No. 2 for an additional 30,000 cubic yards of material in the amount of \$606,000.00.

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's share being approximately \$881,000.
- **Reach K Terrace 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.
 - Stations 18 to 7 to elevation +11 and from the access gate to the PAC Floodgate to elevation +12 by the end of June.
- **Reach K Levee – Center**
 - Reach K – Center is between south water control structure (Station 105 and the north water control structure (Station 206).
 - The mats to cross the south water control structure have been removed on site.
 - The rehabilitation will start as soon as Reach K – South is completed.
- **Hurricane Ida Response**

The Grand Bayou debris cleanup has been reimbursed by FEMA in the amount of \$2.1M. The majority of that money will have to be reimbursed to CPRA, but they have agreed to set those funds aside to be used on future Morganza to the Gulf projects.

We continue to work with FEMA and the Corps on other projects.

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 Brian Marts, seconded by Roland Curole and unanimously carried, the board approved Letters of No Objection for the following requests:

1. GREATER LAFOURCHR PORT COMMISSION

CUP NO: P20240247

LOCATION: Lafourche Parish, LA; Lat 29-9-1N, Long 90-12-13W; Section 2, 22, 25, 26 T22S R22E; Port Fourchon, 70357

DESCRIPTION: Completion of activities previously authorized under P20170986. These include bulkhead and associated dredging along a portion of the west side of Slip C, dredging of a portion of Flotation Canal, approx. 6,640ft of embankment protection and integrated fish dips and 84 acres of potential beneficial use marsh creation. Approx. 839220 cy of material will be excavated and placed onsite and 8000 cy of rock will be used as fill.

2. LAFOURCHE PARISH GOVERNMENT

CUP NO: P20240

LOCATION: Lafourche Parish, LA; Lat 29-33-11.74n, Long. 90-16-33.36W; Section 31, 32, 33, 34, T17S-R22E; Section 6, 5, T18S-R22E; Cut Off, 70345

DESCRIPTION: Maintenance dredging of floating marsh and sediment that have accumulated within Clovelly Canal due to Hurricane Ida. Approx. 125,678 cy of material will be excavated via bucket dredge and placed in open water on the southern portion of the canal to help restore the original canal bank and created wetlands.

3. BERKLEY, JACOB

CUP NO: P20240376

LOCATION: Lafourche Parish, LA; Lat 29-24-33.4n, Long. 90-16-30.1W; Bayou Lafourche

DESCRIPTION: Installation of two pile clusters (3-12" diameter piles) and a dock (6'x16') for private use. No excavation or fill is required for the proposed work.

BOARD ATTORNEY

Attorney Ryan Collins stated he was working with Mr. Matherne and the engineers on various right of ways.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

INVOICES

Due to the lack of a quorum, the Finance Committee was not able to meet. Executive Assistant Mary Punch requested the board authorize the Finance Committee to release checks upon their review and recommendation at their upcoming meeting on Monday, June 17, 2024. A copy of the June 2024 Invoice Report was provided to each commissioner for review.

On a motion of McNeely Rome, seconded by Mitch Danos, and unanimously carried, the board authorized the Finance Committee, upon its review and recommendation, to sign and release checks for payment as presented on the June-2024 Invoice Report.

INSURANCE COMMITTEE

President Guidry announced that the Insurance Committee, due to the lack of a quorum, would be postponed until further notice.

MAINTENANCE AND EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE

President Guidry announced that the Maintenance and Equipment Committee did not meet earlier due to the lack of a quorum. Due to the urgency in maintaining proper equipment, he directed the executive director to discuss items on the agenda.

Mr. Matherne informed the board that the quorums for committees were not met due to commissioners on vacation and the recent loss of Mr. Ronald Callais. He then presented State Contract quotes for needed equipment as follows:

- John Deere Tractor in the amount of \$95,205.46
- Volvo Long Reach Excavator in the amount of \$279,815.00

Mr. Matherne expressed the need to purchase the equipment and stated that the excavator and tractor that are being replaced could be sold at auction. A brief discussion pursued.

On a motion by McNeely Rome and seconded by Mitch Danos, the board unanimously authorized the executive director or board president to purchase the John Deere tractor at the State Contract price of \$95,205.46, and to purchase the Volvo long reach excavator at the State Contract price of \$279,815.00.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

President Guidry announced that the Personnel Committee did not have a quorum and would meet on Monday, June 17, 2024.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Representative Joe Orgeron gave an update on the recent legislative session. He explained where some of the supplemental funding would be used around the state and gave updates on bills that were presented during the session. He added that he and several others, including Executive Director Nic Matherne, would be traveling to DC the next day for a SHORES fly-in (Sharing Offshore Revenue), to meet with legislators across the nation to try to convince them to lift the GOMESA cap that the coastal states receive from 37.5% to 50%. Rep. Orgeron gave an update on local bridges that were being repaired, Louisiana industry, and insurance issues. President Guidry requested Rep. Orgeron stay on top of the governor's attempt to consolidate boards.

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

/s/Keith Guidry, President

/s/Nicholas Matherne, Executive Director