

**OFFICIAL PROCEEDING
OF
SOUTH LAFOURCHE LEVEE DISTRICT
OCTOBER 9, 2023**

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, October 9, 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 October was called to order by President Keith Guidry. Commissioner Brian Marts led the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Guidry announced that the Oath of Office for new board member, Scott Theriot, would take place at that time and requested board attorney Ryan Collins to facilitate the oath.

With the Oath of Office taken, Mr. Scott Theriot took his position with the Board.

President Guidry directed the secretary to call roll.

Board members in attendance: Keith Guidry
Ronald Callais
Roland Curole
Brett DeRoche
Brian Marts
Mc Neely Rome
Scott Theriot
Monty Vegas

Board members absent: Mitch Danos

Also present were:

General Manager Nicholas Matherne
Executive Secretary Windell Curole
Administrative Assistant 6 Mary Punch
Administrative Assistant 3 Amy Gisclair
Operations Superintendent Drake Baudoin
Attorney Ryan Collins

Engineering Personnel:
Joe Picciola
Neil Angelette
John Plaisance
Stevie Smith
Lafourche Parish Councilman Daniel Lorraine
News Media

READING OF THE MINUTES

The minutes of the September 11, 2023 Regular Meeting were approved unanimously upon a motion by Monty Vegas and seconded by Ronald Callais.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

OATH OF OFFICE FOR NEW BOARD MEMBER, SCOTT THERIOT

The oath was taken earlier in the meeting.

REVISED LIST OF COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

President Guidry provided each board member with a revised list of Committee Assignments which included the newest commissioner, Mr. Scott Theriot. With no changes offered, he recommended the assignments be accepted as presented.

Moved by Monty Vegas and seconded by Brett DeRoche, the board unanimously accepted the revised list of Committee Assignments as presented.

ALBL DECEMBER CONFERENCE

President Guidry reminded the commissioners of the upcoming ALBL Conference to be held December 6-7, 2023, at the Hilton New Orleans Riverside in New Orleans.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE REPORT

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING OF OCT 2, 2023

Chairman Ronald Callais announced that a quorum was not met for the Oct. 2nd Executive Committee meeting. Therefore, the Executive Committee meeting was postponed until November.

AUDIENCE COMMENTS

There were no comments from the audience.

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

RISK RATING 2.0 UPDATE

General Manager Nic Matherne announced that the initial hearing for Risk Rating 2.0 was held on Sept. 14th in New Orleans and briefed the board on the discussions that took place. He stated that the hearing went well, but he was not sure how long it would take to get a ruling. There was a brief discussion of the proceedings that took place.

MVFC DC MEETINGS

Mr. Matherne informed the board that he and President Keith Guidry had gone to Washington, DC with the Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association in September. He stated that they met with staffers from several senate and congressional offices, and that those meetings had been very productive.

RESOLUTION 2023.07 FOR KURT CROSBY

Mr. Matherne presented and read Resolution 2023.07 in appreciation of the loaning of office space by Mr. Kurt Crosby after our main office was severely damaged during Hurricane Ida and could not be occupied. After reading the resolution, Mr. Matherne received a roll call vote adopting the resolution.

Moved by Ronald Callais, and seconded by McNeely Rome, a roll call vote was taken, and with 8 Yays, 0 Nays, 1 Absent and 0 Abstained, the Board of Commissioners unanimously adopted Resolution 2023.07 in appreciation for donated office space after Hurricane Ida.

RE-ADVERTISE DEBRIS REMOVAL CONTRACT

Mr. Matherne explained that advertisements had gone out for Debris Removal and Debris Monitoring. A few proposals were received for debris removal, but the proposals submitted by a majority of respondents clearly showed a lack of understanding of types of equipment and activities specifically related to debris removal from levees. Mr. Matherne recommended re-advertising the Debris Removal for 30 days with a pre-bid meeting to ensure that the language was thoroughly explained to and understood by the contractors before submitting their proposals.

On a motion by Monty Vegas, seconded by Scott Theriot and unanimously accepted, the board authorized the general manager and All South Consulting Engineers to re-advertise the Debris Removal Request for Proposals.

AWARD DEBRIS MONITORING CONTRACT

Mr. Matherne announced that two well-qualified contractors had submitted proposals for the debris monitoring contract. After carefully reviewing each submission, Mr. Matherne recommended the board accept the proposal from Metric Consulting. Mr. Matherne added that Metric had monitored the debris on our levees after Hurricane Ida, so they are not only qualified, but familiar with our system.

