

**MINUTES OF
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON OCTOBER 2, 2014**

PRESENT: Louis Wittie, Chair
Stephen Estopinal, Committee Member
Paul Tilly, Committee Member
Lambert J. "Joe" Hassinger, Jr., Commissioner

The Operations Committee of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (SLFPA-E or Authority) met on October 2, 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 10:00 a.m.

Opening Comments: None.

Adoption of Agenda: The agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the September 4, 2014 Operations Committee meeting were approved.

Public Comments:

Wilma Irvin, President of the Love and Charity Benevolent Association, advised that she was representing the cemeteries located adjacent to the site of the proposed construction of the East Jefferson Levee District (EJLD) consolidated facilities. Ms. Irvin explained that the residents do not oppose the project; however, they are concerned about the safety of the public if the EJLD purchases the streets and cuts off access to the cemeteries. She stated that the plan that she was shown today is a new plan. The EJLD's previous plans did not alleviate concerns about ingress and egress to the cemeteries. She added that there are other concerns, such as, stockpiling of materials.

New Business:

A. Discussion of the issuance of a task order to C. H. Fenstermaker for design and bidding assistance for the Citrus Levee Slope Paving Project at the Crowder, Read and Bullard Intersections. (Orleans Levee District)

Felton Suthon, Orleans Levee District (O.L.D.) Engineer, advised that the proposed task order is for the design of slope paving in sections of the Hayne Boulevard (Citrus Lakefront) Levee where the adjacent highway widens to include turn lanes. The levee in these sections is too steep to be efficiently maintained; therefore, the decision was made to slope pave the areas. A resolution will be submitted to the Board for the approval of the task order.

B. Discussion of bid results for the Seawall Erosion Control Reach 2B Project. (Orleans Levee District)

Mr. Suthon advised that bids were opened last Tuesday for the Seawall Erosion Control Reach 2B Project. TKTMJ, Inc. was the low bidder at \$1.4 million. Four bids were received that ranged from \$1.4 million to \$1.6 million. He explained that the low bidder placed the incorrect bid number on the bid cover; however, the specifications only required that the name of the project be placed on the bid cover. This issue is being reviewed with URS Corp. to ensure that it will not present a problem. The O.L.D.'s estimate for the project was approximately \$1.24 million. A resolution will be submitted to the Board for the approval of the award of the contract.

C. Discussion of the selection of an architect for the construction of a new Police Building. (Orleans Levee District)

Mr. Suthon explained that a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process was conducted for architectural services for the construction of a new O.L.D. Police building. The selection team consisted of Gerry Gillen, O.L.D. Executive Director, Craig Boudreaux, O.L.D. Police Captain, and Mr. Suthon. A short list of two firms was developed (Meyer Architects and RCL Architecture) and interviews were conducted. The selection team recommended the firm of RCL Architecture. The project will begin with a space study and a study of location alternatives.

Mr. Hassinger questioned whether respondents to the RFQ were advised that a selection had been made. Mr. Suthon advised that the respondents were notified of the decision to move forward with RCL Architecture. Robert Turner, SLFPA-E Regional Director, clarified that only the Board has the authority to approve the selection of a firm for the project and that a recommendation would be made to the Board for approval to enter into negotiations with the firm.

D. Discussion of the issuance of a task order for the development of a Bayou St John Adaptive Management Plan. (Orleans Levee District)

Mr. Suthon advised that the proposed task order to Burk-Kleinpeter, Inc. (BKI) is for the development of a Bayou St. John Adaptive Management Plan. The plan will inform the operation of the Sector Gate taking into account the enhancement of water quality and aquatic life.

Henry Picard with BKI explained that a team has been developed, which includes engineers, biologists, LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation and the University of New Orleans, in an attempt to develop a written plan or calendar for the O.L.D. for the best utilization of the Sector Gate for the introduction of salt water into the Bayou and the most appropriate times to bring species into the Bayou and propagate species already in the Bayou. Recommendations for opening times for the Sector Gate will be provided based upon water differentials in the lake and the Bayou. An analysis will be performed over a period of a year. Test openings will be conducted based upon the stations in the Bayou and salinity and water elevations will be monitored. The plan will be altered based upon data from the test

openings. A report will be presented at the end of the year with recommendations for the following year. BKI will work with the SLFPA-E and O.L.D. relative to the plan for progressive years. The senior engineer for the project will be David Boyd (hydrologist). An attempt is being made to coordinate the opening of the Sector Gate for maintenance purposes (exercising) with the replenishing of the Bayou and other factors. He pointed out that the Sector Gate cannot remain open because the lake level is almost always higher than the highest bank elevation along the Bayou. The O.L.D. will fund the task order. He noted that the Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation and LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries are funding their portions of the study.

