

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDING
OF
SOUTH LAFOURCHE LEVEE DISTRICT
JANUARY 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 Tuesday, January 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 January 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	Engineering Personnel:
Executive Secretary Windell Curole	Joe Picciola
Administrative Assistant 6 Mary Punch	Sandy Guidry
Administrative Assistant 3 Amy Gisclair	John Plaisance
Levee Board Operations Superintendent Drake Baudoin	CPRA Daniel Dearmond
Attorney Ryan Collins	News media

READING OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the December 11, 2023, Regular Meeting were approved unanimously upon a motion by Scott Theriot and seconded by Monty Vegas.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President Guidry opened the floor to the election of officers.

Commissioner Ronald Callais moved to re-elect Keith Guidry as president.

On a motion by Ronald Callais and seconded by Monty Vegas, the board unanimously re-elected Mr. Keith Guidry as President for the year 2024.

Commissioner Monty Vegas moved to re-elect Ronald Callais as vice president.

On a motion by Monty Vegas and seconded by Brett DeRoche, the board unanimously re-elected Mr. Ronald Callais as Vice President for the year 2024.

Commissioner McNeely Rome moved to re-elect Monty Vegas as Treasurer.

On a motion by McNeely Rome and seconded by Brian Marts, the board unanimously re-elected Mr. Monty Vegas as Treasurer for the year 2024.

Commissioner Ronald Callais moved to re-elect Windell Curole as Executive Secretary.

On a motion by Ronald Callais and seconded by Mitch Danos, the board unanimously re-elected Mr. Windell Curole as Executive Secretary for the year 2024.

ASSIGNMENT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President Guidry announced that committee assignments would remain the same. Anyone who desired to change their committee appointment should notify President Guidry prior to the next meeting.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF JANUARY 8, 2024

Chairman Ronald Callais conveyed his appreciation to those who checked on him during his recent illness.

Mr. Callais then reported on the following items that were discussed during the Executive Committee meeting held on Monday, January 8, 2024:

- Centerline Survey
- Leon Theriot Lock Maintenance Bid Award Recommendation
- PS No. 8 Discharge Pipe Replacement Bid Award Recommendation
- Proposed Changes to Pay Plan
- Additional Pump at PS No. 6 – Potential Grants
- Reach K Lift

Each commissioner was presented with a copy of the Executive Committee minutes in full.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

There were no comments from the audience.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

LEVEE CENTERLINE SURVEY

General Manager Nic Matherne announced that Picciola & Associates would be running the Centerline Survey along the entire levee system and would provide the levee district with an updated centerline profile. He explained the value of having an updated profile each year as a way to see the height differences from year to year, the areas where the levees are below their targeted height, and the most vulnerable areas that would become priority projects.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO PAY PLAN

Mr. Matherne explained that there were some proposed changes to the pay plan. One would be to separate the 4% merit increase into a 2% merit and a 2% annual cost of living (COLA). In addition, there would be an incentive for earning up to a total of 5% or 6% each year when achieving a higher-than-normal performance rating. The Personnel Committee will discuss this item later in the meeting.

REACH K LIFT

Mr. Matherne explained that Terrebonne Levee was currently looking to raise Reach K to an elevation of 11 feet. TLCD has requested we participate in a cost-sharing funding of the project in the amount of \$250,000. Mr. Matherne informed the board of the area involved and stated that Reaches K and L were both within the SLLD's taxing district. The entire project would cost just over \$1M to complete. Our concern is with the level of elevation before it affects the SLLD's levee system. A lengthy discussion pursued. Mr. Matherne recommended the board agree to help fund the project, providing TLCD keeps us informed of the heights of the Morganza system levees that could potentially pose flooding threats for the Larose to Golden Meadow levee system.

Moved by Ronald Callais and seconded by Mitch Danos, the board unanimously agreed to provide \$250,000 towards the elevation of the Reach K Lift to 11 feet.