Moved by Roland Curole and seconded by Brian Marts, the board unanimously accepted the proposal for the Debris Monitoring Contract submitted by Metric Consulting.

CAPITAL OUTLAY REQUEST

Mr. Matherne announced that October was the month to prepare Capital Outlay Requests which were due by November 1st. He recommended seeking funds to install a Data Monitoring System on all pump stations as well as the flood gates in Larose and Golden Meadow, explaining that the monitoring system would measure water level, rainfall, temperature, wind speed, and wind direction. The estimated cost for the monitoring system would be \$367,500 installed and in place.

Moved by McNeely Rome and seconded by Brett DeRoche, the board unanimously authorized the general manager to pursue Capital Outlay funding through Capital Outlay Request in the amount of \$367,500.

The second recommended project to be included in the Capital Outlay Request would be \$4.3 million for improvements to Section A-West, raising the levee section to +19.5' in elevation. Mr. Matherne explained that funds had been requested for the A-West project in past years, but never got past Priority 5. He also requested CPRA to include this as one of their requests for Surplus and Capital Outlay directly through the State.

Moved by Ronald Callais and seconded by Brett DeRoche, the board unanimously authorized the general manager to seek \$4.3 million in Capital Outlay funds for Section A-West Improvements.

ADOPT RESOLUTION 2023.08, CDBG FUNDING

Mr. Matherne presented Resolution 2023.08 for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding. He explained that after Hurricane Ida, much of the funding from FEMA was at a 90/10 cost-share with the levee district paying 10% of the total costs. The CDBG program would reimburse SLLD for the 10% that was paid by the levee district. The 10% amount was not confirmed at the time of the meeting. Attorney Ryan Collins recommended approving the resolution and entering the amount once it was available.

Moved by Roland Curole, and seconded by McNeely Rome, a roll call vote was taken, and with 8 Yays, 0 Nays, 1 Absent and 0 Abstained, the Board of Commissioners unanimously adopted Resolution 2023.08, CDBG Funding.

RENEWAL OF 5-YEAR HUNTING & FISHING LEASE, ALEX CHERAMIE (LIVE OAK BAY AREA)

Mr. Matherne explained that a 5-year lease to Alex Cheramie for hunting & fishing on SLLD property was set to expire on Oct. 31, 2023. Administrative Assistant Mary Punch explained that at the end of five years, the lessee had the option, with Board approval, to lease for an additional five years without advertising. The lessee, Mr. Alex Cheramie, expressed his desire to continue leasing the property in the Live Oak Bay area for an additional five years.

Moved by Brian Marts and seconded by Roland Curole, the Board unanimously authorized an additional five-year lease to Mr. Alex Cheramie for leased property at Section 30, T19S, R24E, Live Oak Bay area.

ENGINEERING REPORT

OFFICE OF COASTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION

No CPRA representative was in attendance.

CORPS OF ENGINEERS

No USACE representative was in attendance.

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. We currently have a State DNR and State DEQ Permit. We are awaiting the US Army Corps of Engineers Permit.
- **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 19th. The contractor has been on-site excavating and moving dirt onto the levee section.
The contractor has submitted Pay Application No. 3 in the amount of \$122,657.45.
Moved by Monty Vegas, seconded by McNeely Rome and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 3 in the amount of \$122,657.45.
- **Hurricane Ida Storm Damage Repairs to Pump Stations and Floodgates**
Grand Isle Shipyard, LLC, is the contractor. The project is complete, and the Lien Period is complete. There is no pay application this month.

- **Hurricane Ida Storm Damage Repairs to Main Office**
Grand Isle Shipyard, LLC, is the contractor. The project is complete, and the Lien Period is complete. There is no pay application this month.
- **Section D-North Interim Levee improvements – Phase II**
Outer Limit Contractors, LLC, is the contractor. The project is complete, and the Lien Period is complete. The contractor has submitted Pay Application No. 4 in the amount of \$40,212.00.
Moved by Roland Curole, seconded by Scott Theriot and unanimously accepted, the board approved Pay Request No. 4 in the amount of \$40,212.00.
- **Maintenance of North Sector Gates at Leon Theriot Lock**
Project Plans and Specifications are complete. We accepted bids on October 4th at 10:00 a.m. There were no bidders. We are in the process of speaking with contractors to see who would be available to bid. We will rebid this project later after speaking with contractors.
- **Section A-East Levee Improvements**
Project Plans and Specifications are complete. They have been submitted to CPRA for approval.

