

OFFICIAL PROCEEDING
OF
SOUTH LAFOURCHE LEVEE DISTRICT
DATE JULY 8, 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, July 8, 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 July 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
Roland Curole
Mitch Danos
Brett DeRoche
Brian Marts
Mc Neely Rome
Monty Vegas

Board members absent: Scott Theriot

Also present were:

Executive Director Nicholas Matherne	Kevin Dezarn, GIS Engineering
Executive Assistant Mary Punch	Stevie Smith, All South Consulting Engineers
Administrative Assistant Amy Gisclair	Norby Chabert, Claitor Chabert
Operations Manager Drake Baudoin	Dan Claitor, Claitor Chabert
Engineering Personnel:	Kris Callais, GLPC
Joe Picciola, Picciola & Associates	Luke Landry, Gallagher Ins
Neil Angelette, Angelette Design	Tommy Landry, Gallagher Ins
Nicholas Angelette, Angelette Design	News media
John Plaisance, GIS Engineering	

READING OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the June 10, 2024, Regular Meeting were approved unanimously upon a motion by McNeely Rome and seconded by Brett DeRoche.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Guidry reminded everyone that we were now in active hurricane season, and everyone should make plans for any storms that might come our way.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

Executive Director Nic Matherne stated that the Executive Committee had met on Tuesday, July 2, 2024 and discussed the following items:

- Recent Rainfall & High-Water Events
- WRDA 2024 Amendments
- Ted Gisclair Lock – HMGP Update
- D-North Material Stockpile

Mr. Matherne briefed the board on each item and stated that he would go into more detail on most of those items during the Executive Director's Report.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Norby Chabert of the lobbying firm, Chabert Claitor, addressed the board and introduced his business partner, Mr. Dan Claitor. Mr. Chabert stated \$400,000 had been secured during the last legislative session for replacement costs from damages to surveillance equipment at the Leon Theriot Lock. Mr. Chabert briefed the board on the newly created Transportation and Infrastructure fund. Mr. Chabert stated that he was looking forward to working with the South Lafourche Levee District to help meet its financial needs.

Mr. Dan Claitor introduced himself to the board and stated he looked forward to working with the South Lafourche Levee District.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

CPRA AMENDMENT NO. 5 (BA-0231) SECTION E-NORTH

Executive Director Nic Matherne presented Amendment No. 5 from CPRA that would move \$195,998.50 from D-North project to the E-North project for a total of \$2,995,998.50 funding for E-North. Mr. Matherne stated that there were a few updates to the amendment and that legal counsel had reviewed with no comments or revisions. He recommended the board authorize the Executive Director to sign the amendment as presented.

Moved by Month Vegas and seconded by Mitch Danos, the board unanimously approved Amendment No. 5 to the original CPRA agreement (BA-0231) Section E-North, Storm Surge Risk Reduction, and authorized the Executive Director to sign and execute the amendment and attachments.

RECENT RAINFALL & HIGH-WATER EVENTS

Mr. Matherne announced that we had heavy rainfall and high-water events in mid-June that warranted closures of the floodgate structures. Mr. Matherne briefed the board on the amount of rain and high-water levels due to rain and tropical storm conditions, along with gate closures and boat traffic through the Ted Gisclair floodgate.

Mr. Matherne also informed the board of an incident with a barge that had rammed the guide wall at the Ted Gisclair Floodgate and pushed it back 15 feet. He stated that the engineers were working to get an estimate on repairs, and we would get that estimate to the responsible party's insurance company.

WRDA 2024 AMENDMENTS

Mr. Matherne stated that he had been working with Congressional delegates to get language added to WRDA 2024 that would help SLLD to get reinstated into the Corps' Rehabilitation and Inspection Program. The Corps has one year to conduct a study of our levee system to determine if we caused any injury to the Corps' federal project by all the work done on the levee system since Hurricane Katrina, and report back to Congress. They must also make a recommendation for a system-wide improvement plan.

TED GISCLAIR LOCK – HMGP GRANT UPDATE

Mr. Matherne stated that we were still waiting for the \$15M from the Lafourche Parish Government through FEMA's Hazardous Mitigation Grant Program. FEMA has requested the Parish conduct H & H modeling to show where large amounts of water would go when the second gate is added. The parish is currently determining the extent and cost of this project and will keep us informed. Mr. Matherne updated the board on the cost of the fully completed lock in Larose and stated that it would now cost \$39.5 million. The levee district currently has \$25 million pledged to that project.