LA 1 COALITION 2024 MEMBERSHIP DUES WITH CEA

Mr. Matherne presented a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with LA 1 Coalition to provide an annual membership fee of \$750.

Moved by McNeely Rome and seconded by Brett DeRoche, the board unanimously approved payment of \$750.00 and authorized the general manager to sign the CEA for the renewal of the LA 1 Coalition Membership for the year 2024.

ENGINEERING REPORT

OFFICE OF COASTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION

Mr. Daniel Dearmond had no update to provide to the board.

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 has been on-site excavating and moving dirt onto the levee section. Outer Limit has been placing material on the crown to +14 feet NGVD.

There is no pay application this month.

Outer Limit Contractors, LLC has submitted Pay Application No. 2 in the amount of \$79,680.00.

Moved by Mitch Danos, seconded by Scott Theriot and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 2 in the amount of \$79,680.00.

- **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. They have been working on the Larose Floodgate electrical work.
There is no pay application this month.

- **Hurricane Ida Storm Damage Repairs to Main Office**
Grand Isle Shipyard, LLC is the Contractor. The project is complete, and the Lien Period is complete. The contractor has submitted Pay Application No. 10 in the amount of \$46,390.00 for retainage.

Moved by Roland Curole, seconded by Brian Marts and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 10 in the amount of \$46,390.00.

- **Maintenance of North Sector Gates at Leon Theriot Lock**
We received bids on December 19th at 10:00 am. Sealevel Construction, Inc. was the low bidder in the amount of \$664,900.00.

Moved by Monty Vegas, seconded by Mitch Danos and unanimously accepted, the board accepted the low bid from Sealevel Construction in the amount of \$664,900.00 and authorized the president or general manager to sign any agreements or other documents necessary to proceed with the project.

- **A-East Interim Levee Improvements**
Project Plans and Specifications are complete. They have been submitted to CPRA for approval. We spoke to CPRA and are requesting Eustis Engineering provide a proposal for additional geotechnical analysis.

- **Replacement of Discharge Pipe at Pump Station No. 8**

We received bids on December 19th at 10:00 am. Sealevel Construction, Inc. was the low bidder in the amount of \$138,600.00.

Moved by Mitch Danos, seconded by Brett DeRoche and unanimously accepted, the board accepted the low bid from Sealevel Construction in the amount of \$138,600.00, and authorized the president or general manager to sign any agreements or other documents necessary to proceed with the project.

GIS ENGINEERING, LLC

Engineer John Plaisance reported the following:

- **A-East Bayou Water Retention – GIS# 39130-1251/1252**
 - USACE issued the permit for the project on November 29, 2021. GIS is coordinating with DNR to extend that previously issued permit.
 - GIS continues to coordinate with Chevron (Arcadis) to prepare a Letter of No Objection.
 - Estimated Advertise Date: Q1 2024
 - Estimated Completion Date: TBD
 - Proposed Elevation: +3'
- **D-North Ramp – GIS# 39130-1249/1250**
 - Contractor: LA Contracting Enterprise, LLC
 - Termination Date: May 25, 2023
 - This project has been Terminated for Convenience per the contract documents, effective 5/25/2023.
- **D-North Ramp Lift (Material Stockpile) – GIS# 39130-1249/1457**
 - GIS received quotes for this project Friday, September 8, 2023.
 - Recommendation to award to Outer Limits in the amount of \$234,800 for the base bid and alternate no. 1 was submitted to SLLD and approved at the September 11, 2023 Board meeting.
 - Based on discussions and negotiations with the on-site pit landowner, SLLD asked that Outer Limits hold their bid until landowner negotiations have been completed. Outer Limits agreed to hold their price until February, 2024. Negotiations continue with the property owner on alternate sites.
- **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 the material stockpile to be completed to finalize bid package.
 - Estimated Advertisement Date: February 2024 (Pending Landowner Negotiations)
 - Estimated Completion Date: June 2024 (Pending Landowner Negotiations)
 - Proposed Elevation: +16.0'
- **Reconnection of Breton Canal to Bayou Lafourche – GIS# 39130-1329**
 - SLLD and the Allain-LeBreton Company are coordinating the rights-of-way requirements.
 - GIS is coordinating with SLLD staff to perform the site improvements (clearing & grubbing and excavation) on the project.
 - GIS submitted the Final Design Report (including plans, specs, and cost estimate) to SLLD for review and comments on December 8, 2023.
 - Estimated Construction Cost: \$950,000 (with 15% contingency)
- **D-South Floodwall at Crawfish Farms, Phase III Improvements – GIS# 39130-TBD**
 - GIS is preparing Final Design calculations, plans and specifications for the levee tie-ins.
 - Estimated Construction Cost: \$785,000

