

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDING
OF
SOUTH LAFOURCHE LEVEE DISTRICT
FEBRUARY 19, 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, February 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 February 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
Brett DeRoche
Brian Marts
Mc Neely Rome
Scott Theriot

Board members absent: Mitch Danos
Monty Vegas

Also present were:

General Manager Nicholas Matherne	CPRA Daniel Dearmond
Administrative Assistant 6 Mary Punch	Lafourche Parish Councilman Daniel Lorraine
Administrative Assistant 3 Amy Gisclair	TLCD Reggie Dupre
Levee Board Operations Superintendent Drake Baudoin	TLCD Angela Hidalgo
Attorney Ryan Collins	Fire District No. 3 Devon Dedon
Engineering Personnel:	Fire District No. 3 Myles Rouse
Joe Picciola	Fire District No. 3 Mary Rotolo
Neil Angelette	News media
John Plaisance	
Melanie Caillouet	

READING OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the January 9, 2024, Regular Meeting were approved unanimously upon a motion by McNeely Rome and seconded by Roland Curole.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Guidry stated that he had nothing to report. He added that although there was no quorum for a Personnel Committee meeting earlier that day, one item would be addressed by the board later in the meeting.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF February 8, 2024

Chairman Ronald Callais reported on the following items from the Executive Committee meeting:

- February meeting date changed
- ALBL Executive Committee
- Gallagher safety inspections
- FY2025 Project Priorities
- Reach K & L Permit transfer
- D-North Ramp, Amendment No. 2

- March meeting date
- Proposed updates to Personnel Policies and Procedures manual

Mr. Callais stated that any of the preceding items needing board approval would be discussed during the General Manager's report.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

REGGIE DUPRE, TLCD EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

TLCD's Executive Director Reggie Dupre announced his upcoming retirement in July 2024 and introduced Angela Hildalgo as Deputy Director, and very likely the next Executive Director upon his retirement. Mr. Dupre thanked the SLLD board for working with TLCD's board over the years on various projects. He continued by thanking the board for their \$250K contribution, along with donations from other entities, and stated that the funds would assist with the continuation of work on Reach K of the Morganza to the Gulf project. President Keith Guidry thanked Mr. Dupre for his amazing assistance over the years, both as District 20 Senator and now as Executive Director of Terrebonne's levee district.

DANIEL LORRAINE, COUNCILMAN

Mr. Lorraine stated that he wanted to thank the board and workers for their part in preventing flooding in homes during a recent heavy rainfall that occurred two weeks prior. President Guidry thanked Mr. Lorraine for his kind words and offered his praise to the levee district's previous boards and the field crew who worked to keep water pumped down. Mr. Matherne explained that he and Levee Superintendent Drake Baudoin kept in communication with the Parish who maintains the drainage and working together, they were able to maintain the water levels to help prevent flooding. He further explained the process of pumping and that some pumps had to be turned off to prevent damage to the pumps when the water got below the intake.

DEVON DEDON, FIRE CHIEF LAFOURCHE FIRE DISTRICT NO. 3

Mr. Dedon introduced himself as Fire Chief and announced that Fire District No. 3 intended to seek an additional 7% mills tax. He explained that the additional tax would amount to \$17.50 per year on a \$100,000 house. He further explained that upon speaking with their insurance, this tax increase was needed to prevent insurance increases and layoffs in the fire department. With the loss of homes and businesses during Hurricane Ida, the tax income was greatly reduced. In addition, many of the fire stations were heavily damaged or destroyed. Mr. Dedon gave a summary of the stations affected and whether they would be repaired or torn down. He added that with the reduction of the vessel tax, that had also made an impact on the fire department. If revenue loss is not made up, FD3 will be forced to make layoffs. Vice President Ronald Callais consulted attorney Ryan Collins on the board's right to endorse the millage increase for FD3. Mr. Collins acknowledged that the board was allowed to make the endorsement.

Moved by McNeely Rome and seconded by Brett DeRoche, the board unanimously agreed to endorse Lafourche Parish Fire District No. 3 in their endeavor to seek a 7% millage increase to recover lost revenues and prevent layoffs within the fire department.

Councilman Daniel Lorraine added that the firefighters don't just put out fires, but also work accidents to rescue people. He commended the fire department for their heroism.

ERNEST THIBODAU, BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Mr. Thibodaux read a letter that was written by his grandson, a member of the boy scouts. The letter was seeking monetary donations for building a 15 ft. x 15 ft. pavilion adjacent to the Cut Off Youth Center park. Mr. Thibodaux stated the benefits to the community and requested donations to purchase materials for the building.

Although the South Lafourche Levee District could not legally offer a donation of public funds since the project is not directly connected levee work, each of the board members were allowed to make a personal contribution.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

OPEN MEETINGS LAW POLICY CHANGES

General Manager Nic Matherne stated that a few updates had been added to the Open Meetings Law Policy concerning the Americans with Disabilities Act, and requested the board adopt those changes into the policy.

