



The Flood Protection Authority-East

News of Your Flood Defense System

July 1, 2019



Caernarvon Floodgate

Message from The Flood Protection Authority President Herb Miller

I am very excited about taking on the commitment and challenge of the office of President of the Flood Protection Authority and to lead this organization of 200+ dedicated, skilled and hardworking men and women as it reaches new heights of accomplishment.

The men and women of the Flood Protection Authority work hard each and every day to keep the region safe and serve the public. The past seven months have been especially difficult with the unprecedented continuous high Mississippi River level. The Flood Protection Authority had to face the challenge of preparing for hurricane season, which started on June 1st, while continuing its focus and efforts on the prolonged high river flood fight. However, all Flood Protection Authority employees remain committed and dedicated to the Authority's mission to ensure the physical, operational and financial integrity of the regional flood defense system that safeguard our families, friends and communities.

I would like to thank the employees of the Flood Protection Authority for their dedication, diligence and outstanding service and express my commitment to making the Flood Protection Authority, and its flood defense system, even better in the future.

Herb

**The Flood Protection Authority
6920 Franklin Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70122**

**Telephone:
504-286-3100**

www.floodauthority.org



Flood Protection Authority

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**Herbert I. Miller, P.E., DDE, F. ASCE -
President**

Mark L. Morgan, P.E. - Vice President

Clay A. Cosse', Secretary

Quentin D. Dastugue, CCIM, Treasurer

Andrew J. Englande, Jr., Ph.D., P.E., DEE

Lambert J. Hassinger, Jr.

Jason P. Latiolais

K. Randall Noel

Herbert T. Weysham, III

IN THIS ISSUE - PAGE

**Governor's State of
Hurricane Preparedness
Press Conference 2**

PCCP Test 2

**Commissioner Rick Luettich
recognized for service 3**

FPA Board Elects New Officers 3

**Levee District Police
Participate in
Active Shooter Training 4 & 5**

News Updates 4

**USACE General Re-Evaluation
Report and Levee Lifts 6**

ICS Demolition Project Update 7

**First Step Towards Flood
Protection for
Lakefront Airport 7**

Louisiana Resiliency Week 8

Governor Holds Press Conference at 17th Street PCCP



Governor John Bel Edwards' press conference on the 2019 state of hurricane preparedness for the greater New Orleans area was held at the 17th Street Canal Permanent Canal Closure and Pumps (PCCP) pump station. Governor Edwards was joined by New Orleans Mayor Latoya Cantrell, Col. Stephen Murphy, New Orleans District Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Chip Kline, Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Chair, James Waskom, GOSEPH Director, and John Monzon, Flood Protection Authority (FPA) West Executive Director. FPA-E President Joe Hassinger welcomed everyone and introduced guests.

Governor Edwards (pictured above) advised that we enter hurricane season each year stronger and better prepared than the year before because of improvements to the system. We are home to a truly world class hurricane protection infrastructure, but we have to always be on guard and continue to evolve and improve on our approach to managing water.

Mayor Cantrell (pictured right) commented that we are safer because of the flood defense system, but it does not eliminate the threat. She stressed the importance of continuing the focus on infrastructure throughout the City, fully implementing the urban water plan and educating and urging residents to live better with water.



The PCCP located at or near the mouth of the 17th Street, Orleans and London Avenue Outfall Canals consists of gated storm surge barriers that are closed in advance of a tropical storm when Lake Pontchartrain stages are elevated, and pump stations to move rainwater out of the canals, past the gates and into the lake while the barriers are closed. The FPA-E is the designated entity responsible for operating and maintaining (O&M) the PCCPs with O&M costs shared equally by the FPA-E and the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (SWBNO). FPA-E and SWBNO staff work closely together coordinating pumping operations during tropical storms.

Permanent Canal Closures and Pumps (PCCP) Pump Stations Tested

On June 4, 2019, the FPA successfully test operated all three PCCP stations simultaneously. The goal of the test was to ensure the operational responsibilities of the assigned operators to each station, the operation time schedule to create shift changes, the responsibility of smaller operation teams to handle the pump test, the exercise of radio communication protocol, and the documentation of the operation and inspection effort.

