

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDING
OF
SOUTH LAFOURCHE LEVEE DISTRICT
AUGUST 14, 2023**

The Board of Commissioners of the South Lafourche Levee District met in a regular session at its temporary meeting location, 17751 Highway 3235, Galliano, Louisiana, on Monday, August 14, 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 August 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
Ronald Callais
Roland Curole
Mitch Danos
Brett DeRoche
Roland Guidry
Mc Neely Rome
Monty Vegas

Board members absent: Brian Marts

Also present were:

General Manager Nicholas Matherne	CPRA Daniel Dearmond
Executive Secretary Windell Curole	Lafourche Parish Councilman Daniel Lorraine
Administrative Assistant 6 Mary Punch	Robert Theriot
Administrative Assistant 3 Amy Gisclair	Dwayne L. Bourgeois
Levee Board Operations Superintendent Drake Baudoin	Mike Callais, GLPC
Attorney Ryan Collins	News Media
Engineering Personnel:	
Joe Picciola	
Neil Angelette	
Laura Barnes	

READING OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the July 10, 2023, Regular Meeting were approved unanimously upon a motion by Roland Curole and seconded by Ronald Callais.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

LETTER FROM LOUANNE GUIDRY

President Guidry announced that he had a letter from Mrs. Louanne Guidry, widow of former Commissioner Roland Guidry. President Guidry read the letter to the board which expressed Mrs. Guidry's gratitude over sincere condolences and kindnesses shown to the family at the passing of Mr. Roland Guidry.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF AUGUST 6, 2023

Chairman Ronald Callais briefed the board on discussions held at the August 6th Executive Meeting as follows:

- The option to invest funds from the LAMP account into CDs at local banks.
- Update on repairs at the main office.

- Request for an Endorsement Letter for Sulphur River Exploration concerning a 4" flowline crossing over the levee. It was recommended that General Manager Nic Matherne review the letter with legal counsel and send upon attorney recommendation.
- \$6 million available from CPRA through State Surplus funds slated to be used on SLLD projects.
- Several contracts have exceeded their contract time and are nearing completion. It was recommended that Mr. Matherne and the board president meet with contractors to discuss their reasons for the delays and the damages that may be due to the Levee District as a result of those delays.
- The northern gate at the LT Lock was past the 10-year recommendation for regular maintenance. A recommendation to receive bids for the maintenance of that gate would be discussed at the September meeting.
- The Committee discussed potential projects that would be included in the next Capital Outlay Request that would be due by November 1, 2023.
- Advertisements for the Prepositioning of Debris Monitoring and Removal contracts were ready and would be published upon entire board approval.
- Other items of discussion included moving the September Executive Committee meeting to Tuesday, Sept. 5th at 8:00 a.m. with all future meetings beginning at 8:00 a.m. unless otherwise noted.
- The governor has required two names and resumes of those seeking to fill the vacancy on the SLLD board. It was agreed that an advertisement should be published in the Daily Comet, the Board's Official Journal, to accept resumes from qualified candidates.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

Mr. Robert Theriot, candidate for Lafourche Parish Assessor, introduced himself and handed out informational packets including a ratio study that was conducted in 2018. He spoke on his qualifications and plans for Lafourche Parish if he is elected as Tax Assessor.

Mr. Daniel Lorraine announced his candidacy for Lafourche Parish Council for District 9. Mr. Lorraine gave a brief background of his working relationship with the South Lafourche Levee District and the Council.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

PREPOSITIONING OF DEBRIS MONITORING AND DEBRIS REMOVAL (ADVERTISED TO BID)

Mr. Matherne reminded the board that several months earlier authorization was given to advertise for bid for proposals of debris monitoring contract and a debris removal contract. However, due to a lack of responses, the board decided not to award either contract at that time. With hurricane season having already begun, authorization was needed to again go out for bid for each of these contracts. In doing so and awarding the bids, should we be faced with an emergency, we would have contractors in place and ready to start work immediately after a storm.