Mr. Estopinal offered a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Tilly and adopted, to forward the request for the issuance of a task order to BKI to the Board for approval.

E. Discussion of State of Louisiana Capital Outlay funding requests for the East Jefferson Levee District and Lake Borgne Basin Levee District.

Mr. Turner explained that a significant change in direction has been made on Capital Outlay funding requests for the Lake Borgne Basin Levee District (LBBLD) and EJLD. A cost estimate of \$20 million to \$21 million has been received for the levee lifts in the EJLD associated with the armoring project. A Capital Outlay request will be submitted for at least a portion of the funding required for the levee lifts. The cost estimate is based upon estimates from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). A breakdown of the estimates from the USACE has been requested.

Nick Cali, LBBLD Executive Director, advised that several prior year Capital Outlay requests were for projects that have been funded through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. The LBBLD's Capital Outlay request will include the remaining projects (drainage improvements between Parish and Webster Roads and drainage, pump station and channel improvements) and a project for the replacement of trash rakes at Pump Station No. 4 estimated at \$1.5 million.

Mr. Turner briefly explained the Capital Outlay Program request process. Applications must be electronically submitted to the State and a package indicating priorities must be submitted to the State Office of Facility Planning and Control that includes letters of recommendation from the appropriate members of the legislative delegation and a SLFPA-E Board resolution.

A motion was offered by Mr. Tilly, seconded by Mr. Estopinal and adopted, to forward the Capital Outlay requests to the Board for approval.

Levee District Reports: (copy of report appended to minutes)

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

Mr. Turner reviewed the highlights of the HSDRRS status report. He advised that the results of the review of the West Return Wall landside runoff project are still pending. The anticipated potential fix could be the installation of a berm or other type of barrier adjacent to the property line in order to prevent water spillage. Issues have been

discovered relative to the subsurface drainage lines, which will require repair, and the site grading. Sandbags and pumps are being utilized by the USACE as an interim fix.

Mr. Turner advised that the Board will be requested to approve a task order in the approximate amount of \$193,000 which will be required for the certification of the non-federal levee. The task order is for the design of flood protection in the vicinity of the Shrimp Factory (approx. \$134,000) and work required in connection with the closure gate at the Sewerage and Water Board treatment facility (approx. \$59,000). A contract has been executed with Vali Cooper, Inc. (VCI) for project management support.

Police Activities: Robert Garner, SLFPA-E Police Superintendent, reported the following activities over the past month: the three levee district police departments worked over 7,000 man hours, conducted and reported 59 separate levee conditions that were addressed by the levee districts' maintenance components, issued 130 tickets and completed 312 pedestrian checks. The special assignment on Sundays along Lakeshore Drive is continuing using the reserve officers and 208 separate pedestrian checks were conducted. The U.S. Secret Service was assisted on two separate one-day pushes through the city involving former President Clinton and Vice President Biden's wife.

Lake Borgne Basin Levee District (LBBLD): Mr. Cali reviewed the highlights of the LBBLD status report. He advised that since the LBBLD does not have sufficient staff for multiple construction projects, VCI was retained to assist the LBBLD with project management for the proposed work at the Shrimp Factory. Assistance will be provided in the areas of real estate acquisition, identification of utilities and coordination of relocations, design issues and coastal use permits. A path forward will be determined relative to the actual construction of the project.

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.

Mr. Turner reported on a construction incident that occurred on the 17th Street Canal. The contractor was driving a king post for a sheetpile system using a vibratory hammer. The king post pile came loose from the hammer and pulled down the sheetpile being used for the cofferdam. No injury occurred and the flood protection system was not affected. The contractor will make the necessary adjustments from a safety standpoint and the changes necessary to replace the cofferdam.

There was no further business; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.