

**MINUTES OF  
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST  
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON APRIL 3, 2014**

PRESENT: Louis Wittie, Chair  
Timothy Doody, Committee Member  
Paul Tilly, Committee Member

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The Operations Committee of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (SLFPA-E or Authority) met on April 3, 2014, in Meeting Room 201, Orleans Levee District Franklin Administrative Complex, 6920 Franklin Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana. Mr. Wittie called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

**Opening Comments:** None.

**Adoption of Agenda:** The agenda was approved as presented.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the March 6, 2014 Operations Committee meeting were approved.

**Public Comments:** None.

**New Business:**

**A. Discussion of increase of budget funds for Franklin Parking Lot Improvements.**

Felton Suthon, Orleans Levee District (O.L.D.) Engineer, explained that a \$900,000 construction budget was established and a construction contract in the approximate amount of \$750,000 was awarded for the Franklin Parking Lot Improvements. The Franklin site was originally a World War II training facility; therefore, no original plans for the parking lot exist. A number of unexpected items were discovered while uncovering the roadways. In addition, a determination was made that additional asphalt is needed to complete the project. The initial plan was to trim down the existing asphalt two-inches and overlay it; however, four-inches of asphalt are needed because the existing asphalt is too thin to do an overlay. A resolution will be brought to the Board to increase the construction budget by \$200,000 bringing the construction budget to \$1.1 million.

Robert Turner, SLFPA-E Regional Director, advised that he received two requests from the O.L.D. for approval of task orders for additional engineering services associated with the parking lot improvements. Mr. Suthon explained that the Board approved a task order in the amount of \$98,000 for engineering services associated with the parking lot improvements with a set aside of \$15,000 for testing. An additional \$18,000 is needed for testing and \$8,000 is needed for a redesign necessitated by the relocation of the guard shack. The Committee determined that the approval of the two task orders for additional engineering services in the approximate amounts of \$8,000 and \$19,000 are within the Regional Director's authority to approve and advised that the task orders should be reported to the Board.

## **B. Presentation on Bayou St. John Water Quality Improvement Proposed Plan.**

David Boyd, P.E., with Burk-Kleinpeter, Inc. (BKI) advised that the presentation covers Phase I of the Bayou St. John Study and the next phase of the study, which includes the development of an adaptive management program.

Mr. Boyd explained that Phase I of the study analyzed the hydraulics involved in opening the sector gate and the effect on the Bayou and the improvement of marine life in the Bayou. Recommendations from the report included the demolition of the obsolete flood control (waterfall) structure at Robert E. Lee Boulevard in order to reconnect the north and south polders of the Bayou and the dredging of the 30-ft. wide channel between the sector gate and Lake Pontchartrain to a depth of approximately 7-1/2-ft. in order to allow marine life and organisms to migrate near the sector gate. The Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation (LPBF) received permission to place a wetland on the western and eastern shelves of the Bayou at no cost to the O.L.D. using the dredge material. The appropriate permits were received from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the LPBF has completed most of the wetland work and plantings. The wetlands are anticipated to lure more juvenile marine species closer to the sector gate.

Mr. Boyd advised that a program will be developed in the next phase to study the hydraulics in a more detailed manner. Water surface elevations will be analyzed in order to determine the length of time needed to fill the Bayou to the maximum water surface elevation (-0.8' NAVD 88). Prohibited periods for opening the sector gate will be determined and will include certain parts of hurricane season, non-O.L.D. operating hours, periods when the Bonnet Carre Spillway is open, three days after the outfall canal pump stations are operated for a storm event, and periods when the water surface elevation in the lake is greater than 2-ft. NAVD 88 or the water surface elevation in the Bayou is greater than -0.8-ft. The O.L.D. will receive a matrix based upon the hydraulics, salinity, water quality and other factors in order to know how long the sector gate should be opened and to what degree the gate should be opened.