Moved by McNeely Rome and seconded by Roland Curole, the board unanimously authorized the advertising for the Prepositioning of Debris Monitoring and Debris Removal Contracts.

MAINTENANCE OF LEON THERIOT LOCK (ADVERTISE TO BID)

Mr. Matherne informed the board that it had been at least 14 years since the north gate at the Leon Theriot Lock had been completed, and it has never been removed for maintenance, which is recommended for every 10 years. He requested the board authorize Picciola & Associates to move forward with advertising for the maintenance of the north gate at the Leon Theriot Lock.

Moved by Ronald Callais, seconded by Mitch Danos and unanimously accepted, the board authorized Picciola & Associates to move forward with the advertisement for bid of the 10-year maintenance of the Leon Theriot's north floodgate.

SURPLUS SHEET PILE BID RESULTS

Mr. Matherne presented the results of the bid for used surplus sheet piles and recommended the board award to the highest bidder, Eagle Industrial Equipment, at their bid price of \$8,333.00.

Moved by Monty Vegas and seconded by Mitch Danos, the board unanimously accepted the high bid in the amount of \$8,333.00 for used surplus sheet piles from Eagle Industrial Equipment for approximately 500 sheets of 8 ft. length sheet piles.

VEHICLE USAGE POLICY UPDATE

Mr. Matherne presented a policy on the use and upkeep of agency-owned vehicles that are used by the SLLD employees for transportation in and around the levee system and recommended the board accept as presented.

Moved by Monty Vegas and seconded by Roland Curole, the board unanimously approved the Vehicle Usage Policy as presented.

CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT

Mr. Matherne stated that the Executive Committee had discussed the possibility of investing in Certificates of Deposits with our local banks. Mr. Matherne gave a brief detail of the interest currently being offered at local banks and through the Louisiana Asset Management Pool (LAMP). Mr. Matherne presented a spreadsheet showing how much interest on \$1M would be earned at each entity over a period of 11 months. After a brief discussion Mr. Callais recommended the board leave funds as they are and re-evaluate rates again at a later date.

UPCOMING GRANTS/MATCHING FUNDS

Mr. Matherne discussed upcoming grants and matching funds opportunities. The smaller of the grant funds would be around \$5M with the larger being around \$50M to \$75M. Mr. Matherne requested the board authorize a match up to \$500,000 should any of the grants become available in the future.

Moved by Ronald Callais and seconded by Monty Vegas, the board endorsed a matching pledge of up to \$500,000, with board approval, upon a successful application and grant availability with award.

AGREEMENT WITH DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO. 1 FOR BRETON CANAL WEIR

Mr. Matherne announced that he attended the Drainage District No. 1 board meeting, and they voted to approve the construction of the Beton Canal Weir. With the board's approval, we will enter into an agreement with Drainage District No. 1 for \$878,000 for the construction of the weir. The Levee District would then be responsible for maintaining the weir. Upon board approval, Mr. Matherne stated that he would work with the Drainage District and with our legal counsel in developing correct language for the agreement.

Moved by Monty Vegas and seconded by Roland Curole, the board unanimously agreed to enter into an agreement with Drainage District No. 1 who would provide funding in the amount of \$878,000 for the construction of the Breton Canal Weir. The board further authorized the board president or general manager to sign the agreement upon the acceptance and recommendation of its legal counsel.

MAIN OFFICE STATUS UPDATE

Mr. Matherne gave an update saying most of the furniture had been installed in the main office. REV was scheduled to finish the installation of phone lines and internet on Thursday. The board desk for the meeting room was being built by carpentry students at the Career Magnet Center. We are hopeful that it will be in place by our September board meeting.

LA 1 ELEVATED HWY STATUS UPDATE

Mr. Matherne stated that the T-Wall underneath the LA 1 Elevated Highway was complete. A brief discussion pursued.

LAROSE BOAT LAUNCH PARKING ISSUES

Mr. Matherne reminded the board that boaters had been parking on and around the levee at the Larose Boat Launch, so we asked the Parish Council to help with placing signs. Signs are now installed and are effective.