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. Phillips 66 has informed us that an agreement will not be necessary.
 - GIS is coordinating with Chevron to prepare a Letter of No Objection.
 - GIS developed servitude requirements for the project and resent 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
 - Original Contract Amount: \$692,710.00
 - Notice to Proceed: February 13, 2023.
 - Termination Date: May 25, 2023
 - This project has been Terminated for Convenience per the contract documents, effective 5/25/2023. LA has demobed from the site. The final paperwork and quantities of work performed are being tabulated.
 - Balancing Change Order No. 4 was sent to the contractor on 9/19/2023. The change order decreases the contract by (\$286,824). The final contract price should be \$440,322.00. No additional days have been added via this change order and the contract end date remains June 19, 2023. We have not received the executed change order or any correspondence regarding it.
 - Revised Pay Application No. 5 was rejected and is pending resubmittal from the contractor.
- **D-North Ramp Lift (Material Stockpile) GIS# 39130-1457**
 - GIS received quotes for this project Friday, September 8, 2023.
 - Recommendation to award to Outer Limits in the amount of \$234,800 for the base bid and alternate no. 1 was submitted to SLLD and approved at the September 11, 2023 Board meeting.
 - Based on discussions and negotiations with the on-site pit landowner, SLLD asked that Outer Limits hold their bid for 30 days. Outer Limits agreed to hold their price until October 15, 2023.
- **D-North Ramp Lift – GIS# 39130-1457**
 - GIS began design of completion of the ramp lift work.
 - Estimated Advertisement Date: November 2023

- Estimated Completion Date: March 2024
- Proposed Elevation: +16.0'

- **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 prepared an update to the Study & Report comparing siphons, weirs, and other options and submitted it to SLLD on June 30, 2023.
 - GIS is preparing a preliminary set of plans and specs for the weir gate design.
 - Estimated Submittal Date: October 6, 2023

- **D-South Floodwall at Crawfish Farms – Phase III Improvements – GIS# 39130-TBD**
 - SLLD Board voted to enter into a contract with GIS at the September meeting
 - Currently routing contracts for signature.
 - Estimated Construction Cost: \$785,000

LEVEE IMPROVEMENTS – ANGELETTE-PICCIOLA, LLC

Engineer Neil Angelette reported the following:

- **C-South Levee Improvements**

The contractor, Grand Isle Shipyard, LLC, has completed this project as of July 5, 2023, and we are currently in the clear lien period.

- **C-North Levee Improvements**

Compeaux & Sons Construction, LLC is continuing work on the project to shape the levee to +13.5'. We are recommending approval of Invoice #1185 in the amount of \$96,045.00.

Moved by McNeely Rome, seconded by Roland Curole and unanimously accepted, the board approved Invoice No. 1185 in the amount of \$96,045.00.

- **C-South Flood Side Repairs**

Compeaux & Sons Construction, LLC was awarded this project and work is proceeding to rebuild the flood side berm of the levee.

- **Larose Floodwall Vessel Impact Barrier**

This project was awarded to Low Land Construction Company, Inc., for the Base Bid plus Alternate Bids 1 through 3 for a total of \$2,104,420.00. We have received back the contracts and are currently scheduling a pre-construction meeting.

- **Section F Berm Improvements**

This project was awarded to Sealevel Construction, Inc., for the Base Bid plus Alternate Bids 1 and 2 for a total of \$3,278,530.00. A pre-construction meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 11, 2023.

MORGANZA TO THE GULF

DELTA COAST CONSULTANTS

Program Manager Mitch Marmande was not in attendance.

ALL SOUTH CONSULTING ENGINEERS

Engineer Report (Stevie Smith)

- **Golden Meadow Marsh Terraces**

This project is on hold pending available funding.

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

A request to rebuild on the opposite bank was not approved by FEMA. Terrebonne Levee personnel will rebuild the terraces in their current location. Terrebonne levee will fund the project using SLLD as a pass-through for the funding as with previous Morganza projects.