LEVEE IMPROVEMENTS – ANGELETTE-DESIGN, LLC

Engineer Sandy Guidry 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 #1217 in the amount of \$94,057.50.

Moved by Ronald Callais, seconded by Mitch Danos and unanimously accepted, the board approved Invoice No. 1217 in the amount of \$94,057.50.

- **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 #1216 in the amount of \$19,250.00.

Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Scott Theriot and unanimously accepted, the board approved Invoice No. 1216 in the amount of \$19,250.00.

- **Larose Floodwall Vessel Impact Barrier**

The contractor has started purchasing and storing materials at their yard in Houma and we expect construction to begin later this month.

- **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. 3 in the amount of \$873,015.80.

Moved by Roland Curole, seconded by Brett DeRoche and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 3 in the amount of \$873,015.80.

MORGANZA TO THE GULF

DELTA COAST CONSULTANTS

No one was in attendance

ALL SOUTH CONSULTING ENGINEERS

No one was in attendance

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 reported the following:

1. Update on pending litigation (possible executive session)
 - a. Jason Adams, et al v. SLLD - Suit No. 118486 - Div. A – 17th JDC
This item is pending.
 - b. LA Contracting Enterprise, LLC v. SLLD, et al – Docket No. 148539
We are hoping to have a courts opinion within the next 30 to 60 days.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

INVOICES

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

On a motion of Brian Marts, seconded by Roland Curole, and unanimously carried, the board approved the payment of the invoices as presented.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

UPCOMING AMENDMENTS TO PERSONNEL MANUAL

Commissioner Monty Vegas announced that the Personnel Manual would soon be amended to reflect the Personnel Committee's decisions on the awarding of five days of paid vacation (60 hours) per year, to be used in the calendar year, in lieu of accrued annual leave.

On a motion of Ronald Callais, seconded by Brett DeRoche, and unanimously carried, the board authorized the Personnel Committee to provide five days equating to 60 scheduled work hours of annual leave in lieu of accrued annual leave.

ALLOW PERSONNEL COMMITTEE TO MAKE EMPLOYEE PAY DECISIONS FOR THE YEAR 2024

Mr. Vegas recommended the board authorize the Personnel Committee to make employee pay decisions for the calendar year 2024.

On a motion of Ronald Callais, seconded by Roland Curole, and unanimously carried, the board authorized the Personnel Committee to implement employee pay decisions for the calendar year 2024.

OLD BUSINESS

Mr. Matherne advised the board that though the board passed a resolution to provide the Terrebonne Levee & Conservation District with \$250,000 to further the construction of lifting Reach K of the Morganza to the Gulf project, the resolution did not include authorizing the Levee District to enter into a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with TLCD or to allow the General Manager or the Board President to sign the agreement and that the previous resolution should be amended to include those two provisions.

Moved by McNeely Rome and seconded by Ronald Callais, the board unanimously voted to amend the previous resolution under agenda item VIII(c), "Reach K Lift", for providing funding for Reach K to include authorizing the board president or general manager to sign a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with Terrebonne Levee & Conservation District as a financial partner to provide \$250,000 towards the elevation of the Reach K Lift to 11 feet.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

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

/s/Keith Guidry, President

/s/Nicholas Matherne, General Manager