Moved by Brian Marts and seconded by Roland Curole, the board unanimously adopted the Open Meetings Law Policy Changes as presented.

D-NORTH RAMP LIFT, AMENDMENT NO. 2

Mr. Matherne presented a proposal from GIS Engineering for Amendment No. 2 for an increase of \$11,420 in fees and explained the reasons for the amendment. With the owner's approval, we would be able to go back into a previously excavated borrow pit and retrieve additional materials that would be stockpiled and used on the levee later.

On a motion by McNeely Rome and seconded by Scott Theriot, the board unanimously approved D-North Ramp Lift, Amendment No. 2 for additional engineering fees in the amount of \$11,420.00 and authorized the general manager or board president to sign the amendment.

STATE BANK & TRUST AGREEMENT FOR ACH TRANSACTION

Mr. Matherne stated that due to safety concerns, the Executive Committee had looked into using Automated Clearing House (ACH) transaction instead of paper checks. He explained that another levee district had a check stolen and replicated recently. The ACH would still require two signatures by the board before the money would be released.

Moved by McNeely Rome and seconded by Brett DeRoche, the board unanimously approved setting up ACH transactions for vendors and contractors through State Bank. In addition, the board authorized the president and general manager to enter into the agreement for ACH transactions.

STATE COMMISSION TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

Mr. Matherne reminded the commissioners that there was a State requirement for all members serving on boards and commissions. Each member was required to attend two spring ALBL workshops during his 4-year term. For those who may not be able to attend, there would be an alternative way to meet that training requirement.

DUMP TRUCK AUCTION RESULTS

Mr. Matherne announced the results of the auction sale of the 1990 International Dump truck which sold on the online auction for \$6,600. The truck was originally purchased the truck in 1995 for \$11,800.

MARCH MEETING DATE CHANGE

Mr. Matherne announced that the meeting for March would need to be changed due to his and President Guidry's attendance in Washington, DC that week. He recommended moving the meeting to the following Monday, March 18, 2024.

Moved by Scott Theriot and seconded by Brett DeRoche, and unanimously carried, the March meeting date was moved to March 18, 2024, without opposition.

HTV-10 GOING PUBLIC – FEB 27, 2024

Mr. Matherne announced that he would be filming on February 27th, and it would air on February 28th for HTV-10's "Going Public." He would be providing an update to the community.

DAMAGE TO LEON THERIOT LOCK

Mr. Matherne informed the board that a tug pushing a barge through the Leon Theriot Lock lost control and rammed into the barge causing a significant amount of damage. He presented a video of the accident and stated that a police report had been filed and the boat company will be notified. We are in the process of getting it inspected and repaired as quickly as possible.

ENGINEERING REPORT

OFFICE OF COASTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION

Mr. Daniel Dearmond stated his 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 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 not been on-site since November. 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. 3 in the amount of \$27,120.00. **Moved by Brett DeRoche, seconded by Brian Marts and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 3 in the amount of \$27,120.00.**

- **2024 Centerline Survey**
We are complete with the field survey work. We are currently working on the levee centerline survey report and drawings.

- **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 are complete with the Larose Floodgate electrical work and are currently working on the Leon Theriot Lock electrical work.

There is no pay application this month.

- **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 has currently lifted the gates out and is transporting them to the fabrication yard for cleaning, repairs and painting.

There is no pay application this month.

- **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 purchasing material and preparing to fabricate the discharge pipe.

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 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: TBD
 - Proposed Elevation: +3'
- **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 Limit 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 Limit hold their bid until landowner negotiations have been completed. Outer Limit 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 submitted the Final Design Report (including plans, specs, and cost estimate) to SLLD for review and comments on December 8, 2023.
- GIS is addressing SLLD’s comments and will be resubmitting the complete Final Design Package this week.
- Estimated Construction Cost: \$950,000 (with 15% contingency)
- Advertisement for bids

Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Roland Curole and unanimously accepted, the board approved advertising for bid for the Reconnection of Breton Canal to Bayou Lafourche project.

- **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. GIS will be submitting the Final Design Package by the end of next week.
- Estimated Advertisement Date: Q2 2024
- Estimated Construction Cost: \$785,000

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 #1225 in the amount of \$67,145.00.

Moved by Scott Theriot, seconded by McNeely Rome and unanimously accepted, the board approved Invoice No. 1225 in the amount of \$67,145.00.

- **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 #1226 in the amount of \$31,167.50.

Moved by Roland Curole, seconded by Brett DeRoche and unanimously accepted, the board approved Invoice No. 1226 in the amount of \$31,167.50.

- **Larose Floodwall Vessel Impact Barrier**

The contractor has started purchasing and storing materials at their yard in Houma and is currently mobilizing to the project site. We are recommending approval of Application for Payment No. 2 in the amount of \$246,449.00.

Moved by Brian Marts, seconded by Brett DeRoche and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 2 in the amount of \$246,449.00.

- **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. 4 in the amount of \$437,638.40.

Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Scott Theriot and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 4 in the amount of \$437,638.40.

