

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDING
OF
SOUTH LAFOURCHE LEVEE DISTRICT
SEPTEMBER 13, 2021**

The Board of Commissioners of the South Lafourche Levee District met in a regular session at its temporary meeting place, 17771 Highway 3235, Galliano, Louisiana, on Monday, September 13, 2021 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 September was called to order by President Ronald Callais. Commissioner Roland Guidry led the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Callais directed the secretary to call roll.

Board members in attendance: Ronald Callais
Roland Guidry
Mitch Danos
Mc Neely Rome
Roland Curole
Keith Guidry
Brett DeRoche

Board members absent: Brian Marts
Monty Vegas

Also present were: Executive Secretary and General Manager Windell Curole; Administrative Assistant 6 Mary Punch; Administrative Assistant 3 Amy Gisclair; Levee Board Operations Superintendent Drake Baudoin and Levee Foreman C Kevin Terrebonne; Engineering Personnel Joe Picciola, Neil Angelette, John Plaisance; CPRA Daniel Dearmond; Attorney General's Office Doug Cheramie; and news media.

READING OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the August 9, 2021 Regular Meeting were approved unanimously upon a motion by McNeely Rome and seconded by Keith Guidry.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President Callais stated that he had nothing to report. He then congratulated the SLLD employees for working through Hurricane Ida. A brief discussion pursued.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

There were no comments from the audience.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

SLIDE PRESENTATION

General Manager Windell Curole discussed debris and damages around the levee system from Hurricane Ida. Mr. Curole reminisced on past board members and the work they did to help build successful levees. He added that the employees worked in 60 to 70 mph winds at times. Slides showed large amounts of debris on the levees along with photos of damaged pump station buildings. He stated that many of our buildings were damaged including the main office. The storm hit on Aug. 29th and by Thursday, Sep. 2, we were operating everything at normal water elevations. Although because of the damages, the way we operated was not normal. Our employees worked through the damages at the levee district, and through their own personal damages, to accomplish the work that was needed. A lengthy discussion pursued.

REACH L LEVEE LIFT – IGA (TE-0158)

Mr. Curole requested the board authorize President Callais or himself to sign the IGA (TE-0158) with the State for the funding of the Reach L Levee upon the recommendation and approval of Attorney Jacob Dagate.

Moved by Keith Guidry and seconded by McNeely Rome, the board unanimously authorized the board president or general manager to sign the TE-0158 Intergovernmental Agreement for funding of Reach L with the State of Louisiana.

REACH L LEVEE BID RESULTS

Mr. Curole announced that bids received were higher than the estimated cost and recommended the board allow the board president or general manager to reject all bids.

Moved by Keith Guidry and seconded by McNeely Rome, the board unanimously authorized the board president or general manager to reject all bids for Reach L Levee.

PROPOSED GIS ENGINEERS SERVICES FOR RECONNECTION OF BRETON CANAL TO BAYOU LAFOURCHE

Mr. Curole presented a letter from GIS for proposed services for the reconnection of the Breton Canal to Bayou Lafourche and recommended the board authorize himself or the board president to review the terms of the letter, and to accept and agree to reasonable costs in association with the study.

Moved by Keith Guidry and seconded by Roland Guidry, the board unanimously authorized the board president or general manager to review the cost sheet and accept reasonable costs in association with the study for engineering services for reconnection of Breton Canal to Bayou Lafourche.

IGA (BA-0249) LAROSE FLOODWALL VESSEL IMPACT BARRIER

Mr. Curole announced that an IGA with the state would allow for the building of the Larose Floodwall Vessel Impact Barrier. Mr. Curole recommend the board authorize himself or the board president to sign upon the advice of the board attorney.

Moved by Brett DeRoche and seconded by Roland Curole, the board unanimously authorized the board president or general manager to sign IGA BA-0249 for funding of the Larose Floodwall Vessel Impact Barrier, upon the advice of the board attorney.

IGA (BA-0250) SECTION F BERM

Mr. Curole stated that the IGA BA-0250 would provide funding to strengthen the Section F Berm and recommended the board authorize himself or the board president to sign the IGA upon the advice of the board attorney.

Moved by Keith Guidry and seconded by Mitch Danos, the board unanimously authorized, upon advice of the board attorney, the board president or general manager to enter into an agreement with the State of Louisiana (BA-0250) for the financing of Section F Berm.

LAROSE LOCK STRUCTURE BID DOCUMENT REVIEW LETTER FROM FACILITY PALNNING CONTROL

Mr. Curole presented a letter from Facility Planning & Control that stated that the \$1.8M previously allocated had gone before the Bond Commission and was approved. Those funds would be put towards the conversion of the Larose "Ted Gisclair" Lock. In addition, Mr. Curole and Mr. Callais met with CPRA and received word that they would provide the remaining \$5M for the lock structure.

