

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDING**  
**OF**  
**SOUTH LAFOURCHE LEVEE DISTRICT**  
**JUNE 12, 2023**

The Board of Commissioners of the South Lafourche Levee District met in a regular session at its temporary meeting place, 17751 Highway 3235, Galliano, Louisiana, on Monday, June 12, 2023, 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 June 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

Board members absent: Roland Guidry  
Monty Vegas

Also present were:

General Manager Nicholas Matherne	Stevie Smith
Executive Secretary Windell Curole	CPRA Daniel Dearmond
Administrative Assistant 3 Amy Gisclair	Lafourche Parish Councilman Daniel Lorraine
Levee Board Operations Superintendent Drake Baudoin	News media
Attorney Ryan Collins	Arthur J. Gallagher Ins. Tommy Landry,
Engineering Personnel:	Luke Landry, and Zachary Gisclair
Joe Picciola	Aims Group, Inc. Daisy Camardelle
Neil Angelette	ELOS Dale Holly
John Plaisance	News Media
Laura Barnes	

**READING OF THE MINUTES**

**The minutes of the May 8, 2023, Regular Meeting were approved unanimously upon a motion by Roland Curole and seconded by Ronald Callais.**

**The minutes of the May 25, 2023, Special Meeting were approved unanimously upon a motion by Ronald Callais and seconded by Mitch Danos.**

**PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

President Guidry had nothing to report.

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF MAY 31, 2023**

Chairman Ronald Callais gave an update on discussions that took place during the May 31<sup>st</sup> meeting as follows:

- The month's finances were reviewed. A revised format of the financial report will be forthcoming.
- General Manager Nic Matherne submitted a list of items that were needed for the main office to replace furniture and other equipment that was lost during Hurricane Ida.
- Mr. Matherne was working with local carpenters to obtain quotes to build a new council-style desk for the Board's meeting room.
- Mr. Matherne briefed the committee on issues concerning raising the State's annual spending cap for the current fiscal year.

- Mr. Matherne informed the committee that residents who were using the Larose Boat Launch along the Intracoastal Waterway off Delta Farms Road, had been using the levee that borders the boat launch as additional parking. The Committee suggested Mr. Matherne contact the Parish Council representative for that area and request they have signs installed to stop people from parking on the levee.

#### **AUDIENCE COMMENTS**

Lafourche Parish Councilman Daniel Lorraine discussed the funding remaining from the possible closures of Drainage District Nos 1, 5, and 6. He explained that District #6 didn't have any funding, nor did it have a functional board. Mr. Lorraine stated that there was, however, a substantial amount of funding in District #1 that was there prior to it becoming a drainage district. He encouraged the Levee District Board to act quickly in requesting some of the funds which could be used on the siphon project. A lengthy discussion pursued.

Mr. Matherne informed the board that he had attended the previous Parish meeting and there were some questions as to the ethics of spending the money rapidly, should those boards be dissolved. The Parish will propose ordinances at their next meeting that may dissolve those drainage boards. The Parish Administration was prepared to take legal action if any of the money was spent too soon. Should the boards be allowed to continue until the funds run out, there would be plenty of time for the Levee District to use any money and not worry about what might happen if the board is disbanded.

#### **GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT**

##### **LPSO – FUTURE LEADERS OF LAFOURCHE**

Mr. Matherne informed the board that the Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office had held a meeting for high school juniors and seniors called *Future Leaders of Lafourche*. The students met with various parish officials and business owners who educated the students on opportunities that were available in our community. The Levee District was invited to speak with the students and inform them of what we do in the South Lafourche area. Mr. Matherne stated that all went well and that SLLD would also be participating in the upcoming camp to be held in July.

##### **ROAD BARRIER CLOSURE EXERCISE**

Mr. Matherne informed the board that annual road barrier closure exercises were conducted on May 23<sup>rd</sup> to make sure all was in order in preparation for hurricane season. A road barrier was installed across Hwy 3235 in Larose, and the swing gate was closed across LA 1 near the Leon Theriot Lock in Golden Meadow. The exercises went without incident and no issues were found that would interfere with the systems' functioning during storms. Mr. Matherne added that the Levee District had worked with the Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office to ensure traffic safety. Future exercises would be conducted earlier in the year when it wasn't so hot. It would also give time to resolve any issues that might arise.