D-NORTH MATERIAL STOCKPILE

Mr. Matherne deferred the D-North Material Stockpile to GIS Engineering's report.

MINERAL LEASE NOMINATION

Mr. Matherne announced Theophilus Oil, Gas & Land Services out of Baton Rouge requested that we advertise for bids for mineral exploration on property that we own near Hackberry Bay. Mr. Matherne presented a resolution that was prepared by Lee Block, Land Consultant, and explained the steps needed in advertising and awarding, along with the fees involved. Mr. Matherne stated that the resolution had been reviewed and approved by legal counsel and recommended the board accept and authorize the advertisement as presented.

Moved by McNeely Rome and seconded by Mitch Danos, the board unanimously accepted the resolution to advertise for bid for an Oil, Gas and Mineral Lease on Bay de Chene property currently owned by the South Lafourche Levee District near Hackberry Bay.

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 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.

Construction Site Specialties, LLC has submitted Pay Application No. 6 in the amount of \$68,343.00.

Moved by Monty Vegas, seconded by Brett DeRoche and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 6 in the amount of \$68,343.00.

- **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 with the project and the Lien Period is complete.

Sealevel Construction, Inc. has submitted Pay Application No. 4 (Retainage) in the amount of \$35,120.00.

Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Brian Marts and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 4 in the amount of \$35,120.00, pending Clear Lien.

- **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 is complete with the engineering analysis. We are submitting the engineering analysis to CPRA for review and approval.

- **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 with the project and the Lien Period is complete.

Sealevel Construction, Inc. has submitted Pay Application No. 4 (Retainage) in the amount of \$14,332.00.

Moved by Roland Curole, seconded by Brett DeRoche and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 4 in the amount of \$14,332.00, pending Clear Lien.

- **Repairs to North Gate Structure**

We accepted bids on June 6 and TLP Construction Co., LLC was the low bidder in the amount of \$115,000.00. We held the Pre-Construction meeting and the Notice to Proceed will be issued for July 8, 2024.

- **Repairs to Pump No. 1 at Pump Station No. 2**

Boland Marine is the Contractor. 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 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.
 - 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 to use both potential borrow areas in the area of the D-North Ramp project. GIS is working with Outer Limit Construction to move forward with the Material Stockpile project. We expect excavation to begin at the triangular pit in July.

- **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: +18.0'

- **Breton Canal Weir – 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.
 - GIS will schedule a Pre-Construction Conference. We anticipate issuing a Notice to Proceed at that time.
 - Estimated Construction Cost: \$999,000.00

- **D-South Floodwall at Crawfish Farms – Phase III Improvements – GIS# 39130-1485**
 - GIS has addressed comments received from SLLD and is preparing an IFB set of plans and specs.
 - Estimated Advertisement Date: Q3 2024
 - Estimated Construction Cost: \$785,000

Engineer John Plaisance stated that the project was ready to advertise for public bid and requested board authorize GIS Engineering to proceed.

Moved by McNeely Rome and seconded by Mitch Danos, the board unanimously authorized GIS Engineering to advertise for public bid, D-South Floodwall at Crawfish Farms – Phase III Improvements.

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 #1275 in the amount of \$74,722.50.
Moved by Mitch Danos, seconded by Roland Curole and unanimously accepted, the board approved Invoice No. 1275 in the amount of \$74,722.50.

- **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 as well as hauling materials from the area behind the shooting range. We are recommending approval of Invoice #1276 in the amount of \$35,000.00, and Invoice #1277 in the amount of \$178,077.50.

Moved by Monty Vegas, seconded by McNeely Rome and unanimously accepted, the board approved Invoice No. 1276 in the amount of \$35,000.00.

Moved by Brian Marts, seconded by Brett DeRoche and unanimously accepted, the board approved Invoice No. 1277 in the amount of \$178,077.50.

- **Larose Floodwall Vessel Impact Barrier**

The contractor, Low Land Construction Company, Inc. has completed work on the project. We are recommending approval of Application for Payment No. 7 in the amount of \$68,793.92.

Moved by Brett DeRoche, seconded by McNeely Rome and opposed by Mitch Danos, the board approved Pay Request No. 7 in the amount of \$68,793.92.

We are also recommending substantial completion as of June 13, 2024.

On a motion by McNeely Rome and seconded by Brett DeRoche the board unanimously accepted the Substantial Completion of the Larose Floodwall Vessel Impact Barrier.

- **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. 9 in the amount of \$153,520.00.

Moved by Mitch Danos, seconded by Roland Curole and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 9 in the amount of \$153,520.00.