During the test the PCCP crew (Robert Albright, Ken Johnson, Karl Hoffpauir, John Mitchell, Darren Nichols, Brian Corte, and Craig Simons) served as operators and Complex Crew (Elbert Williams, Lyle Johnson, Wyatt Halleywell, Chris Norfleet, Mike Mai, Patrick Brown and Audrianna Bluthgen) served as floor inspectors. Oversight supervision was provided by Derek Boese, CAO, Gerry Gillen, Operations Director, and Darren Austin, Engineer. Personnel and equipment performed without any incidents. The FPA is in the process of installing a bidirectional amplifier system to enhance radio communications for the pump stations. The FPA thanks everyone involved for the outstanding effort and congratulates the team for the overall success of the test.



17th Street Canal PCCP

Rick Luettich Recognized for Service as FPA Board Member



FPA Board Members (L-R): Clay Cosse, Mark Morgan, Herbert Miller, Rick Luettich, Joe Hassinger, Quentin Dastugue, Herbert Weysham and Andrew Englande

Richard A. Luettich, Jr., ScD, was recognized by the Board at its June 20th meeting for over seven years of service to the FPA and the citizens of Southeast Louisiana. Dr. Luettich was appointed to the Board on February 15, 2012, and served as Vice President from October 20, 2016 to June 30, 2019, Treasurer from June 16, 2016 to October 20, 2016, and as a member of the Finance Committee from March 17, 2016 to June 30, 2019 and Coastal Advisory Committee from Sept. 20, 2012 to June 30, 2019.

Dr. Luettich received his B.S. and M.S. degrees in Civil Engineering from the Georgia Institute of Technology and Sc.D. in Civil Engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Dr. Luettich is the Director of the Institute of Marine Sciences at the University of North Carolina (UNC), Chapel Hill, and Director of the UNC Center for Natural Hazards and Disasters in Chapel Hill. Among his numerous professional achievements, Dr. Luettich has published over 100 scientific papers and reports on modeling and observational studies of physical processes in coastal systems, and is a co-developer of the ADCIRC circulation and storm surge model widely used by the academic, government and private sectors and the cornerstone of storm surge studies following hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005.

After Hurricane Katrina Dr. Luettich also served on the National Academy / National Research Council committees for reviewing the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' study of the factors that led to the catastrophic damage to New Orleans by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita and the Corps' program to evaluate options for a new hurricane protection system for Southern Louisiana, and currently serves on the Science and Engineering Advisory Committee of the Water Institute of the Gulf.

Dr. Luettich has a great fondness and appreciation for the Greater New Orleans area and continuously strives to ensure that its citizens has the best flood protection possible. He will be sorely missed by the Board and the FPA staff.

FPA Board Elects Officers for Next July 1 - June 30 Term

Each year the Board elects officers to serve for the next fiscal year. The following Officers were elected at the Board's June 20th meeting to serve from July 1, 2019 thru June 30, 2020: Herbert Miller, President; Mark Morgan, Vice President; Quentin Dastugue, Treasurer; and Clay Cosse, Secretary.

The Board recognized Joe Hassinger for his service as President from July 1, 2015 thru June 30, 2019. Mr. Hassinger commented that in the capacity of President it had been a privilege working with the Board to accomplish many good things and a pleasure working with staff, adding that the team of talent, commitment and skill at the FPA today is impressive and unmatched.

Mr. Hassinger advised that he will continue taking his role as the Orleans representative on the Board very seriously and plans to remain very active. He added that Mr. Miller will do a great job leading the Board as President.



