

OFFICIAL PROCEEDING
OF
SOUTH LAFOURCHE LEVEE DISTRICT
MARCH 19, 2024

The Board of Commissioners of the South Lafourche Levee District met in a regular session at the Greater Lafourche Port Commission's meeting place, 16829 E Main St., Cut Off, LA, on Tuesday, March 19, 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 March 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	Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office Brennan Matherne
Executive Secretary Windell Curole	Lafourche Parish Fire District #3 Devon Dedon, Myles Rousse, & Lucas Bourgeois
Administrative Assistant 6 Mary Punch	North Lafourche Levee District Dwayne Bourgeois
Administrative Assistant 3 Amy Gisclair	Restore or Retreat Polly Glover
Levee Board Operations Superintendent Drake Baudoin	Morganza Action Coalition Mike Henry & Henri Boulet
Attorney Ryan Collins	Caroline Theriot of US Senator John Kennedy's office
Engineering Personnel:	Windell & Julie Curole, Jimmy Badeaux, Blake Compeaux, Marco Picciola, Larry Picciola, Loulan Pitre, and many others
Joe Picciola, Ben Hodson & Marc Picciola	News media
Neil Angelette	
John Plaisance & Kevin Dezarn	
Stevie Smith & Jay Duplantis	
Mitch Marmande	
CPRA Daniel Dearmond	
Lafourche Parish Councilman Daniel Lorraine	
Greater Lafourche Port Commission Tom Pitre, Reggie Ledet, Rodney Gisclair, Davie Breaux, & Mike Callais	

READING OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the February 19, 2024, Regular Meeting were approved unanimously upon a motion by McNeely Rome and seconded by Monty Vegas.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Keith Guidry thanked the Greater Lafourche Port Commission for their generosity in allowing the South Lafourche Levee District to use their facilities for the March meeting. Mr. Guidry also recognized several members of the audience that were once affiliated with the SLLD in years past.

POSITION OF EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

President Guidry announced that with the retiring of Executive Secretary Windell Curole, the Executive Secretary position would need to be transferred to the current general manager, Nic Matherne.

On a motion by Monty Vegas and seconded by Ronald Callais, the position of Executive Secretary was filled by current SLLD General Manager Nic Matherne.

WASHINGTON, DC LEGISLATIVE MEETINGS

President Guidry announced that he, Windell Curole, and Nic Matherne, along with the Morganza Action Coalition (MAC) group, attended legislative meetings in Washington, DC the previous week, and had positive responses.

General Manager Nic Matherne added that they had met with USACE Eddie Belk, Congressman Graves and his staff, Senator Kennedy and his staff, Majority Leader Scalise's staff, and later Senator Scalise himself, Senator Cassidy's staff, and later Senator Cassidy himself. They also met with Congresswoman Letlow and her staff, Speaker Mike Johnson's staff, and they spoke with Mr. Johnson for just a few seconds before he had to go back to the floor. Mr. Matherne highlighted important items that were discussed and stated that it was a very productive week of meetings.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF MARCH 5, 2024

Chairman Ronald Callais recapped discussions that took place at the March Executive Committee meeting. Items discussed were:

- Repairs to Leon Theriot Lock
 - Recommendation was made to the board to authorize advertising and accepting bids for the repairs to the Leon Theriot Lock.
Moved by Monty Vegas and seconded by Scott Theriot to make repairs exceeding \$300,000 to the Leon Theriot Lock for damages sustained by barge impact in addition to normal wear and tear.
- MVFCA Meetings (DC trip)
- Letter Agreement with Scully Corp. for covering Clovelly Pump Station discharge pipes
- Reappointments of board members

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

HENRI BOULET, MAC AND LA 1 COALITION

Mr. Boulet addressed the board and gave updates on the elevated LA 1 highway section from Leeville to inside the levee system at Golden Meadow, and MAC program. He showed slides of the work progression of the LA 1 Elevated highway that should be completed at the estimated date of July 2027.

Mr. Boulet showed slides of how the Morganza to the Gulf levee system tied in with the Larose to Golden Meadow levee system at Golden Meadow. He discussed the benefits of MAC and encouraged the SLLD board to consider becoming an active member. Mr. Boulet then introduced the DC Project Representative of MAC, Mr. Mike Henry.

Mr. Henry briefed the board on the meetings that took place in DC and how MAC could assist the SLLD.

