

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDING**  
**OF**  
**SOUTH LAFOURCHE LEVEE DISTRICT**  
**JANUARY 13, 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, January 13, 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 January was called to order by President Keith Guidry. Commissioner Monty Vegas 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  
Brian Marts  
Mc Neely Rome  
Scott Theriot  
Monty Vegas

Board members absent: Brett DeRoche

Also present were:

Executive Director Nicholas Matherne

Executive Assistant Mary Punch

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

Kyle Pierce, Delta Coast Consultants

Stevie Smith, All South Consulting Engineers

Ryan Collins, Board Attorney

CPRA Daniel Dearmond

Russ Gisclair, Danos Coastal Restoration

Lafourche Parish Councilman Daniel Lorraine

Representative Joe Orgeron

Caroline Theriot, Sen. John Kennedy's office

Doug Cheramie, Governor's office

News media

**READING OF THE MINUTES**

**The minutes of the December 9, 2024, Regular Meeting were approved unanimously upon a motion by McNeely Rome and seconded by Scott Theriot.**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

President Guidry opened the floor to the election of officers.

Commissioner Monty Vegas moved to re-elect Keith Guidry as president.

**On a motion by Monty Vegas and seconded by McNeely Rome, the board unanimously re-elected Mr. Keith Guidry as President for the year 2025.**

Commissioner Monty Vegas moved to elect Scott Theriot as vice president.

**On a motion by Monty Vegas and seconded by Gavin Callais, the board unanimously elected Mr. Scott Theriot as Vice President for the year 2025.**

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

**On a motion by McNeely Rome and seconded by Mitch Danos, the board unanimously re-elected Mr. Monty Vegas as Treasurer for the year 2025.**

Commissioner Monty Vegas moved to re-elect Nic Matherne as Executive Secretary.

**On a motion by Monty Vegas and seconded by Mitch Danos, the board unanimously re-elected Mr. Nicholas Matherne as Executive Secretary for the year 2025.**

#### **ASSIGNMENT OF COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

President Guidry announced that committee assignments had been revised at the request of the Executive Committee and some committees that were not being utilized had been either eliminated or combined. He advised the commissioners to review the assignments and anyone who desired to change their committee appointment should notify President Guidry or Executive Director Nic Matherne prior to the next meeting.

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

##### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF DECEMBER 30, 2024**

Executive Director Nic Matherne gave a brief report on the following items discussed during the Executive Committee meeting held Dec. 30, 2024.

- **Legislative update from Claitor-Chabert**

Mr. Henri Boulet gave an update on the legislative successes of the Morganza Action Coalition, including an additional \$20 million for construction funding for the two floodgates on the GIWW, one of which will connect the South Lafourche Levee system to the North Lafourche Levee system in Larose.

- **Mid-Barataria Diversion: Proposed Resolution for Continuation**

The Committee discussed the project and decided not to recommend action to the Board.

- **IRS Audit**

The IRS was conducting a random audit of the 2022 payroll. CPA Aldon Wahl was handling the requested information on SLLD's behalf.

- **IGA with TLCD for Gage Installation**

An IGA between SLLD and the Terrebonne Levee & Conservation District was being drafted by SLLD's attorney to utilize TLCD's previously competitively procured contract for water gage equipment.

- **Committee Assignments**

The Committee discussed assignments to the various Board Committees for the year 2025.

#### **AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

Mr. Daniel Lorraine addressed the audience requesting support for a pumping facility that would protect the area from Leeville to Fourchon. Mr. Lorraine explained that there were two pumps just south of the LT Lock that were destroyed during Hurricane Ida. The Parish has chosen not to replace those pumps.

Rep. Joe Orgeron stated that the gearbox replacement on the Golden Meadow bridge had been sent to a foundry to be recreated due to none being available. If all goes as planned, the bridge should reopen Feb. 15<sup>th</sup>.