EJLD/OLD Police Participate in Active Shooter Training

FPA Police Superintendent Kerry Najolia reported that on June 6, 2019, the East Jefferson and Orleans Levee District Police Departments participated in a Field Training Exercise (FTX) at the Lakefront Airport McDermott Building. The goal of this training was to evaluate and assess the response capabilities of the levee district officers during a Critical Incident such as an Active Shooter Event. Officers and perpetrators were clad in protective gear and armed with SIMMS Handguns and SIMMS (paintball ammo). **(Photos on Page 5)**

Each scenario was crafted to assess the officers' capabilities during the initial response and through the successful conclusion of the incident based on best practices. The officers were required to demonstrate proficiency during each scenario. At the conclusion of the scenarios, the levee district officers were tasked with conducting a mass casualty evacuation with the assistance of the Louisiana National Guard Medical group and their helicopter. The NOPD 7th District and the Louisiana State Police monitored the FTX.

Additional training exercises will be conducted to ensure that the Orleans and East Jefferson Levee District Officers serve the residents and visitors in the FPA's jurisdiction in a professional and effective manner.

News Updates



34th Annual ALBL Workshop

FPA Executive and Maintenance staff participated in the 34th Annual Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana (ALBL) Workshop on May 2nd-3rd. Opening session comments were given by Mark Wingate, Deputy District Engineer, USACE, New Orleans District; Chip Kline, Chairman, CPRA; Stephen Gambrell, Executive Vice President of the Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association; and Shawn Wilson, DOTD Secretary. The Program included updates and presentations on a variety of important subjects including hurricane preparedness, GOMESA and RESTORE funding and the Watershed Initiative.

National Hurricane Conference

FPA staff attended the National Hurricane Conference held in New Orleans on April 22nd thru 25th. The primary goal of the National Hurricane Conference was to improve hurricane preparedness, response, recovery and mitigation in order to save lives and property in the United States and the tropical islands of the Caribbean and Pacific. In addition, the conference serves as a national forum for federal, state and local officials to exchange ideas and recommend new policies to improve Emergency Management.



LA Legislature

The Louisiana Senate adopted Concurrent Resolutions (SCR) Nos. 124, 111 and 83 during the 2019 Regular Legislative Session relative to flood protection issues:

SCR No. 124 urges and requests the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to consider additional diversion projects to help manage high water issues on the Mississippi River in addition to the large scale water diversion projects such as the Bonnet Carrere and Morganza Spillways.

SCR No. 111 memorializes the Congress of the United States to reassess the entire levee and floodwall system in the southeastern United States.

SCR No. 93 urges and requests the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority to form a subcommittee to coordinate the State's involvement in the National Flood Insurance Program.

EJLD/OLD Police Participate in Active Shooter Training



Corps of Engineers' LP&V Re-evaluation Report & Levee Lifts

After Hurricane Katrina, Congress authorized the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to design and construct the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS), a \$14.6 billion project crossing five parishes (Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard, St. Charles and Plaquemines) to reduce the risk of a 100-year storm event (a storm that has a one percent chance of occurring in any given year). Hardened structures, such as floodwalls and floodgates were designed to meet elevations required to provide the authorized level of risk reduction through 2057 (the 50-year design life). However, the HSDRRS levees were designed and constructed to provide the authorized level of risk reduction only for the near-term. Unlike the Congressional authorizations for the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity (LP&V) Hurricane Protection Plan prior to Hurricane Katrina, the authorizing acts by Congress for the HSDRRS did not include a provision for federal participation in the levee lifts that would be required due to settlement, subsidence and sea level rise in order to meet the 100-year level of protection in the future (a requirement for accreditation in the FEMA National Flood Insurance Program). The HSDRRS was initially certified by the USACE and accredited by FEMA in 2013 and must be recertified before the 2023 deadline for FEMA reaccreditation.

The Flood Protection Authority (FPA) has worked closely with the USACE to coordinate the construction of lifts of the levees that would otherwise fall below the authorized level of protection before 2023 prior to or in conjunction with the USACE's armoring of the levees in order to avoid spending millions of additional dollars later re-armoring the levees. The FPA completed lifting the East Jefferson Lakefront Levee from the St. Charles Parish line to the Orleans Parish line, increasing the levee height approximately six to eighteen inches, at a total estimated cost of \$7 million. The FPA requested the USACE to include the lifting of the levees in New Orleans East in conjunction with its armoring projects. The estimated cost for the levee lift work in New Orleans East is \$16.5 million. The USACE's armoring-levee lift projects in New Orleans East are currently on-going.

