

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDING
OF
SOUTH LAFOURCHE LEVEE DISTRICT
DECEMBER 9, 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, December 9, 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 December was called to order by President Keith Guidry. Commissioner Gavin Callais led the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Guidry directed the secretary to call roll.

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

Board members absent: Mitch Danos

Also present were:

Executive Director Nicholas Matherne

Executive Assistant Mary Punch

Administrative Assistant Amy Gisclair

Operations Manager Drake Baudoin

Engineering Personnel:

Joe Picciola, Picciola & Associates

Neil Angelette, Angelette Design

John Plaisance, GIS Engineering

Morgan Degruise, GIS Engineering

Stevie Smith, All South Consulting Engineers

Kyle Pierce, Delta Coast Consultants

CPRA Daniel Dearmond

Doug Cheramie, Governor's office

Rep. Joe Orgeron, District 54

Blake Compeaux, Compeaux & Sons

News media

READING OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the November 18, 2024, Regular Meeting were approved unanimously upon a motion by McNeely Rome and seconded by Brett DeRoche.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

UPDATE ON ALBL DECEMBER CONFERENCE

President Guidry updated the audience saying most of the board attended the ALBL December 2024 Conference the week prior to the board meeting. He stated that it had been a good meeting.

Mr. Guidry thanked the engineers for their service over the past year. He offered his appreciation to the SLLD staff and field employees for their service as well.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF DECEMBER 2, 2024

Executive Director Nic Matherne reported on the following items that were discussed at the December Executive Committee meeting:

- Vice President and Committee Nominations would be held at the January 2025 meeting of the board.

- A quote for the water level monitoring system was received from Delta Coast Consultants.
- Bids were received for the installation of an emergency winch at the Larose Floodgate.
- The Community Development Block Grant was approved which would cover the Hurricane Ida cost-share portions that were not covered by FEMA.
- Two vacant grass cutting positions were filled.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

There were no comments from the audience.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

CDBG GRANT – HURRICANE IDA COST-SHARE

Executive Director Nic Matherne explained the cost-share for Hurricane Ida and informed the board that through the Community Development Block Grant that was recently approved, those out-of-pocket expenses totaling \$496,103.72 would be covered under the grant. The nearly half million dollars would go to further our levee improvements.

PUMP STATION 4 PUMP REPAIRS

Mr. Matherne updated the board on the pump repairs that were currently being made by Boland Marine. He stated that the estimated completion for pump repairs and reinstallation was late February or early March 2025.

In November, Pump No. 1 had an issue with the gearhead and was sent to Boland Marine for repairs. The cost for repairs was estimated at \$51,675. Mr. Matherne stated that since this was an emergency need, he contacted the board president, and they made the decision to move forward with those repairs.

Last week Pump No. 3 also had issues with its anti-reverse mechanism, so we were down to only three working pumps at Pump Station No. 4. We were able to pull a gearhead from another pump and got Pump No. 3 working so we are back to three out of five working pumps at that station.

PUMP STATION 2 REPAIRS

Mr. Matherne announced that we had lost power on the morning of Nov. 19th at Pump Station No. 2. He explained that there were electrical issues with the line coming from Entergy's pole to our box on the pump station which caused the power failure and melted the conduit. Before Entergy arrived to turn the power back on, one of our employees heard an explosion and went outside to investigate. He found the electrical pole that feeds PS No. 2 was on fire and called the fire department. It took several hours for Entergy to shut off power at the pole to make repairs. Our repairs were finally made the following day, so everything is back running as it should.

RESIDENTIAL POND NEAR LAROSE FLOODWALL

Mr. Matherne informed the board that it was reported that a landowner was digging a six-foot-deep pond just 12 feet from the Larose floodwall on the Hwy 308 side under the overpass. Upon investigation, Mr. Matherne contacted the landowner to cease work and reported the incident to the Corps. The Corps sent their people to investigate and directed the landowner that they were digging too closely to the floodwall which could compromise the floodwall's integrity. The landowner was instructed on how to refill the pond correctly. Mr. Matherne informed the board that the Corps requires that any work within 1,500 feet of the levee system be performed in the presence of an inspector with permissions from the USACE. The hole has since been filled in to the Corps specifications.