Rep. Orgeron also stated his appreciation to the Executive Committee considering a resolution for the continuation of the Mid Barataria Diversion and understood the Committee's decision not to get involved.

#### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

##### **IGA FOR WATER MONITORING SYSTEM**

Executive Director Nic Matherne informed the board that an IGA had been drafted that would allow us to piggyback off Terrebonne Levee and Conservation District's purchase and installation of their water monitoring system. He stated that a copy of the agreement would be sent to TLCD for their approval. He

requested the board authorize him to sign the IGA upon final acceptance by TLCD, under the approval of legal counsel for both agencies.

**Moved by Brian Marts and seconded by Scott Theriot, the board unanimously authorized the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with Terrebonne Levee and Conservation District upon final approval of both agencies, and to sign the approved IGA to procure and install a new water monitoring system.**

#### **RENAMING PUMP STATION NO 1**

Mr. Matherne announced that the board had previously discussed the renaming of Pump Station No. 1 to the Ronald Callais Pump Station. Mr. Matherne presented a photo of how the new sign would look and requested the board authorize the purchase of the sign and schedule a dedication ceremony.

**On a motion by McNeely Rome and seconded by Monty Vegas, the board unanimously agreed to purchase the new sign for the renaming of Pump Station No. 1 to Ronald Callais Pump Station.**

#### **UPDATE ON NFIP LAWSUIT**

Mr. Matherne updated the board on the NFIP Lawsuit. He reminded the board that in June 2023 we had signed on with the State's Attorney General, as well as several other states, parishes and levee districts, to file a suit against FEMA for their Risk Rating 2.0 system. We then filed a request for a preliminary injunction that would stop FEMA from using the Risk Rating 2.0 system while the lawsuit was ongoing, and a final verdict rendered. That hearing was held on Sep. 14, 2023, and the injunction was denied. In July 2024 FEMA and their contractors filed a motion for a protective order to protect the contractors, along with their trade secrets, who develop the Risk Rating 2.0. A hearing was scheduled on Sept. 24<sup>th</sup>, but was canceled. Mr. Matherne stated that there have been no other updates since September. NFIP was reauthorized until March, so it is still in place.

#### **2025 CENTERLINE SURVEY – AUTHORIZE PICCIOLA & ASSOCIATES TO PREPARE**

Mr. Matherne recommended the board authorize Picciola & Associates to prepare the 2025 Centerline Survey.

**Moved by Mitch Danos and seconded by Scott Theriot, the board unanimously authorized Picciola & Associates to prepare the 2025 Centerline Survey.**

### **ENGINEERING REPORT**

#### **OFFICE OF COASTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION**

Mr. Daniel Dearmond reported the following:

CPRA is planning to allocate \$15M towards the Larose Lock project in next year's Annual Plan. The funding would most likely come from GOMESA funding.

The recently passed 2024 WRDA Bill now has the Larose to Golden Meadow system included in it. Section 1317 authorizes the Corps to develop a report which is to be completed by June 30<sup>th</sup> of this year. That report will outline several key factors and a path forward to get the Larose to Golden Meadow system re-certified into the RIP program. CPRA will be helping to facilitate this process in any way we can. Glenn Ledet, CPRA Executive Director, mentioned in this week's Leadership Team meeting that Brad Barth, CPRA Operations Chief, will reach out to Mr. Matherne to open discussions soon.

#### **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 June 19, 2023. The contractor is on-site moving material when the weather permits.

Construction Site Specialties, LLC has submitted Pay Application No. 12 in the amount of \$294,974.31.