SALE OF VINYL SHEET PILES – BID RESULTS

Mr. Curole announced that Rick Ledet had submitted the highest bid for the sale of Used Surplus Vinyl Sheet Piles and recommended the board accept the bid as submitted.

Moved by McNeely Rome and seconded by Brett DeRoche, the board unanimously accepted the highest bid for the sale of used surplus vinyl sheet piles to Mr. Rick Ledet in the amount of \$12,130.00.

EMERGENCY DECLARATION – HURRICANE IDA

Mr. Curole presented an Emergency Declaration in association with Hurricane Ida. Mr. Curole recommended the board accept the Emergency Declaration and make it retroactive to the Governor's State of Emergency declaration, 165 JBE 2021 of August 26, 2021.

Motion of Commissioner Roland Curole, seconded by Commissioner Roland Guidry and unanimously approved:

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-03

DECLARATION OF A STATE OF EMERGENCY – IMMINENT THREAT OF FLOODING DUE TO HURRICANE IDA

WHEREAS, Louisiana Governor John Bel Edwards issued Proclamation No. 165 JBE 2021 on August 26, 2021, declaring a state of emergency for Louisiana due to the imminent threat of emergency conditions from storm surge, hurricane/tropical force winds, and heavy rains associated with Hurricane Ida, and

WHEREAS, the South Lafourche Levee District acknowledges the severity of the continuing flood threat as a direct result of Hurricane Ida, the damage caused by its landfall along the Louisiana coast, and key vulnerabilities in the levee system requiring immediate action for the protection of the people and property of South Lafourche, and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the South Lafourche Levee District Board of Commissioners hereby declares a state of emergency, retroactive August 26, 2021, due to the imminent threat of emergency conditions associated with Hurricane Ida, the continuing flood threat as a direct result of Hurricane Ida, and the damage caused by its landfall along the Louisiana coast.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Windell Curole, Executive Secretary of the South Lafourche Levee District, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Resolution adopted by the Board of Commissioners at a regular meeting held on **September 13, 2021**.

STORM DEBRIS CONTRACT

Mr. Curole explained that the normal cost for FEMA claims is 75/25 cost-share, and possibly 90/10 for larger storms. Since Ida was a powerful storm, claims for damage repair and debris cleanup made within the first 30 day will be reimbursed by FEMA at 100% cost. Mr. Curole explained that due to the immediate need to remove the debris from the levee, quotes were obtained with Dynamic offering the lowest accumulative quote. Mr. Curole requested the board approve the contract with Dynamic.

Moved by Roland Curole and seconded by Roland Guidry, the board unanimously accepted the lowest quote for accumulative debris removal from Dynamic, and authorized General Manager Windell Curole to sign, retroactive to September 10, 2021 so that claims may be filed with FEMA to insure 100% of the cost is reimbursed.

TEMPORARY RELOCATION OF OFFICE TO OLD CROSBY TUGS OFFICE

Mr. Curole explained that the office and other buildings had been heavily damaged. He extended his appreciation to Crosby Tugs for offering their vacant office building to the South Lafourche Levee District for office usage. He recommended the board allow the board attorney to draw up a contract for liability purposes to protect Crosby's interest.

On a motion by Mitch Danos, seconded by McNeely Rome and unanimously accepted, the board authorized the general manager or board president to enter into a Commercial Lease Agreement with Crosby Real Estate, L.L.C. for the use of office space located at 17771 Hwy 3235, Galliano, Louisiana.

Mr. Curole spoke briefly on his and the levee district's employees' stay at the Lady of the Sea hospital during the storm. He added that they were looking at an alternative location to shelter and had been offered another building for future refuge if needed. Mr. Curole informed the board that the Levee District's main office building was heavily damaged from Hurricane Ida and that it would take several months before repairs would be complete and ready for the staff to move back in. Commissioner McNeely Rome proposed the Board send a letter expressing its gratitude to Crosby for allowing SLLD the use of its building and offices.

RAMCO HOURLY RATE INCREASE DUE TO STORM DEBRIS

Mr. Curole stated that RAMCO was the grass cutting service that had been maintaining the grass around the pump stations. He stated that the grass was getting taller and that there was a considerable amount of debris in those areas preventing RAMCO from properly maintaining the grass. Mr. Curole presented an adjusted cost sheet from RAMCO with new rates for clearing debris so they can resume their grass cutting work. Mr. Curole added that he had consulted with knowledgeable people on the matter and the request seemed fair. He recommended the board accept the new temporary rates and allow RAMCO to remove the debris that was preventing their maintenance around the pump stations.

