

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDING  
OF  
SOUTH LAFOURCHE LEVEE DISTRICT  
NOVEMBER 18, 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, November 18, 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 November was called to order by President Keith Guidry. Commissioner Roland Curole 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  
Mc Neely Rome  
Scott Theriot  
Monty Vegas

Board members absent: Brian Marts

Also present were:

Executive Director Nicholas Matherne

Doug Cheramie, Gov Jeff Landry's Office

Executive Assistant Mary Punch

News media

Administrative Assistant Amy Gisclair

Operations Manager Drake Baudoin

Board Attorney Ryan Collins

Engineering Personnel:

Marc Picciola, Picciola & Associates

Neil Angelette, Angelette Design

John Plaisance, GIS Engineering

Kevin Dezarn, GIS Engineering

Melanie Callouet, All South Consulting Engineers

**READING OF THE MINUTES**

The minutes of the October 14, 2024, Regular Meeting were approved unanimously upon a motion by McNeely Rome and seconded by Scott Theriot.

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

**ALBL CONFERENCE – DECEMBER 4-5, HILTON RIVERSIDE, NEW ORLEANS**

President Guidry reminded the board of the upcoming ALBL Conference in December. President Guidry stated that each member had been given a packet with their hotel and meeting information.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 6, 2024**

Executive Director Nic Matherne reported on the following items that were discussed during the Nov. 6, 2024 Executive Committee Meeting:

- Tropical Storm Rafael – the storm appeared to be shifting toward Mexico.
- Pump #2 at Pump Station No. 4 – the pump was pulled for inspection of repairs by Boland Marine. An estimate for repairs would be forthcoming.

- Semi-Quantitative Risk Assignment – an update on the risk assessment process was given by Mr. Matherne.
- Future Project Prioritization – CPRA requested a list of priority projects. The Ted Gisclair Lock was likely the highest priority project. The Committee will meet in January to discuss the highest priority projects.
- Other Items of Discussion – Delta Coast Consultants was working on a proposal and will be discussed at the November board meeting for the design and management of the installation of the Digital Gage System that will be funded with Capital Outlay funds.

#### **AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

There were no comments from the audience.

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

##### **PUMP #2 AT PUMP STATION NO. 4**

Executive Director Nic Matherne informed the board that Pump #2 at Pump Station No. 4 had been pulled and sent to Boland Marine for an assessment of damage. The quote for repairs was received at \$216,335.00 with an estimated time of five to six months for repairs and reinstallation. Mr. Matherne explained the details of the estimate. He stated that a new pump would cost around \$500,000 with around 11 months to build and install, which would cause us to be short one pump during hurricane season. Mr. Matherne recommended the board approve the cost for repairs from Boland Marine.

**Moved by Mitch Danos and seconded by Brett DeRoche, the board unanimously approved the estimate for repairs and authorized the repairs of Pump #2 at Pump Station No. 4 by Boland Marine in the amount of \$216,335.00.**

##### **SEMI-QUANTITATIVE RISK ASSESSMENT**

Mr. Matherne explained that the Semi-Quantitative Risk Assessment was part of the recertification process that the Corps was conducting to get SLLD back into the Rehabilitation and Inspection Program. Mr. Matherne presented a slide showing the preliminary findings of the analysts who visited our system in August. He explained that they went through 30 different ways that could cause a possible levee failure. Mr. Matherne explained a few of the analyzed scenarios and stated that overall, our levee system performed very well. He stated that this was just one step in many with the Corps, and he would keep the board updated of future meetings and discussions. A lengthy discussion pursued.

##### **RECENT RAINFAIL**

Mr. Matherne explained that around October 30<sup>th</sup>, water rose in the Intracoastal Canal from Hurricane Rafael in the Gulf. He stated that the water continued to rise until they had to close the screw gate on the culvert at the Delta Farms floodwall which then caused the road to flood sooner than it should have. This led to a one and a half-to-two-foot differential between the Intracoastal and the bayou south of the Ted Gisclair Floodgate in Larose. With that, we had to go down to one opening per day at the Larose floodgate and we siphoned at Pump Station No. 4 for the rest of the day to keep water levels down. He showed a video of a tug that tried unsuccessfully to get through the floodgate. CPRA has been notified that the conversion of the floodgate to a lock is our highest priority for the coming year.