ACCEPTANCE OF FY 2023 FINANCIAL AUDIT REPORT

Mr. Matherne announced that each year the internal auditors prepare a draft report for review, then later sends the final report before presenting to the Louisiana Legislative Auditor. For the Fiscal Year 2023 audit, we received the draft report, but did not receive the final version of the report. We feel this may have been due to the extension for the audit and that it was an oversight. We have reviewed the Final Financial Report for FY2023 and there were no findings. We recommend the board accept the report as presented.

Moved by Scott Theriot and seconded by Monty Vegas, the board unanimously accepted the FY2023 Final Financial Audit Report prepared by auditors Griffin & Furman.

ACCEPTANCE OF FY 2024 FINANCIAL AUDIT REPORT

Mr. Matherne presented the final Financial Audit Report for FY 2024 and stated that there were no findings. He recommended the report be accepted as presented.

Moved by Brian Marts and seconded by Roland Curole, the board unanimously accepted the FY2024 Final Financial Audit Report prepared by auditors Griffin & Furman.

UPDATE ON WRDA BILL

Mr. Matherne stated that he had received word from Congressman Garret Graves' office that the WRDA Bill had been finalized and was now in the final steps to be voted on. He stated that some of our language had been added to the bill and informed the board that one part would give the Corps \$3,000,000 to do an assessment of our existing levee conditions. Mr. Matherne is working with Dr. Chris Dunn of the New Orleans District USACE to try to change the spacing requirements for soil borings to maximize the money they would receive.

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:

- **Larose Lock Project**
Project Plans and Specifications are 95% complete. All permitting is complete. We are now working on Hydraulic Modelling of the area for submittal to FEMA and 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 19, 2023. The contractor is on-site moving material when the weather permits.

Construction Site Specialties, LLC has submitted Pay Application No. 11 in the amount of \$199,374.74.

Moved by Brian Marts, seconded by Brett DeRoche and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 11 in the amount of \$199,374.74.

Compeaux & Sons Construction, LLC has submitted Pay Application No 2 in the amount of \$57,745.00.

Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Scott Theriot and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 02 in the amount of \$57,745.00

- **A-East Interim Levee Improvements**
Project Plans and Specifications are complete. They have been submitted to CPRA and the US Army Corps of Engineers for approval. We spoke to CPRA and requested Eustis Engineering provide a proposal for additional geotechnical analysis. Eustis has completed all fieldwork and is complete with engineering analysis. The engineering analysis was approved by CPRA and submitted to the US Army Corps of Engineers for 408 Permit review and approval. The US Army Corps is still reviewing the submittal.
- **Repairs to Timber Fender at Larose Floodgate**
The project is complete.
- **Emergency Gate Closure at Larose Floodgate**
We accepted bids from two contractors on November 21st at 10am. The low bidder was TLP Construction Co., LLC in the amount of \$140,000.00.
Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Monty Vegas and unanimously accepted, the board accepted the bid for Emergency Gate Closure from TLP Construction in the amount of \$140,000.

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 has coordinated with pipeline and utility companies to acquire Letters 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 servitudes are acquired.

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

The contractor completed the punch list items on October 2, 2024.

The project is Substantially Complete and in the lien period.

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

GIS completed final design of ramp lift to EL. +18', and is currently under review by SLLD.

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

Construction continues to progress. The entire concrete box has been poured. The handrails and walkways have been installed. Electrical work is progressing.

The actual weir gates are not expected to be delivered until February 2025. Once Contractor has completed work that can be constructed without the gates, contract time will be paused until the gates are delivered.

Pay Application No. 4 is being presented to the board for approval in the amount of \$179,490.72. **Moved by Scott Theriot, seconded by Gavin Callais and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 4 in the amount of \$179,490.72 to Garden Environmentals.**

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

Sealevel Construction, Inc., has begun work on site.

LEEVE IMPROVEMENTS – ANGELETTE-DESIGN, LLC

Engineer Neil Angelette reported the following:

- **C-North Levee Improvements**

The contractor, Compeaux & Sons Construction, LLC is finalizing some stockpile reshaping to dress off a segment of this levee section.