Moved by Keith Guidry and seconded by Mitch Danos, the board accepted the rate adjustments from RAMCO and authorized them to remove debris around pumping stations so they could resume their normal grass cutting activities.

Mr. Curole commended the employees who voluntarily stayed and worked through the storm. He instructed the men to be safe and to not take risks. He stated that the work was accomplished safely with no injuries. Mr. Curole voiced his appreciation for those who remained at the Lady of the Sea hospital ready to go when conditions allowed. President Callais added that the board members should do something for the employees to show their appreciation once things got back to normal.

ENGINEERING REPORT

OFFICE OF COASTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION

Mr. Daniel Dearmond stated that he 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:

- **Section E-North Levee Improvements**

Grand Isle Shipyard, Inc. is the contractor. The contractor is complete, and we are presenting the Certificate of Substantial Completion for approval.

Moved by Roland Curole, seconded by Roland Guidry and unanimously accepted, the board approved Certificate of Substantial Completion for Section E-North Levee from Grand Isle Shipyard, Inc.

There is no application for payment this month on this project.

- **Section F Levee Improvements**

Onshore Materials, LLC is the Contractor. The contractor is currently on-site hauling borrow material on the levee section.

The contractor has submitted Pay Application No.6 in the amount of \$172,268.25.

Moved by Mitch Danos, seconded by Brett DeRoche and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 6 in the amount of \$172,268.25.

- **Golden Meadow Pump Station Floodwall**

Sealevel Construction, Inc. is the Contractor. The project is substantially complete and, in the Lien period is complete. Once the Clear Lien Certificate is received, we recommend payment of retainage.

The contractor has submitted Pay Application No. 11 in the amount of \$47,622.18 (Retainage)

Moved by Keith Guidry, seconded by McNeely Rome and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 11 in the amount of \$47622.18 (Retainage), contingent up receipt of Clear Lien Certificate.

- **Larose Lock Project**

Project Plans and Specifications are complete. They have been submitted to US Army Corps of Engineers and CPRA for approval.

- **Section D-South Interim Levee Improvements – Phase III**

Outer Limit Contractors, LLC is the Contractor. The contractor is currently on-site prepping to begin excavating the borrow area and hauling borrow material on the levee section

The contractor has submitted Pay Application No. 1 in the amount of \$27,900.00.

Moved by Mitch Danos, seconded by Roland Curole and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 1 in the amount of \$27,900.00 from Outer Limit Contractors, LLC.

GIS ENGINEERING, LLC

Engineer John Plaisance reported the following:

- **A-East Bayou Lafourche Water Retention**

USACE forwarded the draft permit to SLLD. The final permit will be issued once all signatures are obtained.

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 has developed servitude requirements for the project and forwarded 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.

- **D-South Crawfish Farm Floodwall Improvements (Sealevel)**

Construction contract for Phase I was awarded to Sealevel Construction, Inc., in the amount of \$1,648,822.00. Full Notice to Proceed was issued on May 14, 2021 with a contract end date of November 9, 2021.

Installation of East floodwall H-piles is complete, with West Floodwall H-piles in progress up-to Ida.

Fabrication and painting of floodwall components is in progress at Specs & Eagle dry dock.

Site received damage and has been inundated with debris. GIS has performed an initial assessment of the damages to be provided to SLLD for review.

Sealevel is preparing to begin site clean-up in order for the GIS assessment to be complete. This task is being tracked for FEMA reimbursement.

CPRA approved Phase II documents. We will begin advertising for bids soon.

- **Section D-North Ramp**

The original bids were received on April 22, 2021. The low bid was substantially higher than the estimate and budget. SLLD rejected all bids.

GIS received quotes for Phase I on July 20, 2021 to excavate and stockpile the material from the borrow pit. Only one quote was received, which was over the limit set by the Public Bid Law. Options are being evaluated.

Site inspection was performed on September 9, 2021 and the adjacent levee to the ramp was observed to be covered with debris from the storm.

Grand Bayou Flood Control Structure (Sealevel)

- **Floodwall & Receiving Structure**

The Barge Gate was successfully operated for Hurricane Ida and is projected to again be operated for T.S. Nicholas.

All 30" plumb/battered piles are installed, along with all remaining sheet pile.

Final timber fender installations are underway.

Upon completion of the settlement periods, both the east and west abutments are being shaped. The excess material is being used to make the levee connection between Reach K and the abutment.

Pay Request No. 20 in the amount of \$427,453.19 was approved by GIS.