##### **YANKEE CANAL LEVEE RESHAPING**

Mr. Matherne announced that Compeaux and Sons were hired to make repairs to washed out areas of the Yankee Canal Levee. After being chopped and reshaped by Compeaux and Sons, SLLD employees reseeded the area for grass growth.

##### **LAROSE BOAT LAUNCH PARKING ISSUES**

Mr. Matherne explained that the Larose Boat Launch was a Parish owned boat launch along Delta Farms Road. Mr. Matherne further explained that trucks and trailers often parked on the levee which could potentially damage the levee. In addition, the parked vehicles were preventing our grass cutters from being able to maintain the levee in that area. Mr. Matherne spoke with the Parish Councilmember for the area to try to get signs placed but was told they didn't have an ordinance and it would be easier for SLLD to place No Parking signs under SLLD's current ordinance.

##### **RISK RATING 2.0**

Mr. Matherne reminded the board that SLLD had voted to join the lawsuit against FEMA for Risk Rating 2.0. That lawsuit was filed by the State Attorney General's office on June 1, 2023. Several other parishes and states joined in the lawsuit as well. He added that the board would be updated as the lawsuit progressed and information was made available.

##### **USACE FIELD VISIT & UPDATE WITH COL. CULLEN JONES**

Mr. Matherne met with members of the Corps at an informal gathering in his office the previous week. Mr. Matherne took them on the Larose to Golden Meadow levee to familiarize the new Corps' project manager with our projects.

Mr. Matherne stated that he and Mr. Windell Curole had traveled to New Orleans earlier in the day and met with Col. Jones and Deputy Engineer Mark Wingate, along with Dr. Chris Dunn, Chief of Engineering for the New Orleans District. He stated that Picciola & Associates had been working hard to get us back into the rehabilitation program with the Corps. The program would authorize the Corps to make any needed major repairs to our levee system should it suffer damage. Mr. Matherne stated a couple concerns to the group about how things might be handled in the rehabilitation program. One concern was that our levees were already five feet above the Corps' authorized height. Should a storm destroy a foot or two of that height, Mr. Matherne questioned the Corps on whether they would repair that section back to the pre-storm height or only to the authorized height based on 1965 100-year storm elevations. Mr. Matherne also questioned the Corps on what would be the most effective process to update the 100-year storm authorized elevations, since the Levee Analysis & Mapping Procedure (LAMP) study undertaken by FEMA in response to local appeals against the 2009 preliminary Digital Flood Insurance Rate Map releases. Col. Jones & Mr. Wingate suggested that the authorization may be able to be interpreted as the 100-year storm, rather than the elevations specified, and that the LAMP elevations may be able to be used, moving forward, but that both questions would be submitted to the Corps' Office of Counsel for clarification. A follow-up meeting with the Corps is scheduled for July 6<sup>th</sup>.

**D-NORTH RAMP – CONTRACT TERMINATION**

Mr. Matherne stated that a contract termination was made at the Special Meeting held on May 25<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Matherne explained that there was some disagreement between the contractor and the engineers on where the materials for the ramp were supposed to come from. The contractor anticipated submitting a change order well beyond what we were allowed by Louisiana State Law, and beyond the scope that had been agreed to in the contract. The board voted to terminate the contract.

**AMENDMENT TO EXTEND E-NORTH ROW AGREEMENT TO JUNE 2025**

Mr. Matherne announced that we were working with our attorney and the landowner's attorney to extend our current right-of-way from June 2024 to June 2025. Work will begin on June 26 where material will be taken from the borrow pit, dried and later used to raise that section of the levee. The extra year's extension should allow enough time to complete that work. Mr. Matherne recommended the board authorize the agreement extension.

**Moved by Ronald Callais and seconded by McNeely Rome, the board unanimously approved the extension of the E-North Right of Way agreement to June 2025 and authorized the board president or general manager to sign any documents necessary for the extension.**

**APPROVAL OF UPDATED EMERGENCY OPERATIONS MANUAL**

Mr. Matherne presented a copy of the updated Emergency Operations Manual and highlighted a few of the updates. He recommended the board accept the manual as presented.

**Moved by Mitch Danos and seconded by Roland Curole, the board unanimously accepted the updated 2023 Emergency Operations Manual for the South Lafourche Levee District.**

**ACCEPTANCE OF EXTENSION AND AUDIT FEES FOR GRIFFIN AND FURMAN, LLC (ICPA)**

Mr. Matherne explained that the legislative auditor allowed one extension after the contract deadline for an additional three years, and recommended the board approve the extension to retain Griffin and Furman, LLC for audit services for the years 2023, 2024, and 2025.

