

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDING
OF
SOUTH LAFOURCHE LEVEE DISTRICT
MARCH 17, 2025**

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, March 17, 2025, 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 Brett DeRoche led the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Guidry directed the secretary to call roll.

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

Board members absent: None

Also present were:

Executive Director Nicholas Matherne
Administrative Assistant Amy Gisclair
Operations Manager Drake Baudoin
Engineering Personnel:
Joe Picciola, Picciola & Associates
Neil Angelette, Angelette Design
John Plaisance, GIS Engineering
Kevin Dezarn, GIS Engineering
Stevie Smith, All South Consulting Engineers

Lafourche Parish Councilman Daniel Lorraine
Daisy Carmardelle, AIMS Group
Russ Gisclair, Danos
Robert Theriot
News media

READING OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the February 10, 2025, Regular Meeting were approved unanimously upon a motion by Brian Marts and seconded by Scott Theriot.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ALBL WORKSHOP: MAY 1-2, 2025

President Guidry announced that the annual spring Levee Boards workshop would be held on May 1st and 2nd. Rooms were reserved for April 30th for two nights. Anyone who cannot attend should notify the office.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF March 3, 2025

Chairman Scott Theriot reported that the Executive Committee had met on March 3rd and that Mr. Matherne would be reporting on those topics during his report. A copy of the minutes was provided with a recommendation to accept.

Moved by McNeely Rome and seconded by Mitch Danos, the minutes of the March 3, 2025, Executive Committee were accepted as presented.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Mr. Robert Theriot addressed the Board representing the Golden Meadow Rotary Club. He announced the upcoming festival of March 22nd to be held at the Golden Meadow Park beginning at 10:00 a.m. to celebrate the 2nd Annual Catfish Cookoff.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Nic Matherne informed the public that a renaming of Pump Station No. 1 was held on February 26th. A formal dedication of the Callais Pump Station was observed by family and board members to honor former Board member, Mr. Ronald Callais, who passed away in 2024 after serving over forty years on the South Lafourche Levee District's Board of Commissioners.

MISSISSIPPI VALLEY FLOOD CONTROL ASSOCIATION FLY-IN

Mr. Matherne stated that he and President Keith Guidry attended the Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association Fly-In in Washington, DC the previous week. Along with North Lafourche Executive Director Dwayne Bourgeois, Terrebonne Levee Executive Director Angela Hidalgo and Morganza to the Gulf Program Manager Mitch Marmande, they met with various Congressional staffers representing Louisiana as well as staff from the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works and the House Natural Resources Committee. Mr. Matherne explained that the biggest item discussed dealt with the National Environmental Policy Act. Mr. Matherne gave a detailed explanation on our delays with permitting projects along our system because of requirements associated with the National Environmental Policy Act and the recommendations of the Congressional staffers to provide them with recommended changes to the law that would make obtaining permits for levee work easier in the future.

Mr. Matherne informed the board that they also met with FEMA regarding unpaid repair work from Hurricane Ida totaling approximately \$1.5 million. After a lengthy discussion, the head of FEMA committed to giving a response within 45 days.

HTV'S GOING PUBLIC

Mr. Matherne announced that he was recently on the February edition of HTV's "Going Public" discussing updates to our levee system ahead of the upcoming hurricane season. Mr. Matherne stated that he would be back on "Going Public" on April 22nd to discuss more updates. In addition, Mr. Matherne announced that he would be on "Talk of the Bayou" with Jerry "Truck" Gisclair on KLEB Radio the first Tuesday of each month starting April 1st to give updates to our local community.

GATE CLOSURE EXERCISE

Mr. Matherne announced the annual spring exercise of road gate closures would occur on Wednesday, April 2nd. He explained that the procedure was to test the closures and correct any issues that were found.

PROPOSED FY2026 BUDGET

Mr. Matherne presented the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2026 for review and stated that it would be presented at the April meeting for acceptance.

ENGINEERING REPORT

OFFICE OF COASTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION

Mr. Daniel Dearmond was not in attendance.

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 Modeling 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 has not been on-site because of the weather. He will mobilize on-site when weather permits. Compeaux and Sons, LLC has been on-site shaping material on the levee crown and protected side berm.

Compeaux and Sons, LLC has submitted Pay Application No. 5 in the amount of \$58,695.00.

Moved by Gavin Callais, seconded by Mitch Danos and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 5 in the amount of \$58,695.00 to Construction site Specialties.

- **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 of the fieldwork and is complete with the 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.

- **Emergency Gate Closure at Larose Floodgate**

TLP Construction Co., LLC is the contractor. A conditional Notice to Proceed was issued on January 6, 2025 for ordering of the equipment. Once the equipment is delivered, we will issue the formal Notice to Proceed to begin the project. The winches have been approved and ordered.

- **2025 Centerline Survey**

The centerline survey and plan profile is complete. We have submitted the survey data to the LA CPRA and will be forwarding the data to the USACE for their information.

- **Corner Plate Repair at the South Floodgate**

We submitted plans for the repairs to the Levee District. The boat company will hire a contractor to make repairs. P&A will inspect the repair work as it progresses.

GIS ENGINEERING, LLC

Engineer Kevin Dezarn reported the following:

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

Due to a landowner’s concern with having a portion of the levee on his property, the alignment was shifted south to avoid his property. We are currently awaiting approval from the “new” landowner to the south for the revised alignment.

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

The contractor is doing site preparations.