DANIEL LORRAIN, LAFOURCHE PARISH COUNCIL DISTRICT #9

Mr. Lorraine commended the SLLD Board and staff for the great job they were doing. He reminisced on times from many years ago when he and Mr. Windell Curole worked together on flood protection. He wished Mr. Curole and TLCD's Executive Director Reggie Dupre well in their retirements.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

CPRA ANNUAL PLAN

General Manager Nic Matherne reported that CPRA met, reviewed, and voted on the FY2025 Annual Plan at last Friday's meeting. Included in that plan was a little over \$5M that we've already partnered with CPRA on, \$5M surplus for converting the Ted Gisclair Floodgate into a navigational lock, \$2M to begin lifting Section A-West behind the Town of Golden Meadow to 19.5 ft. Also included was \$1.5M to continue work on Section E-North elevation to +14 ft., which is currently in progress, \$500K to complete the D-North Ramp project at LOOP Road, \$3.2M to complete Section F Berm Improvement, also currently in progress, and \$7M to lift Section A-East on the east side of Golden Meadow to 19.5 ft. This was all included in the 2025 Fiscal Year's Annual Plan. CPRA voted and approved the plan unanimously, so it will now move to the State Legislature for approval during this current regular session. Once approved, it will go to the Governor for his signature. The funds would then be available to us beginning July 1, 2024.

LAROSE LOCK FUNDING

Mr. Matherne announced that in addition to the \$5M mentioned earlier in the CPRA Annual Plan, Chairman Gordon Dove had included the last \$15M needed to complete the lock in the supplemental appropriations bill that would be coming up in the current legislative session. The estimated cost to complete the lock is \$40M. Of this, \$5M will come from the Annual Plan, \$5M from SLLD funds, \$15M from LPG (FEMA Hazard Benefits Grants Program), and \$15M from State Supplemental Appropriations. Mr. Matherne expressed his appreciation to Mr. Gordon Dove for his part in helping to secure the final \$15M for the Larose Lock.

GIS ENGINEERING AMENDMENT NO. 1: RECONNECTION OF BRETON CANAL TO BAYOU LAFOURCHE

Mr. Matherne presented Amendment No. 1 for the Reconnection of Breton Canal to Bayou Lafourche. Mr. Matherne explained the additional services covered in the amendment and stated that the total overall increase was \$54,120.00. He added that since it was all “time and materials”, we would only be charged for what was needed. He recommended the board pass a motion to approve the amendment.

Moved by McNeely Rome and seconded by Ronald Callais, the board unanimously approved GIS Engineering Amendment No. 2 for additional professional engineering services related to the Reconnection of Breton Canal to Bayou Lafourche and authorized the president and/or general manager to sign the necessary documents.

LETTER AGREEMENT WITH SCULLY CORPORATION FOR COVERING CLOVELLY DISCHARGE PIPE

Mr. Matherne explained that this item was briefly mentioned during the Executive Committee report. The agreement is being reviewed by SLLD attorneys so the motion will be postponed until the April meeting.

PUMP STATION NO. 2 – AUTHORIZE REPAIRS TO PUMP NO. 1

Mr. Matherne stated that repairs were needed on Pump No. 1 located at Pump Station No. 2 and explained the issues with that pump. He added that the pump had never been maintained, so it was time to get the pump back into good working condition. He also added that since the repairs would be complicated, he requested the board allow Engineer Joe Picciola to oversee the maintenance and repairs. He recommended the board approve the repairs with Picciola and Associates as project manager of those repairs. Mr. Joe Picciola explained the scope of work that would need to be done.

Moved by Scott Theriot and seconded by McNeely Rome, the board unanimously approved repairs to pump no. 1 located at Pump Station No. 2, and authorized Picciola and Associates to act as Program Manager over the project. In addition, the board authorized the president and/or general manager to sign any documents necessary to move forward with those repairs.

ROAD BARRIER CLOSURE EXERCISE

Mr. Matherne announced that road barrier closure exercises were performed on March 6th, and all went without a hitch. He stated that the exercise was performed to make sure employees were prepared and to ensure everything was in working order ahead of hurricane season. Mr. Matherne showed a video clip of the closures.

LEADERSHIP LAFOURCHE

Mr. Matherne announced that the Class of 2024 had their Economic Development Day on March 5th and as part of that, they stopped at the Leon Theriot Lock. Mr. Matherne gave them an overview of the levee district, its history and vision for the future. For the first time, they were able to witness a tug traveling through the lock so were able to see the operations up close.