Mr. Boyd explained that the cooperative-adaptive management approach will include BKI for analyzing the hydraulics and the development of a matrix, LPBF for water quality parameters to determine when the gates should be opened, Wildlife and Fisheries (WL&F) and UNO (Dr. Mike Poirrier) for analyzing results and developing specific periods during a given year for gate opening opportunities using lunar tables and projected tides. The data will be evaluated in order to tweak the plan for the future. Group e-mails will be distributed to WL&F, LPBF and UNO in advance of a planned gate opening for concurrence. WL&F currently funds monitoring stations in the Bayou and City Park. Mr. Boyd advised that BKI plans to submit a proposal within the next several weeks. Mr. Doody requested that a component be included for the notification of residents along the Bayou when the sector gate is to be opened. Mr. Boyd commented that much of the confirmation work after an operational plan has been developed will be done by agencies such as WL&F and LPBF. In addition, the USACE has programs to fund restoration work such as rock jetties. The O.L.D. Executive Director will have the final say in the decision to open the sector gate.

**Levee District Reports: (copy of status reports appended to minutes)**

**Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) Status Report:**

Mr. Turner reviewed the highlights of the HSDRRS status report. He further advised that the issuance of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for engineering services relative to the instrumentation of levees, data collection and the development of a plan for future use of the data was discussed at the last Coastal Advisory Committee meeting. Mr. Turner subsequently discussed this matter with Rickey Brouillette, CPRA Engineer Manager. Mr. Turner suggested that since the CPRA had already embarked upon this effort and had consultants on board familiar with the technology and the system, it may be beneficial for the SLFPA-E to piggy-back on the CPRA's contracts. He advised that a discussion took place earlier in the week with the group of consultants relative to potential possibilities.

Mr. Brouillette explained that the CPRA has a total of 27 specialists who have contributed to various aspects of the HSDRRS; therefore, a wealth of information and data has been collected. Much of the information and data collected will assist with decisions relative to the iLevee Program and other potential efforts. He noted that the CPRA has the right people on board who are familiar with the system and in some cases involved with the system's design. A next step would be to gather a team that would include the SLFPA-E and SLFPA-W, get everyone up to speed on the available technologies, and develop goals and objectives based upon constraints, risks, time and budget. Mr. Turner pointed out that a first step should be to determine what data is needed to improve future decisions and the instrumentation needed to provide the required data stream. A plan would then be required to strategically instrument the system. He reiterated that rather than embarking on a new process, the SLFPA-E may be able to use existing State contracts to develop a strategic plan prior to installing instrumentation.

The CPRA will provide a presentation to the Board at its next meeting concerning the efforts discussed.

Mr. Turner advised that the Operations Committee at its last meeting discussed the use of tests to determine a present condition baseline for Lakeshore Drive in order to ascertain potential damage caused by truck traffic to the USACE's PCCP Project. Information regarding the test was brought back to the USACE for a decision on participation. The USACE determined that the SLFPA-E should contact the contractor directly. The SLFPA-E contacted the contractor and is awaiting a response. Mr. Turner suggested that the SLFPA-E obtain a commitment from the USACE that it will require the contractor to make repairs if degradation of the roadway can be clearly demonstrated before proceeding with the tests.

Mr. Doody advised that a meeting was held yesterday on armoring the HSDRRS. Two additional meetings will be held that will include the SLFPA-W, Pontchartrain Levee District and Plaquemines Parish. The purpose of the meetings is to develop a prioritization schedule in order to request the USACE to begin armoring the levees that will not require lifts within the next ten years. The delay in armoring the levees requiring lifts within the next ten years would save armoring dollars. The USACE is currently

attempting to determine the availability and sources for the large amount of armoring product and sod that will be required. SLFPA-E and CPRA staff is working to refine the USACE's cost estimate for the levee lifts.

**Lake Borgne Basin Levee District (LBBLD):** Mr. Turner advised that Nick Cali, LBBLD Executive Director, is currently on Army Reserve duty; therefore, there was no report.

**Orleans Levee District (O.L.D.):** Mr. Suthon reviewed the highlights of the O.L.D. status report.

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

There was no further business; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 11:07 a.m.