

**MINUTES OF
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON AUGUST 7, 2009**

PRESENT: Louis Wittie, Chair
Dave Barnes, Committee Member
Timothy Doody, Committee Member
Stephen Estopinal, Committee Member
George Losonsky, Commissioner

The Operations Committee met on August 7, 2009 in the Second Floor Hall of the Lake Vista Community Center, 6500 Spanish Fort Blvd., New Orleans, LA. Mr. Wittie called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m.

Opening Comments:

Mr. Doody reported that he attended the New Orleans City Council meeting held yesterday during which the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) provided a presentation on the expected completion date for 100 year protection projects. At this time 13 project completion dates extend beyond the June 1, 2011 deadline. Three of those projects are anticipated to be completed in June and several in July of 2011. The presentation included comments by Colonel Sinkler advising that much of the lost time will be recovered during construction and other processes. Mr. Doody stressed at the Council meeting that the deadline should not be extended beyond June 1, 2011.

Mr. Doody commented that he will attend a meeting scheduled to be held on Monday concerning the potential polderization of the Authority's western flank. The development of additional information will be discussed.

Mr. Barnes advised that a meeting has been scheduled for August 12th for SLFPA-E representatives to meet with Kevin Davis, St. Tammany Parish President, and other representatives and engineers for St. Tammany Parish to discuss the possibility of activating a levee district and the challenges and legalities that would be involved. The Authority will hold a planning session on August 11th in anticipation of the August 12th meeting. He advised that a levee district had apparently been established; however, ad valorem taxes are not being collected on properties in the flood zone for flood protection.

Adoption of Agenda: The agenda was adopted as presented.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the June 4, 2009 Operations Committee meeting were approved.

Public Comments: None.

New Business:

A. Discussion of task orders for the following:

- Bayou Bienvenue Structure – ID-IQ Hydraulic contractor to design, construction

manage, and inspect the Dewater and Repair as per USACE maintenance cycle requirements

- Bayou St John Structure – ID-IQ Hydraulic contractor for design, construction management and inspection of repairs as per USACE maintenance requirements cycle during USACE dewatering inspection
- Miscellaneous floodgate seals – ID-IQ hydraulic contractor to review DOTD prepared plans and specs and provide final plans, construction management and inspection.

Gerry Gillen, Orleans Levee District (O.L.D.) Executive Director, explained that a maintenance cycle is required for the Bayou Bienvenue Structure. The firm of Burk-Kleinpeter, Inc. has recently provided engineering services for several structures of this type, including the Bayou Dupre structure. The Authority has an ID-IQ contract with Burk-Kleinpeter and the firm is preparing a proposal for this work. He also advised that the USACE will dewater the Bayou St. John structure and an ID-IQ consultant will be used for the cleaning and maintenance work.

Mr. Gillen explained that the Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) developed the technical plans and specifications for the floodgate seals. CPRA through OCPD (Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration) has offered to bid the project. This project includes about 12 floodgates at a cost of approximately \$15,000 per floodgate. The total project is estimated to cost between \$150,000 to \$200,000.

B. Discussion of UNO Servitude for LPV 104.02. (Orleans Levee District)

Mr. Gillen advised that a servitude is required in connection with the new crossing to the UNO campus on Lakeshore Drive.

A resolution will be presented to the Board for approval of the servitude with UNO for LPV 104.02.

C. Discussion of Act to Revoke and Correct Resolution No. R-154-90 adopted by the LBBLD on November 20, 1990.

The proposed resolution to revoke and correct Resolution No. R-154090 was distributed. During a recent investigation of existing rights-of-way, an error in the wording of a 1990 resolution that was adopted by the Lake Borgne Basin Levee District (LBBLD) Board of Commissioners was discovered. The intent of LBBLD was to relinquish a portion of levee servitude in order for St. Bernard Parish to construct a fire station. Mark Hanna, LBBLD counsel, advised that after listening to the tape of the meeting and reviewing the transcript of the tape, he felt comfortable with the resolution that has been drafted expressing the true intent of the former board as opposed to the resolution drafted in 1990. Affidavits were obtained from the former President of the Board and former Director of the LBBLD, which will be attached to the resolution. After the resolution is adopted, it will be filed in the Courthouse.

The Committee concurred with the recommendation that the Board approve the resolution to revoke and correct Resolution No. R-154-90.

D. Discussion of land acquisitions from private land owners for LPV 109.02 and LPV 111.01 and 111.02.

Mr. Gillen advised that the subject Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity projects extend from South Point to the Michoud Canal along the GIWW. The O.L.D. was alerted that acquisitions are needed from private owners, in addition to the acquisition from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The private owners are currently being identified by OCPR.

A resolution will be presented to the Board for the acquisitions from private owners for LPV 109.02 and LPV 111.01 and 111.02.

LEVEE DISTRICT REPORTS: (Copy of reports appended to minutes)

Orleans Levee District (O.L.D.): Mr. Gillen reviewed the status of activities and monthly status report.

Mr. Gillen advised that the O.L.D. received a minimally acceptable rating in the USACE letter dated July 31, 2009, and inspection report for the Mississippi River Levee Inspection that was held on October 9, 2008. The levee district has thirty days to respond to several issues. The USACE rating system is comprised of three ratings (i.e., acceptable, minimally acceptable and unacceptable). The Committee discussed the issue of which entity was responsible for the problems identified in the inspection report. Mr. Doody commented that better communication and coordination is needed between the levee districts and the USACE. Larry Ardoin with OCPR advised that he wrote a letter to the USACE regarding its responsibility for correcting some of the findings listed in the reports. Mr. Doody pointed out that the USACE participated in an inspection of the MRGO levees and issued a report with an unacceptable rating on those levees which had not yet been accepted as completed by the Lake Borgne Levee District because of insufficient grass growth. Mr. Doody requested that the USACE have a representative at the next Operations Committee meeting to address grass growth issues and the issuance of the inspection reports.

East Jefferson Levee District (EJLD): Fran Campbell, EJLD Executive Director, reviewed the EJLD highlights and monthly status report.

The Committee discussed the problem of cracks occurring in isolated levee sections. Mr. Wittie recommended that soils testing be done in those areas where the cracking is occurring. The Committee requested that items be placed on the next Operations Committee agenda to discuss soils testing and the seismic testing of levees by Dr. Juan Lorenzo.

Lake Borgne Basin Levee District (LBBLD): Peggy Sembera, LBBLD Administrative Assistant, reviewed the monthly status report.

Mr. Doody announced that that the position of LBBLD Executive Director has been filled. The new Executive Director will begin work on August 17th and will be introduced at the next Board meeting.

There was no further business; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.