The USACE, Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) and FPA recognized the fact that future levee lifts would be needed due to consolidation and settlement of the levee materials, as well as subsidence and sea level rise.

As recently reported in the media, the USACE has started preparing the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity General Re-evaluation Report (GRR), which was authorized under Section 3017 of WRRDA 2014. WRRDA 2014 authorized the USACE to carry out measures needed to address consolidation, settlement and sea level rise if the necessary work is determined to be technically feasible, environmentally acceptable and economically justified. The study is now 100 percent Federally funded through Public Law 115-123 (Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018). The study agreements were signed in October, 2018, with the CPRA as the non-Federal sponsor for the project. The draft GRR is scheduled to be completed in December, 2019.

As part of the three year study process, the USACE held scoping meetings on April 30, 2019 to share information and gather public input on the West Bank and Vicinity and Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity general re-evaluation feasibility studies regarding future levee lifts of portions of the HSDRRS. The USACE studies will not only seek to determine if the work necessary to sustain the one percent level of risk reduction is technically feasible, environmentally acceptable, and economically justified, but will also consider other levels of risk reduction. A positive determination would make construction of future levee lifts eligible for future budget requests.

The USACE's study objectives include:

- Reduce risk of life loss due to coastal storm damage over the period of analysis.
- Reduce economic damages due to coastal storm damage over the period of analysis.
- Reduce the costs associated with coastal storm damage to the environment and human health.

Additional public meetings and open houses will be held by the USACE throughout the study process. Information about the studies are available online for public review at: <https://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/About/Projects/BBA-2018/studies/>.

Update on Removal of Interim Closure Structures & Temporary Pumps



The removal of the Interim Closure Structures and Temporary Pumps (ICS) at the 17th Street, London and Orleans Avenue Canals is progressing and is anticipated to be completed in the summer of 2020. The work consists of the demolition of the three ICS and removal of associated above ground equipment, machinery, buildings and platforms, along with the removal of exposed sheet piling, partial removal and replacement of scour protection, concrete capping of I-Walls, placement of riprap, aesthetic improvements and other incidental work. The ICS demolition work is taking place concurrently at all three outfall canals. The Permanent Canal Closures and Pumps (PCCP) were constructed to replace the Interim Closure Structures at the three outfall canals.

Top left picture shows the new floodwall on the east side of the London Avenue Canal that was just completed as part of the ICS demolition work. The floodwall was placed on top of the existing sheet piling from the PCCP to the lakefront. Bottom left picture shows the existing sheet pile wall stick-up on the west side of the London Avenue Canal. A floodwall like the one along the east side of the canal will be placed on top the sheet pile wall stick-up on the west side.

First Step Towards Potential Flood Protection for Lakefront Airport

The Flood Protection Authority Board voted unanimously at its June 20th meeting to authorize issuing Requests for Qualifications for an engineering study and a financial strategy study to determine the feasibility of providing flood protection for the New Orleans Lakefront Airport.

The Orleans Levee District (O.L.D.) completed construction of the New Orleans Lakefront Airport (formerly Sushan Airport) in 1934 as part of the reclamation and lakefront development project authorized by Acts passed by the LA Legislature in 1922 and 1928. After Hurricane Katrina, the Legislature passed Act 1 of 2006 transferring management of the O.L.D.'s non-flood protection assets, including the airport, initially to the LA Division of Administration and later to the Non-Flood Protection Asset Management Authority (now the Lakefront Management Authority), while the assets remained owned by the O.L.D.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, first as part of the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity Hurricane Protection Project authorized by Congress after Hurricane Betsy in 1965 and later as part of the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System authorized by Congress after Hurricane Katrina, constructed flood protection behind the airport leaving it completely unprotected and vulnerable to flooding during tropical storms.