**Moved by McNeely Rome and seconded by Brian Marts, the board unanimously accepted the three-year extension to 2025 of audit services by Griffin and Furman, LLC, and authorized the board president and/or general manager to sign any documents necessary for the extension. In addition, the board authorized the audit fee be paid upon the review and recommendation of the board president and legal attorney.**

**AMENDED FY2023 BUDGET**

Mr. Matherne presented the amended Fiscal Year Budget for spendings through June 2023 and recommended the board give their approval.

**Moved by Brett DeRoche and seconded by Ronald Callais, the board unanimously accepted the Fiscal Year 2023 Amended Budget as presented.**

**LAROSE FLOODWALL VESSEL IMPACT BARRIER – APPROVAL NEEDED TO ADVERTISE PROJECT**

Mr. Matherne stated that he would defer the approval to advertise the Larose Floodwall Vessel Impact Barrier to the engineer during his report.

**REPLACEMENT OF OFFICE FURNITURE**

Mr. Matherne stated that the Building Committee reviewed the replacement of office furniture before the board meeting. He explained that most of the office furniture was destroyed after sitting so long in water after Hurricane Ida and would need to be replaced. Most of the furniture would be on State Contract through Callais Office Supply so quotes would not be necessary. Mr. Matherne explained that after insurance claim payouts, the cost of furniture to the district would be minimal. He added that the new phone system was not included and that he was in the process of getting quotes for a new system.

**QUOTE FOR BOARD ROOM DESK**

Mr. Matherne stated that the quote for metal boardroom tables would be an excessive amount. He stated that he was working to obtain quotes from local carpenters to build a desk like the one that was previously used for Board meetings.

**DOCUMENT SCANNER FOR OFFICE**

Mr. Matherne explained that a document scanner would be purchased to transfer files to digital format, thereby reducing the space needed to store hard copies. He added that everything would be stored in connection with Records Retention. At a cost of \$650, there was no need for board approval.

**ENGINEERING REPORT**

**OFFICE OF COASTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION**

Mr. Daniel Dearmond announced that an executed copy of Amendment No. 1 of BA-0259 Agreement had been mailed to the South Lafourche Levee District. He explained that the amendment added an additional \$700,000 to the project for a total of \$1.7 million for Section F Berm.

**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 complete. They have been submitted to US Army Corps of Engineers and CPRA for approval.
- **Section E-North Levee Improvements**  
We accepted bids on April 11<sup>th</sup> and Construction Site Specialties, LLC was the low bidder in the amount of \$3,989,321.00. We held a Pre-Construction Meeting on June 8<sup>th</sup>. The proposed elevation of the top of the levee is +14.00.
- **Hurricane Ida Storm Damage Repairs to Pump Stations and Floodgates**  
Grand Isle Shipyard, LLC is the Contractor. The contractor is complete with all the structural metal work for the project. They are currently working on electrical component replacement on the pump stations and the floodgates.

There is no pay application this month.

- **Hurricane Ida Storm Damage Repairs to Main Office**  
Grand Isle Shipyard, LLC is the Contractor. They are working on interior painting and the placing of cabinetry.

The contractor has submitted Pay Application No. 6 in the amount of \$71,722.13.

**Moved by Ronald Callais, seconded by Brett DeRoche and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 6 in the amount of \$71,722.13.**

An expert inspected the roof and found a few issues. We will get quotes to ensure the roof is secure and protected.

- **Section D-North Interim Levee Improvements – Phase II**  
Outer Limit Contractors, LLC is the Contractor. The Notice to Proceed was issued for May 8, 2023. The contractor has been on-site placing material. The proposed elevation of the top of the levee is +16.00.

The contractor has submitted Pay Application No. 1 in the amount of \$109,908.00.

**Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Mitch Danos and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 1 in the amount of \$109,908.00.**

- **Repairs to Leon Theriot Lock Floodwall and LOOP Floodwall**

Circle, LLC is the Contractor. The Notice to Proceed was issued for May 8, 2023. The contractor had been working and is complete with the project.

The contractor has submitted Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$6,833.00 for the addition of concrete anchors along the edge of the revetment mat.