- **Hurricane Ida Response**

We are working with Mr. Nic Matherne on the CBDG funding. We have also been working on getting FEMA funding for the levee system. A large pushback has been with the RIP program that pays for repairs to federal levees. The SLLD levee system was removed from that program, which should make SLLD eligible for FEMA funds. FEMA has said that since SLLD is not in the RIP program, it is not FEMA eligible. We are working with Mr. Matherne to resolve that issue.

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

In the absence of Chairman Mitch Danos, General Manager Nicholas Matherne announced that two permit requests were received for review, and that neither request interfered with the levee.

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

1. LAFOURCHE PARISH WATER DISTRICT NO. 1

LOCATION: Lafourche Parish, LA; West 3rd Street, Larose

DESCRIPTION: Proposed installation of an 8" waterline and fire hydrants along West 3rd St., Larose. This street qualifies for a waterline installation as part of our Waterline Improvements Program. The proposed installation would require trenches being dug along the eastern edge of W. 3rd Street.

2. LAFOURCHE PARISH GOVERNMENT

CUP NO: P20220649 (Revised)

LOCATION: Lafourche Parish, LA; LAT 29-9-31.29 N / Long. -90-10-4.71 W (see plat for additional information); Port Fourchon/Leeville LA 70357.

DESCRIPTION: Proposed construction of earthen terraces and living shoreline/wave attenuation structure. Approx. 1,007,132 cy of native material is to be excavated and placed on site to construct terraces. In addition, 501 cy of living shoreline modules will be hauled in and placed on site, Approx. 300 acres of non-vegetated wetlands and 25 acres of vegetated wetlands may be impacted by the proposed activity.

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 Ronald Callais, seconded by Scott Theriot, and unanimously carried, the board approved the payment of the invoices as presented.

PERONNEL COMMITTEE

REVIEW DRAFT POLICY FOR LOCK OPERATIONS

Commissioner Monty Vegas stated that the Committee was still reviewing the draft policy for lock operations and planned to present their final copy to the board at the November meeting.

INSURANCE COMMITTEE

OPEN ENROLLMENT FOR EMPLOYEE GROUP HEALTH BENEFITS

Commissioner Monty Vegas stated that the 2024 premiums for employee health coverage had increased by 6.15% from the previous year. After careful consideration, the board agreed to continue paying 100% of the premiums for employees' health insurance for the year 2024 but would review again next summer.

MAINTENANCE & EQUIPMENT COMMITTEE

UPDATE ON OCTOBER 2, 2023, MEETING

Commissioner Ronald Callais requested the agenda be amended to add **Surplus and Sale of Used Vehicles**.

Mr. Matherne informed the board of the vehicles that needed to be surplus and asked for a vote to add to the agenda.

Moved by Ronald Callais and seconded by Brian Marts, a roll call vote was taken. With 8 Yays, 0 Nays, 1 Absent and 0 Abstained, the Board of Commissioners amended the agenda to add SURPLUS AND SALE OF USED VEHICLES.

SURPLUS AND SALE OF USED VEHICLES

Mr. Callais stated that the Committee had reviewed a list of levee district vehicles that were no longer in use. The Committee agreed to drop the insurance and sell one 1965 transport truck, one 1990 International 4700 Dump Truck, one 1998 AM General Humvee, and the two oldest pickup trucks in the SLLD fleet.

Mr. Matherne requested the board pass a resolution to surplus and sell the five vehicles as described.

Moved by Ronald Callais and seconded by Monty Vegas, the board unanimously agreed to surplus and sell used vehicles including one 1965 Transport truck, one 1990 International 4700 Dump Truck, one 1998 AM General Humvee, and the two oldest pickup trucks in the SLLD Fleet.

Commissioner Ronald Callais requested the agenda be amended to add **Purchase of Two New Pickups**.

Moved by McNeely Rome and seconded by Roland Curole, a roll call vote was taken. With 8 Yays, 0 Nays, 1 Absent and 0 Abstained, the Board of Commissioners amended the agenda to add PURCHASE OF TWO NEW PICKUPS.

PURCHASE OF TWO NEW PICKUPS

Mr. Matherne requested the board allow the purchase of two new pickup trucks in accordance with State Purchasing Laws.

Moved by McNeely Rome and seconded by Ronald Callais, the board unanimously approved the purchase of two new pickup trucks in accordance with Louisiana's State Purchasing Laws.

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