ENGINEERING REPORT

OFFICE OF COASTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION

Mr. Daniel Dearmond had nothing to report.

CORPS OF ENGINEERS

There was no one in attendance from the USACE.

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 the US Army Corps of Engineers and CPRA for approval.

- **Section E-North Levee Improvements**

Construction Site Specialties, LLC is the contractor. The Notice to Proceed was issued on June 19th. The contractor has been on-site excavating and moving dirt onto the levee section. The contractor has submitted Pay Application No. 1 in the amount of \$313,181.12.

Moved by Monty Vegas, seconded by Ronald Callais and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 1 in the amount of \$313,181.12.

- **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 substantially complete as of July 1st. We are compiling a project punch list now and will have the formal Certificate of Substantial Completion on next month's agenda for approval.

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

Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Mitch Danos and unanimously accepted, the board approved the Certificate of Substantial Completion.

- **Hurricane Ida Storm Damage Repairs to Main Office**

Grand Isle Shipyard, LLC, is the Contractor. They are complete and working on punch list items. The contractor has submitted Pay Application No. 8 in the amount of \$57,534.75.

Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Monty Vegas and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 8 in the amount of \$57,534.75.

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

Moved by Monty Vegas, seconded by McNeely Rome and unanimously accepted, the board approved the Certificate of Substantial Completion.

- **Section D-North Interim Levee improvements – Phase II**

Outer Limit Contractor, LLC, is the Contractor. They are complete and working on punch list items. The proposed elevation of the top of the levee is +16.00.

The contractor has submitted Pay Application No. 3 in the amount of \$13,698.00.

Moved by Roland Curole, seconded by Ronald Callais and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 3 in the amount of \$13,698.00.

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

Moved by Mont Vegas, seconded by Mitch Danos and unanimously accepted, the board approved the Certificate of Substantial Completion.

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

Circle, LLC, is the Contractor. The project is complete, and the contractor has submitted the Clear Lien Certificate.

The contractor has submitted Pay Application No. 2 (Request for Retainage) in the amount of \$38,407.30.

Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Monty Vegas and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 2 (Request for Retainage) in the amount of \$38,407.30.

GIS ENGINEERING, LLC

Engineer John Plaisance reported the following:

- **A-East Bayou Water Retention – GIS# 39130-1251/1252**
GIS Engineering has surveyed the adjacent Chevron pipeline to allow Chevron to prepare a Letter of No Objection. Servitude agreements are still outstanding. Plans and specifications have been finalized and we are working to extend the DNR permit.
- **D-North Ramp – GIS# 39130-1249/1250**
This project has been Terminated for Convenience per the contract documents, effective 5/25/2023. LA Contracting, LLC, has demobilized from the site. The final paperwork and quantities of work performed are being tabulated.
- **D-North Ramp Lift (Material Stockpile) – GIS# 39130-1457**
 - a. Request approval to accept and award construction quote under \$250,000.00.
GIS has begun developing an additional design package for excavation and stockpiling of material along the D-North Levee berm. The package will be complete today and board approval will be needed to solicit quotes for construction activities. In addition, we would like to award the approved contract of no more than \$250,00 before the September 11th meeting.

Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Brett DeRoche and unanimously accepted, the board authorized GIS Engineering to solicit quotes under \$250,000 for the D-North Ramp Lift (Material Stockpile), and to immediately award this project to the lowest quote contingent upon the review and acceptance by the board president and general manager.

- **D-North Ramp Lift – GIS # 39130-1457**
GIS Engineering met with SLLD and LOOP to determine any scheduling conflicts with all parties. We estimate advertising for bids in November with a completion of project in March 2024. Proposed elevation will be +16.0’.
- **Reconnection of Breton Canal to Bayou Lafourche – GIS# 39130-1329**
 - a. Contract Proposal for Professional Services
GIS has submitted a contract proposal. We are requesting approval of this proposal.