The contractor has submitted Pay Application No. 1 in the amount of \$345,665.70.

The contractor has submitted the Certificate of Substantial Completion for approval.

**Moved by Mitch Danos, seconded by Roland Curole and unanimously accepted, the board approved Change Order No. 1 in the amount of \$6,833.00 for additional concrete anchors.**

**Moved by Ronald Callais, seconded by Brian Marts and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 1 in the amount of \$345,665.70.**

**Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Ronald Callais and unanimously accepted, the board approved the Certificate of Substantial Completion.**

#### **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. Three of the seven prospective agreements have been signed. Phillips 66 has informed us that an agreement will not be necessary.

GIS had surveyed the adjacent Chevron pipeline to allow Chevron to prepare a Letter 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 permitting and land issues are resolved.

Estimated Advertise Date: Q4 2023

Estimated Completion Date: TBD

Proposed Elevation: +3'

- **D-North Ramp – GIS# 39130-1249/1250**

Contractor: LA Contracting Enterprise LLC

Contract Amount: \$692,710.00

Notice to Proceed: February 13, 2023

Estimated Completion Date: June 18, 2023

Proposed Elevation: +16'

This project has been Terminated for Convenience per the contract documents, effective 5/25/2023. LA has demobilized from the site.

Pay Application No. 3 was reviewed and approved by GIS and has been submitted to SLLD for processing in the amount of \$152,920.93.

**Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Brett DeRoche and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 3 in the amount of \$152,920.93.**

Change Order No. 2 was issued to incorporate grouting work on the eastern culvert. This Change Order will increase the contract price by \$9,550.00 and add one (1) calendar day to the contract.

**Moved by Ronald Callais, seconded by Brian Marts and unanimously accepted, the board authorized Change Order No. 2 in the amount of \$9,550.00 to add one (1) calendar day to the contract.**

A Substantial Completion inspection was held on May 31, 2023, and GIS is recommending substantial completion of the project as of this date.

**Moved by Ronald Callais, seconded by Brett DeRoche and unanimously accepted, the board approved Certificate of Substantial Completion.**

- **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 is preparing an update to the Study & Report comparing siphons, weirs, and other options.

Estimated Completion Date: June 2023

Engineer John Plaisance gave a report that covered the pros and cons, as well as cost differences, on siphon vs. weir. A lengthy discussion followed.

**LEEVE IMPROVEMENTS – ANGELETTE-PICCIOLA, LLC**

Engineer Neil Angelette reported the following:

- **C-South Levee Improvements**

The contractor, Grand Isle Shipyard, LLC, is construction on this project to raise the levee to +18' from Pump Station No. 2 to Apache Farm. We estimate this project will be complete in about 5 weeks.

- **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 #1154 in the amount of \$112,770.00. This project will be complete in 1 month.

**Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Mitch Danos and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 1154 in the amount of \$112,770.00.**

- **C-South Floodside Repairs**

The clearing portion of the project is complete, and we are finalizing our recommendations on the fill phase of the repairs.

- **Yankee Canal & Section A-East Erosion Repairs**

The contractor, Grand Isle Shipyard, LLC, has completed construction and we are recommending substantial completion as of May 4, 2023.

**Moved by Roland Curole, seconded by Brett DeRoche and unanimously accepted, the board approved Substantial Completion as of May 4, 2023.**

- **Larose Floodwall Vessel Impact Barrier**

We have received the permits for this project and final approval from CPRA. We are recommending approval to begin advertising for bids on this project.

**Moved by Ronald Callais, seconded by Mitch Danos and unanimously accepted, the board approved to advertise the project.**

- **Section F Berm Improvements**

We have submitted the plans and specification for final review and approval by the CPRA, and we are waiting on final approval from CPRA to begin advertising.

Engineer Neil Angelette requested a vote to add Section F Berm—Advertising of Bids to the agenda.

**Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Mitch Danos and unanimously accepted, the board agreed to add the Advertisement of Section F Berm.**

- **Section F Berm - Advertisement of Bids**

Approval was obtained today by CPRA to advertise the project. Mr. Angelette recommended the board authorize the advertisement for public bid of the project.

**Moved by McNeely Rome and seconded by Brett DeRoche, the board unanimously approved the advertisement for public bid of the Section F Berm project.**

### **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 Terraces**

The expected funding through the parish for this project did not come through so we are seeking funding elsewhere.