Mr. Nic Matherne addressed an issue with the hauling activities going on for Section F Berm. He stated that the area where dirt was being taken was down Hamilton Street north of the Intracoastal. He added that Hamilton Street was just resurfaced in 2019, but that trucks hauling these materials were causing potholes in the road. He added that once we were done with Section F hauling materials, North Lafourche would also be using that same borrow area to haul materials. After North Lafourche Levee has completed their hauling, we will get with them and the Parish to resolve the road damages.

MORGANZA TO THE GULF

DELTA COAST CONSULTANTS

Program Manager Report (Mitch Marmande)

No one was in attendance.

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 share being approximately \$881,000.

- **Reach K Marsh Mitigation Emergency Rehabilitation Phase II**

- 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 – from floodgate to access road is being elevated to +12. This section will be completed this week.
- From access road north to first water control structure (approximately 2 miles) is completed to elevation +11.

- **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 moved on site.
 - The phase of the work will start as soon as Reach K – South is completed.

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

Chairman Mitch Danos announced that two permit requests were received for review, and that neither interfered with the levee.

On a motion of Brett DeRoche, seconded by Roland Curole and unanimously carried, the board approved Letters of No Objection for the following requests:

1. **ALLIED SHIPYARD INC**
CUP NO: P20240432
LOCATION: Lafourche Parish, LA; Lat. 29-21-25N, Long. 90-15-4W; Section 17, T19-R22; 2087 Hwy 1, Golden Meadow, LA 70357.
DESCRIPTION: Maintenance dredge, to previously permitted condition, dock area slips in order to allow boards to access and operate the dry docks. Approx 9,051 cy of material will be excavated and hauled off-site.

2. **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' x 16') for private use. No excavation or fill is required for the proposed work.

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 a motion of Brian Marts, seconded by Brett DeRoche, and unanimously carried, the board approved the payment of the invoices as presented.

Commissioner Monty Vegas announced that the Administrative and Financial Policies manual had been provided to each board member for review at the June meeting. Mr. Vegas stated that revisions to the manual included title changes and the new ACH payment option for vendors and contractors. Mr. Vegas recommended the manual be accepted as presented.

Moved by McNeely Rome and seconded by Brett DeRoche, the board unanimously adopted the revised Administrative and Financial Policies Manual as presented.

INSURANCE COMMITTEE

Commissioner Monty Vegas announced that the committee had met earlier to review insurance policies that were up for renewal in July and that premiums were less than in the previous year. Mr. Vegas explained the differences and recommended the board approve those policies.

Moved by Mitch Danos and seconded by McNeely Rome, the board unanimously approved upcoming insurance policies as presented.

Mr. Vegas added that the Committee would be meeting with the insurance carriers soon to discuss the policies in detail and to stay on top of any changes.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Chairman Monty Vegas announced that two positions had been filled recently. The Executive Director and Operations Manager were previously authorized by the Personnel Committee to fill the positions of Operator/Mechanic and Mobile Equipment Operator. Jarrid Pierce was hired for Operator/Mechanic and David Pennino, Jr. was hired for Mobile Equipment Operator.

Mr. Vegas stated that the Personnel Policies and Procedures manual had been updated to reflect the new job titles and pay scale. He recommended the board approve the changes as presented.

Moved by McNeely and seconded by Brett DeRoche, the board unanimously approved the updated Personnel Policies and Procedures manual, Rev 2024.02.

OLD BUSINESS

Although a motion was made under the GIS Engineer's Report, Mr. Matherne recommended the board do a roll call vote to add "Advertise for Bid, D-South Floodwall at Crawfish Farms – Phase III" to the agenda.

With 7 Yays, 0 Nays, 1 Absent, 1 Vacancy and 0 Abstained, the Board amended the agenda to add "Advertise for Bid" to D-South Floodwall at Crawfish Farms – Phase III Improvements – GIS# 39130-1485.

Moved by McNeely Rome and seconded by Mitch Danos, the board unanimously authorized GIS Engineering to advertise for public bid, D-South Floodwall at Crawfish Farms – Phase III Improvements.

NEW BUSINESS

President Guidry questioned putting a gate where the Bourg-Larose Hwy connected to LA 1 near the LA 1 Bridge in Larose. That portion of the road was closed off to thru traffic with a small levee. He added that an 18-wheeler had recently gotten stuck trying to cross over the levee. Mr. Matherne stated that he was working to obtain quotes for a gate to be placed in front of the levee.

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

/S/Keith Guidry, President

/S/Nicholas Matherne, General Manager