##### **WATER MONITORING STATION PROPOSAL - DCC**

Mr. Matherne stated that SLLD received \$400,000 through Capital Outlay for the Digital Gage System for monitoring water levels at pump stations and floodgates. Mr. Matherne presented a proposal for design from Delta Coast Consultants and recommended the board approve the proposal and authorize the board president and executive director to sign the agreement to proceed.

**Moved by McNeely Rome and seconded by Monty Vegas, the board unanimously approved the proposal from Delta Coast Consultants for the design and management of the installation of the Digital Gage System on a time and material basis not to exceed \$132,500.00 and authorized the Executive Director and/or Board President to sign any agreements or other documents.**

#### **ENGINEERING REPORT**

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

There was no representative in attendance from CPRA.

**CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

There was no representative in attendance from the US Army Corps of Engineers.

**PROJECT ENGINEERS**

**PICCIOLA & ASSOCIATES**

Engineer Marc 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 is on-site moving material when the weather permits.  
  
Construction Site Specialties, LLC has submitted Pay Application No. 10 in the amount of \$592,422.61.  
**Moved by Brett DeRoche, seconded by Roland Curole and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 10 in the amount of \$592,422.61.**  
  
Compeaux and Sons, LLC has submitted Pay Applications No. 1 in the amount of \$28,192.50.  
**Moved by Mitch Danos, seconded by McNeely Rome and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 1 in the amount of \$28,192.50.**
- **A-East Interim Levee Improvements**  
Projects 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 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.
- **Repairs to Timber Fender at Larose Floodgate**  
Project Plans and Specifications are complete. Crosby has ordered material and is expected to move on site to perform the repairs later this month.
- **Emergency Gate Closure at Larose Floodgate**  
Project Plans are complete. We are currently soliciting bids from several contractors and will receive them on November 21<sup>st</sup> at 10am.

**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 bid once the servitudes are acquired.
- **D-North Ramp Lift (Material Stockpile) – GIS# 39130-1249/1457**  
Contractor, Outer Limit Contractors, LLC, has completed the punch list items on October 2, 2024. Balancing Change Order No. 3 is being presented to the board for a total increase to the project in the amount of \$72,185.40 to balance the quantity of excavation per the as-built survey.  
**Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Scott Theriot and unanimously accepted the board approved Balancing Change Order No. 3 in the amount of \$72,185.40.**
- **D-North Ramp Lift – GIS# 39130-1249/1457**

GIS completed final design for ramp lift to EL +18', and is currently under internal review. GIS to meet with LOOP for additional requirements prior to advertisement.

**Moved by Scott Theriot and seconded by Brett DeRoche, the board unanimously authorized GIS Engineering to advertise the D-North Ramp Lift project for bid.**

- **Reconnection of Breton Canal to Bayou Lafourche (Breton Canal Weir) – GIS# 39130-1329**  
The walkway has been formed, rebar was installed and the concrete walkway for the weir structure was poured as well as the base of the headwall.  
Entergy has connected the power to the meter and temporary service.  
Pay Application No. 3 is being presented to the board for approval in the amount of \$24,907.58.

**Moved by Scott Theriot and seconded by Gavin Callais, the board unanimously approved Pay Application No. 3 in the amount of \$24,907.58 to Garden Environments, Inc.**

- **D-South Floodwall at Crawfish Farms, Phase III Improvements – GIS# 39130-1485**  
A Pre-Construction Meeting was held on November 12, 2024, with SLLD, GIS, and Sealevel Construction, Inc. Notice to Proceed was issued November 14, 2024. Estimated Construction Date is May 11, 2025.

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

Engineer Neil Angelette reported the following:

- **C-North Levee Improvements**  
The contractor, Compeaux & Sons Construction, LLC completed an emergency repair project last month along the drainage canal at the toe of the levee. We are recommending approval of Invoice #1321 in the amount of \$14,068.19 for the work. The contractor is also finalizing some reshaping to dress off a segment of this levee section. We are recommending approval of Invoice #1334 in the amount of \$2,205.00 for this work.