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

The Reach K terraces were damaged during Hurricane Barry in 2019. We recommended moving the terraces closer to Bayou Point-Aux-Chene, or to the left, for better storm conditions. We ultimately submitted it through FEMA as an Alternate Location request, but they sent it back saying we needed to submit it as a Relocation request instead. That request has been submitted and we are waiting to see if it will be approved by FEMA. Due to the project being moved to a new spot, funding for the project will be capped.

- **C-South Berm (Hurricane Ida)**

We continue to work with FEMA to get reimbursement for work on C-South Berm and will update the board with any new developments.

### **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 Ronald Callais, seconded by Brian Marts and unanimously carried, the board approved Letters of No Objection for the following requests:**

1. **CASTEX ENERGY INC**

**CUP NO:** P20230384

**LOCATION:** Lafourche Parish, LA; Lat 29-20-02.13N, Long 90-11-49.14W; Section 14 T20S R22E; Section 23 T20S R22E; Lake Enfermer Field.

**DESCRIPTION:** Resubmittal of P20180515 and MVN 2013-090141- Proposed dredging of a canal and well slip in order to install and maintain a proposed barge mounted drilling rig and appurtenances to serve the Castex Lafourche LP 23 No. 002 Well. Approx 57,490 cy of material will be displaced by displaced by dredging and stacked against existing marsh and in open water. Upon successful completion, a 7' x 16' well structure will be installed.

**2. ANTOINIE'S OYSTERS LLC**

**CUP NO:** P20230367

**LOCATION:** Lafourche Parish, LA; Lat 29-13-59.42"N, Long 90-17-28.84"W and Lat 29-17-25.64"N long 90-15-18.14W; Laurier Bay, approx. 4.4 miles southwest of Leeville, LA.

**DESCRIPTION:** Proposed commercial oyster farm on 2 existing oyster leases. Lease number 3395909 (Site1-Laurier Bay) and Lease number 3656311 (Site 2-Rosa Bay). Site 1 will use a combination of 2 anchor longline system and bottom cages. The maximum number of 2 anchor longlines is 40 and 42 bottom cages. Sites 2 will use a combination of mooring cage system and bottom cages. The maximum number of mooring cages lines is 35 and 30 bottom cages. No excavation or fill required.

**3. GULF SOUTH PIPELINE COMPANY LLC**

**CUP NO:** P20230207

**LOCATION:** Lafourche Parish, LA; POB: Lat 29-5-21.49 N, Long. 90-24-37.14 W, POE: Lat 2-4-48.93 N, Long. 90-21-48.94 W; Timbalier Bay

**DESCRIPTION:** Proposed removal of approx. 15,291 of the existing index 21463-3 pipeline via jetting. Approx. 23,142 cy of material will be jetted for removal activities.

**BOARD ATTORNEY**

Attorney Ryan Collins had nothing to report.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**INVOICES**

In the absence of Chairman Monty Vegas, President Guidry announced that the Finance Committee had reviewed the invoices and recommended they be paid.

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

**INSURANCE COMMITTEE**

**REVIEW OF POLICIES UP FOR RENEWAL**

In the absence of Chairman Roland Guidry, President Keith Guidry announced that the Insurance Committee had met earlier and reviewed policies that were up for renewal. Representatives from Arthur J. Gallagher attended the meeting and were prepared to answer any questions the committee might have on their quote. After reviewing all policies that were up for renewal, the committee recommended the board accept the low quotes as presented.

**On a motion of McNeely Rome, seconded by Brett DeRoche, and unanimously carried, the board accepted the low quotes on all policies that were up for renewal.**

**BUILDING COMMITTEE**

**APPROVAL TO PURCHASE OFFICE FURNITURE**

Chairman Brett DeRoche reported that the Building Committee had reviewed a list of office furniture that had been prepared by the general manager, and recommended the board accept and approve the purchase. The cost was just under \$22,000.00, but the majority would be covered under contents from insurance payments already received. The cost did not include installation, nor did it include a phone system or other office equipment that would be needed.

**On a motion of Brett DeRoche, seconded by Ronald Callais, and unanimously carried, the board approved the cost to purchase office furniture and any office equipment needed to replace items lost during Hurricane Ida, and to bring the main office back into functionality.**

**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 McNeely Rome and seconded by Ronald Callais.**

/s/Keith Guidry, President

/s/Nicholas Matherne, General Manager