

**MINUTES OF
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST
LEGAL COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON NOVEMBER 20, 2014**

PRESENT: Lambert J. "Joe" Hassinger, Jr., Chair
Stephen Estopinal, Committee Member
Paul Kemp, Committee Member

The Legal Committee of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (SLFPA-E or Authority) met on November 20, 2014, in Meeting Room 201, Orleans Levee District Franklin Administrative Complex, 6920 Franklin Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana. Mr. Hassinger called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Opening Comments: Mr. Hassinger introduced and welcomed Nyka Scott, the SLFPA-E's new Executive Counsel. Ms. Scott commented that she is looking forward to working with the SLFPA-E.

Adoption of Agenda: The agenda was adopted by the Committee as presented.

Approval of Minutes: The Committee approved the minutes of the Legal Committee meeting held on October 2, 2014.

Public Comments:

Craig Berthold explained that he is one of the plaintiffs in the 17th Street Canal litigation and introduced himself to Ms. Scott.

Roy Arrigo explained that upon resubmittal of a public records request for which public records were not initially provided, he received a document from the Board's counsel that was altered. He advised that he compared the same document received from several other sources through public records requests to the one provided by the SLFPA-E and that the same information had been obliterated three different times. The document allegedly altered was a printed email string concerning the creation of House Bill 640 in 2011 in which the subject line, which referred to an attachment, was obliterated. The information that had been hidden referred to a falsified document that had been presented to the legislature. He requested that the Board investigate the allegation and hold the individuals involved responsible should it determine that the document was altered and public records law was violated. Mr. Hassinger requested that Mr. Arrigo provide a copy of the documents that he received so that he could review the situation with SLFPA-E staff. Mr. Lacour stated that he had never altered a document or public records request.

Carol Byram commented on the lack of transparency and deception that took place relative to the creation of House Bill 640 in 2011, which changed the statute to read 15-feet in lieu of 6-feet, and the need for the courts to correct this situation.

New Business:

A. Approval of the legal invoices listed on the spreadsheet dated November 20, 2014.

Mr. Hassinger advised that the legal invoices were approved by the levee district Executive Directors, the SLFPA-E Regional Director and General Counsel. Mr. Estopinal noted that he did not find any irregularities in his review of the invoices. A motion was offered by Mr. Estopinal, seconded by Mr. Kemp and unanimously adopted, to approve the legal invoices listed on the spreadsheet dated November 20, 2014.

B. Ratification of hiring of Nyka Scott as SLFPA-E Executive Counsel.

Mr. Hassinger explained that the position of Executive Counsel was advertised and that resumes were received. The position of Executive Counsel was brought in-house to achieve cost effectiveness and efficiencies. The Board instructed the members of the Legal Committee to conduct interviews and Ms. Scott was subsequently hired.

A motion was offered by Mr. Kemp, seconded by Mr. Estopinal and unanimously adopted, to ratify the hiring of Nyka Scott as SLFPA-E Executive Counsel.

There was no further business; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 9:20 a.m.