Lakefront Airport was used in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina for staging rescue and triage operations during which first responders and emergency personnel saved over 2,000 lives. Lakefront Airport is the only airport strategically located within the City of New Orleans for staging critical evacuation and post disaster emergency services.

Post Katrina \$78 million of federal, state and private dollars were spent repairing and restoring Lakefront Airport facilities, which included the restoration of the historic Terminal building (pictured above) to its original 1934 art deco architectural design. The potential for development, expansion and growth of Lakefront Airport, a key public asset located in New Orleans East, is at best minimal without flood protection.

September 1 - 7 Designated as Resiliency Week in Louisiana

According to a FEMA-commissioned study conducted by the National Institute of Building Sciences, every dollar spent on hazard mitigation provides the nation with six dollars in future benefits. In addition, twenty-five percent of small businesses impacted by a natural disaster never reopen their doors.

The Legislature designated the week of September 1-7 as Resiliency Week to raise public awareness about the continuing need to build resiliently and to develop long-range mitigation strategies for protecting people and property.

Louisiana's Resiliency Week coincides with National Preparedness Month, which is recognized each year in September. National Preparedness Month was implemented to remind everyone nationwide about the importance of being prepared for disasters such as hurricanes, floods, wildfires, earthquakes and tornadoes. The theme of National Preparedness Month 2018 was "Disasters Happen: Prepare Now - Learn How". The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) website <https://www.ready.gov/september> provides a wealth of information on disasters so that families can be informed, plan ahead and take action, and includes a page dedicated to kids, parents and educators.

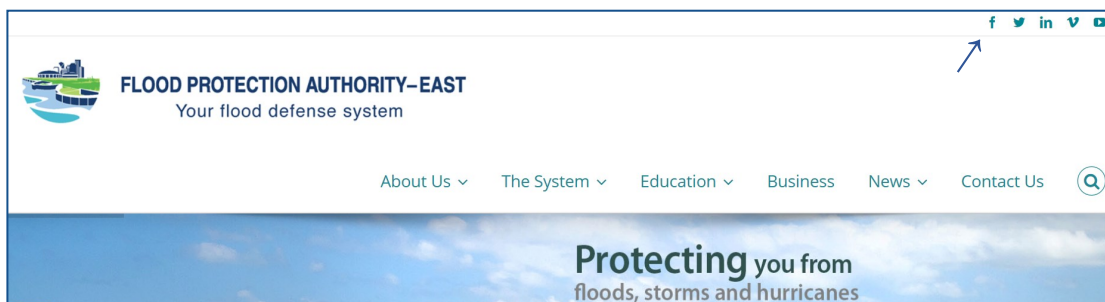


The DHS website <https://www.ready.gov/> provides information on situations such as flooding, thunderstorms and lightning, tornadoes, extreme heat, active shooter, severe weather and power outages. The website also provides information on financial preparedness, getting involved in your community, and making and practicing your plan of action.

Don't be caught off guard. Make preparations now for your family, your home, your business and your community.

FPA Board Meetings Livestreamed

Flood Protection Authority monthly Board Meetings can be viewed via livestream by visiting the FPA website www.floodauthority.org/ and clicking on the Facebook icon located at the top right corner of the page or going to: www.facebook.com/FloodProtectionAuthority/.



The Flood Protection Authority urges everyone to become informed about their flood defense system and encourages organizations and business and community groups to schedule a tour of the IHNC-Lake Borgne Surge Barrier and Permanent Canal and Closure Pump Stations.

To schedule a tour of the IHNC Surge Barrier and/or PCCP, visit our website at floodauthority.org and click on "Schedule Facility Tours" at the bottom of our home page. Fill out the Tour Information Sheet and click on "submit" at the bottom of the sheet.

Editor: Glenda Boudreaux
Associate Editor: Wilma Heaton

Comments can be submitted to:
gboudreaux@floodauthority.org