**Moved by Brian Marts, seconded by Roland Curole and unanimously accepted, the board approved Construction Site Specialties, LLC, Pay Request No. 12 in the amount of \$294,974.31.**

Compeaux & Sons, LLC has submitted Pay Application No. 3 in the amount of \$61,180.00

**Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Scott Theriot and unanimously accepted, the board approved Compeaux and Sons, LLC, Pay Request No. 3 in the amount of \$61,180.00.**

- **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 engineering analysis. The engineering analysis was approval 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**

We accepted bids from November 21<sup>st</sup>. The lowest bidder was TLP Construction Co., LLC in the amount of \$140,000.00. A conditional Notice to Proceed was issued on January 26, 2025, for ordering of the equipment. Once the equipment is delivered, we will issue the formal Notice to Proceed to begin the project.

#### **GIS ENGINEERING, LLC**

Engineer John Plaisance reported the following:

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

USACE issued their permit of 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 required.

A landowner recently indicated some concern with having a portion of the levee on his property. A meeting with this landowner is tentatively scheduled for this week. Depending on the outcome of that meeting, a portion of the northern levee segment may need to be shifted south.

- **D-North Ramp Lift (Material Stockpile) – GIS# 39130-1249/1457**

The contractor completed the punch list items on October 2, 2024 and the project is Substantially Complete.

Pay Application No. 3 in the amount of \$78,642.90 to close out the project, less retainage, is being presented.

**Moved by Gavin Callais, seconded by McNeely Rome and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 3 in the amount of \$78,642.90.**

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

Bids were received January 8, 2025, with Onshore Materials presenting the lowest bid. We recommend awarding the contract to Onshore Materials in their bid amount of \$652,312.00 for the D-North Ramp Lift to 18 ft.

**Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Brian Marts and unanimously accepted, the board awarded the construction contract for D-North Ramp Lift to Onshore Materials at their bid price of \$652,312.00.**

- **Reconnection of Breton Canal to Bayou Lafourche (Breton Canal Weir) – GIS# 39130-1329**  
Construction continues to progress. The entire concrete box has been poured. The handrails and walkways have been installed. Electrical work is progressing.

The weir gates were delivered in mid-December. The contractor is proceeding with the installation of the gates.

Pay Application No. 5 in the amount of \$164,617.42 is being presented for board approval.

**Moved by Monty Vegas, seconded by McNeely Rome and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 5 in the amount of \$164,617.42.**

- **D-South Floodwall at Crawfish Farms, Phase III Improvements – GIS# 39130-1485**  
Sealevel Construction, Inc., has begun work on site. We are submitting Pay Application No. 1 in the amount of \$230,035.38 to Sealevel Construction, Inc.  
**Moved by Monty Vegas, seconded by McNeely Rome and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 1 in the amount of \$230,035.38.**

Change Order No. 1 for additional sheet piles in the amount of \$56,092.50.

**Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Brian Marts and unanimously accepted, the board approved Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$56,092.50 for additional steel sheet pilings.**

#### **LEVEE IMPROVEMENTS – ANGELETTE-DESIGN, LLC**

Engineer Neil Angelette reported the following:

- **C-North Levee Improvements**  
The contractor, Compeaux & Sons, LLC is finalizing some stockpile reshaping to dress off a segment of this levee section.
- **C-South Floodside Repairs and Levee Maintenance**  
The contractor, Compeaux & Sons, LLC is continuing work on the berms, side slopes and crown of this section. We are recommending approval of Invoice 1358 in the amount of \$81,427.50.  
**Moved by Roland Curole, seconded by Scott Theriot and unanimously accepted, the board approved Invoice No. 1358 in the amount of \$81,427.50.**
- **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 #1043 in the amount of \$29,425.00 for this work.  
**Moved by Monty Vegas, seconded by Roland Curole and unanimously accepted, the board approved Invoice No. 1043 in the amount of \$29,425.00.**
- **Section F Berm Improvements**  
The contractor, Sealevel Construction, Inc., has completed work on the project to improve the protected side berm. The substantial was approved at the November meeting, and we are currently in the clear lien period.