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

The contractor is working on punch list items. This includes a properly graded spoil area and the area north of the structure.

The contractor has submitted Pay Application No. 6 in the amount of \$90,278.74

Moved by Brett DeRoche, seconded by Roland Curole and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 6 in the amount of \$90,278.74 to Garden Environments.

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

Construction is ongoing. The contractor has installed all sheet piling and plans to begin grading site.

The contractor has submitted Pay Application No. 3 in the amount of \$223,076.63.

Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Scott Theriot and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 3 in the amount of \$223,076.63.

Amend Agenda

Mr. Matherne requested two GIS Contracts be added to the agenda for consideration. A roll call vote was taken to add GIS General Engineering Contract and GIS Engineering Contract-Raphael Road to the agenda as follows:

Upon a motion by Scott Theriot and seconded by Monty Vegas, a roll-call vote was made to add two GIS contracts to the agenda.

With 9 Yeas, 0 Nays, 0 Absent and 0 Abstained the following was added:

General Engineering Contract

Mr. Matherne presented a general engineering contract that would extend the spending limits of the previous engineering contract to allow additional services to be carried out. Mr. Dezarn explained that rather than amend the previous contract, which had been amended multiple times, GIS was presenting a new engineering contract upon the expiration of the previous one. He added that required FEMA language was included in the contract along with time and materials not to exceed \$60K. Mr. Matherne recommended the board accept the contract, contingent upon legal review and acceptance.

Moved by McNeely Rome and seconded by Brett DeRoche, the board unanimously accepted the proposed GIS Engineering Contract for time and materials not to exceed \$60,000 and authorized the board president or executive director to sign the agreement contingent upon the recommendation of the board attorney.

GIS Engineering Contract - Raphael Road Bridge

Mr. Matherne stated concerns with a railcar bridge that had been placed on Raphael Road some years back and needed replacement. He explained that GIS Engineering would coordinate with landowners and provide the best alternative or replacement of the bridge. Mr. Dezarn stated that the proposal was for \$50,840.00 and gave a breakdown of those costs. Mr. Matherne recommended the board approve the proposal pending legal review, and to authorize the president or executive director to sign the agreement upon legal approval.

Moved by Gavin Callais and seconded by Monty Vegas, the board unanimously accepted the proposed GIS Engineering Contract for engineering services associated with the replacement of the Raphael Road Bridge in the amount of \$50,800. The board further authorized the board president or executive director to sign the agreement contingent upon the advice and recommendation of the board attorney.

A roll call vote was taken, and with 9 Yeas, 0 Nays, 0 Absent and 0 Abstained, the board returned to the regular agenda.

LEVEE IMPROVEMENTS – ANGELETTE-DESIGN, LLC

Engineer Neil Angelette reported the following:

- **C-North Levee Improvements**

The contractor, Compeaux & Sons Construction, LLC has completed the 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 #1377 in the amount of \$99,697.50.

Moved by Scott Theriot, seconded by Roland Curole and unanimously accepted, the board approved Invoice No. 1377 in the amount of \$99,697.50 to Compeaux & Sons Construction.

- **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 #1047 in the amount of \$29,385.00 for this work.

Moved by Brian Marts, seconded by Brett DeRoche and unanimously accepted, the board approved Invoice No. 1047 in the amount of \$29,385.00 to NEWGEM Construction.

- **Section F Berm Improvements**

The contractor, Sealevel Construction, Inc. has completed work on the project to improve the protected side berm. We are recommending approval of the clear lien certificate. Acceptance of Clear Lien Certificate.

Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Mitch Danos and unanimously accepted, the board accepted Clear Lien Certificate from Sealevel Construction.

We are also recommending approval of Pay Application No. 14 in the amount of \$198,348.31 for the contract retainage.

Moved by Brett DeRoche, seconded by Roland Curole and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 14 in the amount of \$198,348.31 to Sealevel Construction.

MORGANZA TO THE GULF

DELTA COAST CONSULTANTS

Program Manager Report (Kyle Pierce)

- We have received the design report from the Corps on the GIWW-East Floodgate, which will be located just east of the intracoastal waterway. We have reviewed the designs and recommendations were made to install sector gates instead of a hard gate. We are awaiting final design and cost estimates.

ALL SOUTH CONSULTING ENGINEERS

Engineer Report (Stevie Smith)

- **Reach K Levee (Project #041-10-01)**
Lafourche Parish is working to secure funds to add another lift onto Reach K.

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 was not in attendance.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

INVOICES

Chairman 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

Chairman Gavin Callais reported that the Personnel Committee met earlier to review applications to fill positions of grass cutter and tractor operator. Upon review, the Personnel Committee recommended the executive director and operations manager conduct interviews and hire successful candidates for those positions.

Moved by Monty Vegas, seconded by Scott Theriot and unanimously carried, the board authorized the executive director and operations manager to conduct interviews and hire the most qualified applicants for the Mobile Equipment Operator (grass cutter) and Light Equipment Operator (tractor operator) positions.

Mr. Callais stated that an addition to the employees Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual was recommended to add "Prohibited Political Activities". Mr. Matherne explained that this was a State Civil

Service policy and though we are no longer a part of SCS, we still follow their rules and guidelines for areas where we don't have our own policies in place.

Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Brett DeRoche and unanimously carried, the board authorized the addition of Prohibited Political Activities to the SLLD's Personnel Policies and Procedures Manual for its employees.

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 Brian Marts.

/s/Keith Guidry, President

/s/Nicholas Matherne, General Manager