- **B-North and B-South Levee Improvements**

We are seeking approval of the contract for the next segment of improvements which includes levee improvements from Pump Station No. 2 at Bason's Marina to the Golden Meadow park.

Mr. Matherne informed the board that a fair amount of the funding for construction would be paid through CPRA. He added that Section B-North was the narrowest part of the levee.

Moved by McNeely Rome and seconded by Brian Marts, the board unanimously approved the engineering contract, contingent upon the attorney's final review and recommendation.

MORGANZA TO THE GULF

DELTA COAST CONSULTANTS

Program Manager Report (Mitch Marmande)

- No one was in attendance

ALL SOUTH CONSULTING ENGINEERS

Engineer Report (Melanie Caillouet)

- **Golden Meadow Marsh Terraces**

This project has been replaced with the Golden Meadow Marsh Restoration. A BRIC application has been submitted through FEMA by way of GOHSEP. GOHSEP has until Feb. 29th to get their information to FEMA. If approved, it would be a \$3.7M project with \$2.8M of that funded through BRIC and the remainder funded by the levee district.

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

This project was updated by Mr. Reggie Dupre earlier in the meeting. Preliminary work should begin in the next couple of weeks.

- **Hurricane Ida Response**

On the Grand Bayou debris, FEMA had used terminology that was not accurate with the project. That language has been corrected and a PW if forthcoming.

A RIP letter was received from the Corps saying the damages incurred were our responsibility so that has been submitted to FEMA.

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

Chairman Mitch Danos announced that four permit requests were received for review, and that none interfered with the levee.

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

1. **LAFOURCHE PARISH GOVERNMENT**

CUP NO: P20240048

LOCATION: Lafourche Parish, LA; LAT 29-25-53.88N, Long 90-9-2.42W; N of Bayou L' Ours; Lafourche Parish, LA

DESCRIPTION: Coastal restoration project proposal that will construct earthen marsh terraces in shallow open water to provide emergent marsh habitat and protect existing marsh habitat.

2. LAFOURCHE PARISH GOVERNMENT

CUP NO: P20181154 (Extended)

LOCATION: Lafourche Parish, LA; LAT 29-23-34.15N, Long -90-17-30.56W; adjacent to Catfish Lake, in Golden Meadow

DESCRIPTION: Proposed construction of a parish dredge and marsh creation project initiated with CIAP funding. Approx. 306,000 c.y. will be excavated and placed in the marsh creation area. Approx. 1891 acres of open water and brackish marsh may be impacted by the proposed activities.

3. SHELL PIPELINE COMPANY LLC

CUP NO: P20231026

LOCATION: Lafourche Parish, LA; Lat 29-6-1913n, Long 90-11-28.76W; Section 24 & 25 T23S R22E; Port Fourchon, LA.

DESCRIPTION: Shell proposes to construct a new platform along the Chevron Terminal shoreline and extends into Pass Fourchon. Shell's existing pipelines, appurtenances & the terminal helideck will be relocated to the new platform. The excavated material from the Chevron facility will be disposed of offsite and new material will be hauled on for the backfill. Piles will be driven in place for the platform. Work will take place onshore and in Port Fourchon. The shoreline rip rap will be temporarily removed for the pile installations & stored on the Chevron terminal. The rip rap will be replaced after construction. Waterbottoms will be excavated. Wetlands will not be impacted.

4. GREATER LAFOURCHR PORT COMMISSION

CUP NO: P20231039

LOCATION: Lafourche Parish, LA; LAT 29-05-19N, Long -90-13-38W;

DESCRIPTION: Add 33ft x 760ft (0.58ac) of stone atop section of West Belle Pass Jetty to repair damages sustained in Hurricane Ida and previous storms.

BOARD ATTORNEY

Attorney Ryan Collins reported the following:

- Jason Adams, et al v. SLLD – Suit No. 118486 Div. A – 17th JDC
 - This item will soon be resolved and removed from the agenda.
- LA Contracting Enterprise, LLC v. SLLD, et al – Docket No. 148539
 - The judge ruled in our favor. LA Contracting is now appealing that decision.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

INVOICES

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

On a motion of McNeely Rome, seconded by Brett DeRoche, and unanimously carried, the board approved the payment of the invoices as presented.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

In the absence of a quorum, the Personnel Committee meeting was postponed.

Mr. Matherne reported that we had received 14 applications for the lock operator position and that there was an immediate need to hire after circumstances prevented one of the operators from continuing his work. He stated that the current operators were working additional shifts to make sure all shifts were covered. In speaking with the attorney, Mr. Matherne was informed that we could recommend the board allow the president and/or general manager to fill that position based on the Personnel Committee's recommendation.

On a motion of McNeely Rome, seconded by Ronald Callais and unanimously carried, the board authorized the general manager and board president to hire one lock operator based on the recommendation of the Personnel Committee.

MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 19, 2024 REGULAR MEETING

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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 Ronald Callais and seconded by Brian Marts.

Keith Guidry, President

Nicholas Matherne, General Manager