#### **MORGANZA TO THE GULF**

##### **DELTA COAST CONSULTANTS**

Program Manager Report (Kyle Pierce)

- **Reach K Levee**  
Lafourche Parish will try to acquire \$1M or more to raise that levee section to a +11 ft.
- **Reach K & L Levee**  
The Corps has selected two engineering firms from New Orleans to prepare the designs for both projects. This will eventually raise the levees to 20.5 ft.

**ALL SOUTH CONSULTING ENGINEERS**

Engineer Report (Stevie Smith)

- **Reach K Terraces Repairs (Project #041-11-01)**

TLCD submitted an invoice to SLLD on December 18, 2024, which was paid and submitted to FEMA for reimbursement

The only outstanding items needed are proof of payment for All South invoice 9 through 12.

- **Reach K Levee - South**

Reach K South (Floodgate to south Water Control Structure) is complete to 11’.

- **Reach K Levee - Center**

Reach K – Center is between South Water control Structure (Station 105) and the north water control station (Station 209).

Levee constructed up to 11 ft. from station 180+00 to station 208+00 (northern water control structure, from 169+00 to 180+00 levee at 9’ elevation, and from Sta 153+00 to Sta. 169+00 levee at 6’ elevation.

Further work was suspended on December 3, 2024, until additional funds were found. LPG has \$1.5M of GOMESA funds that they will give to the project. TLCD and LPG are working on the paperwork necessary to move the money. Hopefully work will continue before the end of January.

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

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

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

**1. COALITION TO RESTORE COASTAL LOUISIANA**

**CUP NO:** P20240950

**LOCATION:** Lafourche Parish, LA; Lat. 29-14-48 N, Long. 90-12-36 W; Section 31, T1N-R70W; 24448-24488 LA 1 Golden Meadow, LA 70357, Leeville, 70357.

**DESCRIPTION:** Shoreline protection and restoration via oyster shell placement and marsh planting. Approx. 576 cy of oyster shells will be used for erosion control. No excavation required.

**2. CHEVRON ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COMPANY**

**CUP NO:** P20240699

**LOCATION:** Lafourche Parish, LA; Lat. 29-16-57.21n, Long. 90-19-32.62W;

**DESCRIPTION:** The project consists of piling removal in Lake Raccourci.

**3. ENTERGY LOUISIANA LLC**

**CUP NO:** 20230407

**DESCRIPTION:** Approval for an AFTER-THE-FACT Letter of No Objection to make repairs on ±40-miles of electrical distribution line and power pole structures. The repairs were done under EUA 21-045 from Hurricane Ida and EUA 20-092 from Hurricane Zeta. This required multiple excavations, approximately 1,152, of 26-feet deep by three feet in diameter to place steel casing around 34-foot by one foot diameter wooden poles that were replaced. Excavations were backfilled with spoils. The closest work locations were approximately 150-feet from the protected side tow and 164-feet from the floodside two of the levee in Lafourche Parish and 175-feet from the protected side toe of the levee in Grand Isle.

**BOARD ATTORNEY**

Attorney Ryan Collins reported the following:

On the LA Contracting Enterprise, LLC vs. SLLD, et al, the 1<sup>st</sup> Circuit came back with their decision, and they have confirmed the District Court, so we have prevailed in that suit. We have not heard anything from LA Contracting as to their intentions from here.

**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 Gavin Callais, and unanimously carried, the board approved the payment of the invoices as presented.**

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Chairman Monty Vegas reported that the two grass cutting positions had been filled.

President Guidry announced the passing employee Rod J. Cheramie. He stated that he was not only an outstanding employee, but a much-loved member of the community who will be tremendously missed. President Guidry offered his condolences and requested everyone keep the Cheramie family in their prayers.

**OLD BUSINESS**

President Guidry thanked Mr. Daniel Lorraine and Rep. Joe Orgeron for their contributions to our meetings. He then recognized Mr. Doug Cheramie and thanked him for being a voice for our community in the Governor's office.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

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

/s/Keith Guidry, President

/s/Nicholas Matherne, General Manager