ENGINEERING REPORT

OFFICE OF COASTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION

Mr. Daniel Dearmond reported that Section F Berm amendment and Section A-East agreement had both been signed by CPRA and should be in route to SLLD. The last agreement was TE-154 funding for Section D-South and E-North which was currently in final review at CPRA.

CORPS OF ENGINEERS

There were no comments 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 has been on-site moving material when the weather permits. Outer Limit has been placing material on the crown to +14 feet NGVD.

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

Outer Limit Contractors, LLC has submitted Pay Application No. 4 in the amount of \$72,040.00.

Moved by Brian Marts, seconded by Brett DeRoche and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 4 in the amount of \$72,040.00.

- **2024 CENTERLINE SURVEY**
We are complete with the field survey work and the survey report and drawings. We are reviewing the drawings with the management for final approval.
- **Hurricane Ida Storm Damage Repairs to Pump Stations and Floodgates**
Grand Isle Shipyard, LLC is the Contractor. The project is complete, and the Lien Period is complete. Grand Isle Shipyard, LLC has submitted Pay Application No. 7 (Request for Retainage) in the amount of \$236,436.90.

Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Mitch Danos and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 7 in the amount of \$236,436.90.

Change Order No. 4 is presented to add 401 days to the contract time at no additional cost.

Moved by Scott Theriot, seconded by McNeely Rome and unanimously accepted, the board approved Change Order No. 4 to add 401 additional days to the contract time at no additional cost.

- **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 currently blasting and painting the gates.

Sealevel Construction, Inc. has submitted Pay Application No. 1 in the amount of \$224,637.00.

Moved by Ronald Callais, seconded by Monty Vegas and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 1 in the amount of \$224,637.00.

In answer to Vice President Ronald Callais' question, Mr. Picciola reported the repairs that would need to be made to the Leon Theriot Lock as a result of a barge that hit the lock a few weeks back. A short discussion pursued.

- **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 Engineering has provided a proposal and are currently working on the report.
- **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 currently fabricating the discharge pipe.

Sealevel Construction, Inc. has submitted Pay Application No. 1 in the amount of \$39,465.00.

Moved by Ronald Curole, seconded by Brett DeRoche and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 1 in the amount of \$39,465.00.

We are preparing Plans and Specifications for repairs to concrete, structural steel and timber fenders on the North Gate Structure of the Leon Theriot Lock. We are also preparing a damage report to detail the extent of damage and the investigations performed thus far.

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 is meeting with the property owner to determine which (if any) borrow area will be used for the D-North Ramp project.

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

GIS began design of completion of the ramp lift work.

GIS is waiting for landowner negotiations on material stockpile to be completed to finalize bid package.

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

Request authorization to advertise for bids to begin on March 19, 2024, with receipt of bids scheduled April 18, 2024.

Moved by Ronald Callais and seconded by McNeely Rome, the board unanimously authorized GIS Engineering to advertise for bids the Reconnection of Breton Canal to Bayou Lafourche project.

- **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.

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 #1230 in the amount of \$111,765.00.

The contractor has submitted Invoice #1230 in the amount of \$111,765.00.

Moved by Mitch Danos, seconded by Brett DeRoche and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 1230 in the amount of \$111,765.00.

- **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 #1234 in the amount of \$17,897.43.

The contractor has submitted Invoice #1234 in the amount of **\$17,897.50**.

Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Scott Theriot and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 1234 in the amount of \$17,897.43.

- **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. 3 in the amount of \$528,684.50. WE are also recommending approval of Change Order No. 1 for the removal and reconstruction of a 7 Pile Timber Fendering Cluster at the Larose Floodgate for \$22,500 and 7 additional days.

The contractor has submitted Pay Application No. 3 in the amount of \$528,684.50.

The contractor has submitted Change Order No.1 for \$22,500 and 7 additional days.

Moved by Brian Marts, seconded by Roland Curole, and opposed by Mitch Danos, the board approved Pay Request No. 3 in the amount of \$528,684.50.

Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Brett DeRoche and unanimously accepted, the board approved Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$22,500 and 7 additional days.

- **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. 5 in the amount of \$96,520.00.

The contractor has submitted Pay Application No. 5 in the amount of \$96,520.00.

Moved by Monty Vegas, seconded by Scott Theriot and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 5 in the amount of \$96,520.00.