Moved by Keith Guidry and seconded by McNeely Rome, the Board unanimously approved Pay Request No. 20 in the amount of \$427,453.19 to Sealevel Construction.

Change Order No. 10 credits the contract \$7,827.00 in order to cover additional cost to the Barge Gate contract.

Moved by McNeely Rome and seconded by Brett DeRoche, the Board unanimously approved Change Order No. 10 in the amount of \$7,827.00 to Sealevel Construction.

Sealevel submitted their Substantial Completion request, dated 9/2/2021.

Moved by Roland Guidry and seconded by Roland Curole, the Board unanimously accepted Substantial Completion of the Floodwall & Receiving Structure from Sealevel Construction.

The site laydown yard and access waterways have sustained extensive siltation and pile-up of marsh grass/debris from Hurricane Ida. Sealevel continues debris removal operations. This task is being tracked for FEMA reimbursement.

- Barge Gate
No further work performed and the gate was operated for Hurricane Ida, also projected to be operated for T.S. Nicholas.

Substantial Completion Inspection was held on July 26, 2021. GIS recommends Substantial Completion of the project as of July 21, 2021.

Moved by McNeely Rome and seconded by Bret DeRoche, the Board unanimously accepted Substantial Completion of the Floodwall & Receiving Structure from Sealevel Construction.

Pay Request No. 11 was approved by GIS in the amount of \$16,387.50.

Moved by Keith Guidry and seconded by Brett DeRoche, the Board unanimously approved Pay Request No. 16 in the amount of \$16,387.50 to Sealevel Construction.

- Hurricane Delta/Zeta
There are no additional hurricane related items pending.

Hurricane Delta: All Hurricane Delta work is complete and the GIS continues to assist All South, providing additional information as requested by FEMA.

Hurricane Zeta: Limestone access road and laydown yard repairs are nearly complete, with the remainder of the in-contract limestone to be installed at a later date. Access road maintenance is being performed as needed.

Hurricane Zeta: GIS continues to assist All South, providing additional information as requested by FEMA.

LEVEE IMPROVEMENTS – ANGELETTE-PICCIOLA, LLC

Engineer Neil Angelette reported the following:

- **B-North & B-South Levee Improvements**
The contractor, Pontchartrain Partners, LLC, is complete with construction on this project. We have received the clear lien certificate and recommend approval of Pay Application No. 40 (Final Retainage Payment) in the amount of \$535,009.61. Just to inform the board, there was a lien filed against Pontchartrain Partners after the Clear Lien was filed. The lien was by one of the subcontractors and does not affect the levee district. In speaking with Board Attorney Ray Collins, there is no reason for the SLLD to withhold payment. Because the subcontractor missed the deadline, this becomes a private issue between the sub and Pontchartrain Partners. I recommend the board pay the final retainage amount due.

Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Roland Guidry and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 40 in the amount of \$535,009.61, Final Retainage.
- **C-South Levee Improvements**
The contractor, Grand Isle Shipyard, LLC, is continuing with construction on this project.
- **Larose Floodwall Height Improvement, West End A-Phase 5**
The contractor, Sealevel Construction, Inc. is continuing with construction on this project.
- **Morganza to the Gulf, Reach L**
We are currently advertising to receive bids on August 19, 2021 for this project. We are recommending that the bids be rejected due to the amounts exceeding the budget and giving

approval to re-advertise once appropriate changes have been made to reduce cost. (Motion in General Manager's Report.)

MORGANZA TO THE GULF

DELTA COAST CONSULTANTS

Program Manager Report (Mitch Marmande)

Mr. Marmande was not in attendance.

ALL SOUTH CONSULTING ENGINEERS

Engineer Report (Stevie Smith)

Mr. Smith was not in attendance.

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

Chairman Mitch Danos announced that no permit requests were received for review.

BOARD ATTORNEY

Board attorney Ryan Collins stated he had nothing new to report.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

INVOICES

In the absence of Chairman Monty Vegas, Commissioner Keith Guidry announced that there were no invoices.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

PERSONNEL ITEMS

In the absence of Chairman Monty Vegas, Commissioner Keith Guidry announced that the Personnel Committee had met earlier and recommended the board authorize the Committee to take actions on issues that would be addressed in the upcoming Personnel Committee to be held on Wednesday, September 15, 2021. President Callais added that the topics were of a personnel matter that could not be discussed in public.

Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Brett DeRoche and unanimously carried, the board authorized the Personnel Committee to take necessary actions in the upcoming Personnel Committee on Wednesday, September 15, 2021.

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 Mitch Danos and seconded by McNeely Rome.

/s/Ronald Callais, President

/s/Windell A. Curole, Executive Secretary