Moved by Monty Vegas, seconded by McNeely Rome and unanimously accepted, the board authorized the board president or general manager to accept and sign the Contract Proposal for Professional Services contingent upon legal counsel’s review and agreement.

LEVEE IMPROVEMENTS – ANGELETTE-PICCIOLA, LLC

Engineer Neil Angelette reported the following:

- **C-South Levee Reshaping and Compaction**
The contractor, Grand Isle Shipyard, LLC, has completed this project as of July 5, 2023, and they are currently working on the punch list items. We recommend approving the Certificate of Substantial Completion.
Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Brett DeRoche and unanimously accepted, the board approved the Certificate of Substantial Completion.
- **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 #1169 in the amount of \$104,245.00. This project will be complete in about two weeks, and we are currently looking at possible additional work along the LA Highway 24 segment of C-north.
The contractor has submitted Invoice #1169 in the amount of \$104,245.00.
Moved by Monty Vegas, seconded by Ronald Callais and unanimously accepted, the board approved Invoice #1169 in the amount of \$104,245.00.
- **C-South Floodside Repairs**
We received quotes on this project and we recommend proceeding with the low quote from Compeaux & Sons Construction, LLC in the amount of \$200,375.00.
Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Roland Curole and unanimously accepted, the board accepted the low bid by Compeaux & Sons Construction LLC in the amount of \$200,375.00.

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

The contractor, Grand Isle Shipyard, LLC, has completed the project, and we recommend approval of Pay Request No. 3 for retainage in the amount of \$95,343.84, pending receipt of the clear lien certificate.

The contractor has submitted Pay Application No. 3 in the amount of \$95,343.84.

Moved by Monty Vegas, seconded by Mitch Danos and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 3 in the amount of \$95,343.84 once the Clear Lien Certificate is received.

- **Larose Floodwall Vessel Impact Barrier**

We received bids on August 8, 2023, and we recommend awarding the project to the low bidder, Low Land Construction Company, Inc., for the base bid plus alternate bids 1 through 3 for a total amount of \$2,101,420.00.

Commissioner Mitch Danos voiced his concerns over the installation of pilings. Mr. Windell Curole explained that the Impact Barrier was a requirement of the USACE in our receiving a permit. A brief discussion pursued.

Moved by Ronald Callais, seconded by Monty Vegas and opposed by Mitch Danos, the motion carried to award the Larose Floodwall Vessel Impact Barrier project to Low Land Construction Company, Inc. in the amount of \$2,104,420.00.

- **Section F Berm Improvements**

We are currently advertising to receive bids on August 17, 2023, for this project.

MORGANZA TO THE GULF

DELTA COAST CONSULTANTS

Program Manager (Mitch Marmande) was not in attendance.

ALL SOUTH CONSULTING ENGINEERS

Engineer Report (Stevie Smith) was not in attendance.

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

Chairman Mitch Danos announced that one permit request was received for review, and that it did not interfere with the levee.

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

1. SOUTH LAFOURCHE LEVEE DISTRICT

CUP NO: P20230327

LOCATION: Lafourche Parish, LA; Lat 29-23-18N, Long -90-15-47W; Section 17 T19A R22E; Section 5 T20S R22E; LA Hwy 308, Golden Meadow, 70357

DESCRIPTION: Proposed construction of a series of small levees to form a retention area. Two water control structures are to be installed within the system. Approx. 67,745 cy of material will be excavated and placed onsite.

BOARD ATTORNEY

Attorney Ryan Collins reported that approval was obtained from the Allain-LeBreton so the Levee District could now move forward with constructing the weir.

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 Mitch Danos, and unanimously carried, the board approved the payment of the invoices as presented.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Commissioner Monty Vegas announced that the Personnel Committee had met to discuss the upcoming retirements of two of our lock employees. Mr. Vegas stated that we would be receiving applications for those positions and would return to the board for their approval before hiring.

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 Monty Vegas.

/s/Keith Guidry, President

/s/Nicholas Matherne, General Manager