MORGANZA TO THE GULF

DELTA COAST CONSULTANTS

Program Manager Report (Mitch Marmande)

Mr. Marmande informed the board that the Corps was reviewing possibilities for tying into to our levee system at Pump Station No. 7. There is a possibility that Pump Station No. 7 would need to be relocated. Mr. Marmande stated he would report back to the board when he had more information.

ALL SOUTH CONSULTING ENGINEERS

Engineer Report (Stevie Smith)

Mr. Smith stated he had nothing to report.

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

Chairman Mitch Danos announced that one permit request was received for review, and that it would not interfere with the levee.

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

1. **GREATER LAFOURCHR PORT COMMISSION**

CUP NO: P20240086

LOCATION: Lafourche Parish, LA; LAT 29-8-6.21N, Long. -90-13-7W; Bayou Lafourche; Golden Meadow, 70357.

DESCRIPTION: Proposed maintenance dredging of 4 slip. Spoil will be transported via barge and placed in disposal area adjacent to Slip D. Approx. 35,950 cy of material will be displaced during project activities.

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

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

HIRING OF LOCK OPERATOR

Commissioner Monty Vegas announced that the Personnel Committee had met on February 26, 2024 to discuss the hiring of one lock operator as previously approved by the board at the February 19, 2024 regular meeting. He stated that after reviewing the applications received, the general manager and board president, along with the Committee, agreed on one applicant best qualified to fill the position of Navigational Lock Operator 1.

OLD BUSINESS

RECOGNITION CEREMONY FOR WINDELL CUROLE

In honor of Mr. Windell Curole's retirement after 43 years of service, President Keith Guidry read aloud Resolution 2024.01 as follows:

Moved by Ronald Callais and seconded by Monty Vegas, Resolution No. 2024.01 was unanimously adopted.

RESOLUTION No. 2024.01

WHEREAS, Windell A. Curole, having served in the capacity of General Manager/Executive Secretary for the Board of Commissioners of the South Lafourche Levee District since 1980, has provided leadership and direction for both Staff and Board; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Curole's efforts in overseeing design, construction, improvements, and maintenance of the Larose to Golden Meadow Hurricane Levee Protection system for many decades has saved thousands of lives and prevented hundreds of millions of dollars in flood damage to homes and businesses in the south Lafourche community; and

WHEREAS, the success of the levee system, together with Mr. Curole's life-long advocacy for coastal protection and community safety, is widely renowned to state and national organizations; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Curole has been recognized twice by the National Hurricane Conference for his leadership in flood risk reduction, has served as Chairman of the Barataria-Terrebonne National Estuary Program, President of the Lafourche Chamber of Commerce, and President of the Louisiana Floodplain Management Association, and has been an active contributing member of such critical entities as the FEMA National Hurricane Mitigation Task Force, the National Association of State Floodplain Managers, the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, the Lafourche Parish Coastal Zone Management office, and the Governor's Advisory Commission on Coastal Protection, Restoration and Conservation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Curole was also the visionary of the 100-year memorial of the Great Cheniere Hurricane of 1893, which manifested as a regional festival that attracted nearly 10,000 visitors from around the world to South Lafourche communities in 1993; for the grass-roots cultural organization that emerged – the Cheniere Hurricane Centennial – to which he has served as its only President for 29 years;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the South Lafourche Levee District does hereby acknowledge the success that has led to Mr. Curole's many recognitions and awards and the success of the Larose to Golden Meadow Hurricane Protection System and does hereby thank and and congratulate Mr. Curole for his many years of service in successfully fighting for and representing the South Lafourche Levee District and the residents and businesses for which it is entrusted the noble responsibility of protecting.

UNANIMOUSLY ADOPTED on this 19th day of March 2024.

Mr. Guidry then presented Mr. Curole with a plaque of the resolution honoring him for his many years of service at the South Lafourche Levee District.

Mr. Curole addressed the board and audience saying it had been an honor to serve the community. It made him who he was. He thanked the elected officials from 1980 to present who made sure the work was accomplished. He stated his one goal was to keep water out of homes and businesses. He thanked the board for their support, and the people for approving the taxes that allowed us to build higher levees. Mr. Curole also recognized former attorney Harwell Herrin, Corps personnel Joey Wagner and all the SLLD staff who had worked with him over the years. Mr. Curole recognized the late Leon Theriot who served as SLLD board president for 19 years, and Vice President Ronald Callais who had served as President for 22 years. Mr. Curole thanked the board and stated it had been an honor to work for the people of South Lafourche for 43 years.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

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

/S/Keith Guidry, President

/S/Nicholas Matherne, General Manager