- **C-South Floodside Repairs**

The contractor, Compeaux & Sons Construction, LLC is continuing work on the berms, side slopes and crown of this section. We are recommending approval of Invoice #1349 in the amount of \$31,027.50 and invoice #1350 in the amount of \$3,467.50 for this work.

The contractor has submitted Invoice #1349 in the amount of \$31,027.50

Moved by Roland Curole, seconded by Brett DeRoche and unanimously accepted, the board approved Invoice 1349 in the amount of \$31,027.50.

The contractor has submitted Invoice #1350 in the amount of \$3,467.50

Moved by Monty Vegas, seconded by Brett DeRoche and unanimously accepted, the board approved Invoice 1350 in the amount of \$3,467.50.

- **B-North Levee Maintenance**

The contractor, NEWGEM Construction, LLC, is working on the protected side berm for this levee section. We are recommending approval of Invoice #1042 in the amount of \$21,850.00 for this work.

The contractor has submitted Invoice 1042 in the amount of \$21,850.00.

Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Brian Marts and unanimously accepted, the board approved Invoice 1042 in the amount of \$21,850.00.

- **Section F Berm Improvements**

The contractor, Sealevel Construction, Inc. has completed work on the project to improve the protection side berm. The substantial was approved at the November meeting, and we are currently in the clear lien period.

MORGANZA TO THE GULF

DELTA COAST CONSULTANTS

Program Manager Report (Kyle Pierce)

- **Reach L Pipeline Crossing**

We plan to go to bid next week.

- **Water Level Monitoring**

We received a quote from YSI for the installation of the water level monitoring system at the SLLD pump stations and floodgates in the amount of \$190,000. We are hoping to have the Intergovernmental agreement completed by the end of the year.

ALL SOUTH CONSULTING ENGINEERS

Engineer Report (Stevie Smith)

- **Reach K Terraces Repairs (Project #041-11-01)**

Terrace repairs are complete.

- **Reach K Levee (Project #041-10-01) - South**

This work is complete.

- **Reach K Levee (Project #041-10-01) - Center**

We have exhausted funding for this project that was acquired from TLCD, NLLD, SLLD, Lafourche and Terrebonne Parishes. The project has been halted with approximately half the center section up to 11 feet with the rest up to 10 ft. and 9 ft. We are currently looking at other sources of funding that would not involve SLLD funding. We anticipate those funds maturing in January so work may resume.

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

In the absence of Chairman Mitch Danos, Executive Director Nic Matherne announced that no permits had been received for review.

BOARD ATTORNEY

Attorney Ryan Collins was not in attendance.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

INVOICES

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

On the motion of Brett DeRoche, seconded by Roland Curole, and unanimously carried, the board approved the payment of the invoices as presented.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Commissioner Monty Vegas announced that the Personnel Committee was postponed until January due to the lack of a quorum.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no new business.

NEW BUSINESS

Rep. Joe Orgeron stated that he had listened to the meeting and had a few questions and comments to make.

Rep. Orgeron requested clarification on the east side of the levee where the Corps was requesting more information. Mr. Matherne explained that the Corps was not requesting additional information on the project but requiring the completion of an Environmental Assessment of the proposed borrow site. He further explained the 408 process that is typically required in obtaining materials for building levees.

Rep. Orgeron questioned the water level monitoring system that was reported on by both Mr. Matherne and Mr. Kyle Pierce and verified that both were the same topic.

Rep. Orgeron also thanked the board for making repairs to the pumps. He then confirmed with Engineer John Plaisance that the gates for the weir project would be delivered on time.

Rep. Orgeron informed the Board that the pipeline crossing in Reach L of the Morganza to the Gulf levee system should be ready by next hurricane season, since advertisement for bids is scheduled for next week.

Rep. Orgeron also asked the Board if they would consider passing a resolution in support of the continuation of the Mid-Barataria Diversion. Mr. Matherne stated that the Executive Committee could discuss it at their next meeting in January.

President Guidry complimented the State Representatives on the terraces between Port Fourchon and Cheniere. President Guidry stated they had planted 10,000 mangroves over the Thanksgiving holidays. Rep. Orgeron stated that there were lots of people from LOOP, Danos, Shell and others helping to get the mangroves planted which will help with storm surge.

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

/s/Keith Guidry, President

/s/Nicholas Matherne, Executive Director