The contractor has submitted Pay Application No. 1321 in the amount of \$14,068.19. and Pay Application No. 1334 in the amount of \$2,205.00

**Moved by Monty Vegas, seconded by Mitch Danos and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 1321 in the amount of \$14,068.19.**

**Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Mitch Danos and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 1334 in the amount of \$2,205.00.**

- **C-South Flood Side Repairs and Levee Improvements**  
The contractor, Compeaux & Sons Construction, LLC is continuing work on the project to improve the protected side slope. We are recommending approval of Invoice #1336 in the amount of \$22,532.50 for this work. The contractor also worked on reshaping the area behind the gun range and we are recommending approval of Invoice #1337 in the amount of \$4,235.00 for this work. Work is also being complete for the flood side toe repairs, and we are recommending approval of Invoice #1339 in the amount of \$76,702.50 for the work.

**Moved by Mitch Danos, seconded by Gavin Callais and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 1336 in the amount of \$22,532.50.**

**Moved by Brett DeRoche, seconded by Roland Curole and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 1337 in the amount of \$4,235.00.**

**Moved by Mitch Danos, seconded by Scott Theriot and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 1339 in the amount of \$76,702.50.**

- **B-North Levee Improvements**  
The contractor, NEWGEM Construction, LLC, is working in protected side berm improvements to this levee section. We are recommending approval of Invoice #1401 in the amount of \$33,735.00 for this work.

**Moved by Monty Vegas, seconded by Mitch Danos and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 1041 in the amount of \$33,735.00.**

- **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 substantial completion as of October 4, 2024. We also are recommending the approval of Change Order No. 3 (material balancing change order and weather days) for a deduction of 5,919 cubic yards at the contract unit price of \$20.20 per cubic yard, for a total deduction of \$119,563.80 and for an additional 42 weather days for the project. We are also recommending approval of Application for Payment No. 13 in the amount of \$31,893.78.

Substantial Completion:

**Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Scott Theriot and unanimously accepted, the board approved Substantial Completion as of October 4, 2024.**

Balancing Change Order No. 3:

**Moved by Gavin Callais, seconded by Mitch Danos and unanimously accepted, the board approved Change Order No. 3 for a deduction of \$119,563.80, and for an additional 42 weather days for the Section F Berm project.**

Pay Application No. 13:

**Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Roland Curole and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 13 in the amount of \$31,893.78.**

**MORGANZA TO THE GULF**

**DELTA COAST CONSULTANTS**

Program Manager Report (Mitch Marmande)  
No one from Delta Coast was in attendance.

**ALL SOUTH CONSULTING ENGINEERS**

Engineer Report (Stevie Smith)

- **Reach K Terraces Repairs (Project #041-11-01)**  
Terrace repair work completed last week.  
Post construction surveys completed.  
TLCD compiling time and equipment costs for submission to SLLD.
- **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 Structure (Station 209).  
Levee has been constructed up to 11 from station 180+00 to station 208+00 (northern water control structure)  
Work continues moving north to south along the levee.

**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 had nothing to report.

**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 Scott Theriot, and unanimously carried, the board approved the payment of invoices as presented.**

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

**EMPLOYEE PERFORMANCE EVALUATIONS – APPROVAL TO GRANT PAY INCREASES FOR 2025**

Chairman Monty Vegas announced that employee performance evaluations had been conducted and requested the board authorize the Personnel Committee to approve all pay increases for the year 2025.

**Moved by McNeely Rome and seconded by Scott Theriot, the board authorized the Personnel Committee to grant pay increases for the year 2025.**

**REVISION TO PPM 11.1 TO ADD STIPULATIONS IN GRANTING COLAS**

Mr. Vegas presented language to be added to the Personnel Policies Manual that would clarify when new hired employees would become eligible for the Cost-of-Living Allowance. The language stated that an employee must have met the probationary requirements and would be awarded COLA at their first annual evaluation after reaching permanent status.

**Moved by Gavin Callais and seconded by Mitch Danos, the board approved new language regarding the qualifications to award the Cost-of-Living Allowance to employees.**

**REVIEW OF APPLICANTS FOR MOBILE EQUIPMENT OPERATOR POSITION**

Mr. Vegas informed the board that the Personnel Committee reviewed applications for Mobile Equipment Operator position and would be notifying the successful applicants this week.

**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 Brett DeRoche and seconded by McNeely Rome.**

/s/Keith Guidry, President

/s/Nicholas Matherne, Executive Director