

**MINUTES OF
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON JUNE 20, 2019**

PRESENT: Herbert I. Miller, Chair
Clay A. Cosse, Committee Member
Mark L. Morgan, Committee Member
Herbert T. Weysham, III, Committee Member

The Operations Committee of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (Authority or FPA) met on June 20, 2019, in the Franklin Avenue Administrative Complex, Meeting Room 201, 6920 Franklin Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana. Mr. Miller called the meeting to order at 10:40 a.m.

Opening Comments: None.

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

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the May 16, 2019, Operations Committee meeting were approved.

Public Comments: None

New Business:

A. Discussion of RTK survey of levee system.

Derek Boese, Chief Administrative Officer, advised that the RTK survey is a result of recent Board meeting discussions. He explained that Chris Humphreys, Director of Engineering, worked with Stevan Spencer, Regional Chief Engineer, to develop a program to determine levee elevations on an annual basis. Approximately 58 miles of levee throughout the FPA's jurisdiction was RTK surveyed by Linfield, Hunter and Junius (LHJ) at a cost just under \$100,000. Data from the survey is being formatted.

Mr. Humphreys explained that LHJ's deliverable shows the actual elevation along with the one percent exceedance line obtained from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) Design Elevation Report. A slide showed a snapshot of the East Jefferson Lakefront Levee from the West Return Wall to the 17th Street Canal that indicated the levee was well above the exceedance line. Accuracy of the RTK survey is within about 2-inches. The requirement in Orleans Parish is higher and a slide showed an area of Orleans Lakefront Levee indicating a clearance of about two feet for the area.

Mr. Boese commented that with the RTK survey the FPA can determine whether further investigation is needed for potential problems, such as an area that may be settling faster than the surrounding areas.

Mr. Humphreys explained that a protocol was developed for earthen levees and that one will be developed for hardened structures. The entire earthen levee system was surveyed this year with the exception of approximately five to six miles of levee being raised by the USACE as part of its armoring contracts. Mr. Humphreys and Mr. Spencer will select at least 20 percent of the earthen levee system each year for surveying.

Mr. Miller commented that in all cases the levees are above the required flood protection level for the one percent storm. He noted that the levees will continue to subside and that the time will come when the levees will have to be lifted again.

Mr. Boese advised that a formal written document for the survey program will be developed and incorporated into the FPA's standard operating procedures. The next step will be to address hardened structures, such as floodwalls. Mr. Humphreys pointed out that the hardened structures have built-in superiority and are well above the required height, as well as being pile supported; therefore, the hardened structures would not subside as fast as earthen levees.

Mr. Spencer commented that the East Jefferson Lakefront Levee was surveyed and raised within the last two years by the East Jefferson Levee District. The New Orleans East Levee was surveyed and is being raised by the USACE as part of its armoring contracts. The Orleans metro levee was the only levee not surveyed within the past three to four years.

B. Discussion of the issuance of a Purchase Order to Mike Munna Construction, LLC for furnishing Labor, Equipment, Materials and Supplies for Grass Cutting of Levees LPV 145 through LPV 149 at a cost of \$13.70 per acre along with weed eating costs of \$800.00 per cut for a one year period commencing on June 1, 2019 and ending on May 31, 2020.

Mr. Cosse explained that Mike Munna Construction, LLC had a one year contract that included all of the Lake Borgne Basin Levee District (LBBLD) levee, which is expiring, and a portion of an Orleans Levee District (O.L.D.) levee. The project was placed out for bid a year ago and Mr. Munna's bid was \$2 per acre cheaper than the next lowest bidder, which is saving money for the FPA. He stated that Mr. Munna earned the opportunity to provide this service for another year and that the FPA has the ability to extend the contract for the LBBLD portion of the work.

Mr. Boese explained that there are two separate contracts: one for the LBBLD, which expired on May 31, 2019, and one for the O.L.D., which expires on October 31, 2019. Staff recommended that bids be advertised for a new LBBLD contract.

Mr. Cosse stated that Mr. Munna deserved at least another year on the contract. He explained that he had seen Mr. Munna's work firsthand and that Mr. Munna does as good or better work as his predecessor and had never been written up for any issues. In addition, Mr. Munna addressed any concerns or deficiencies identified by the FPA. Mr. Boese concurred that Mr. Munna had addressed all of the deficiencies identified by the FPA. He explained that the FPA had at times seen issues for which it had to follow up with Mr. Munna and go behind him to check. He stated that he would characterize

Mr. Munna's performance as average, but not at the same standard that the FPA holds itself to and not the same standard that the FPA has seen from other contractors in the past. He added that Mr. Munna does not have a lot of equipment and that he may have recently purchased another tractor; however, it takes Mr. Munna a while to do the cutting. The FPA has seen impacts when he does the LBBLD work, as it delays the O.L.D. work and then the FPA sees more issues on performance in the O.L.D. work. Therefore, while this is a LBBLD contract, an impact is being seen in another parish.

Mr. Cosse stated that this can be changed as Mr. Munna is okay with the FPA going out for bid on the O.L.D. portion of the work when the time comes (October 31st). Mr. Morgan asked would there would be any advantage to bidding both areas of work at the same time. Mr. Boese replied, potentially, yes, and that it bears consideration. The original O.L.D. contract initially started out with more area and decreased as the USACE's armoring-levee lift work came on line. Some of the LBBLD pump station and drainage canal discussions could impact this work due to availability of resources. The contract is for a maximum of ten cuts with no guaranteed minimum.

Mr. Cosse explained that Mr. Munna bid low on the work and his price is exposed; therefore, someone could easily undercut him. He reiterated that Mr. Munna had earned the opportunity to do the work for another year and the FPA has the authority to extend the contract.

A motion was offered by Mr. Cosse, seconded by Mr. Morgan and unanimously adopted, to recommend to the Board that it authorize the issuance of a purchase order to Mike Munna Construction, LLC for Grass Cutting of Levees LPV 145 through LPV 149 for a one year period.

C. Discussion of proposed advertisement of a Request for Bids for furnishing Labor, Equipment, Materials and Supplies for Grass Cutting of Levees LPV 145 through LPV 149.

Mr. Miller explained that if the Board approves Item B on the agenda, then Item C becomes moot. Therefore, the Committee will not recommend any action on this item.

D. Discussion of selection of DRC Emergency Services, Ceres Environmental and Philips & Jordan to provide Disaster Debris Management, in accordance with FEMA Guidelines, after a storm or other qualifying event.

Mr. Miller advised that Items D, E and F concern FEMA guidelines.

Rusty Kennedy, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, explained that Item D concerns debris removal after a storm event. Seven proposals were received in response to the Request for Qualifications (RFQ). No pricing was included in the proposals. The review team consisted of Roger Colwell, Ryan Foster and Rusty Kennedy. The proposals were graded. The top proposal was rejected because the transmittal letter was not signed as required by the specifications. The team recommended the selection of the next three top proposals based upon grading. The intent is to have multiple contractors in a pool that can be tapped. In addition, more than one contractor may be needed in response to a large storm event.

Mr. Morgan offered a motion, which was seconded and unanimously adopted, to recommend to the Board the selection of DRC Emergency Services, Ceres Environmental and Philips & Jordan to provide Disaster Debris Management.

E. Discussion of selection of Rostan, Witt O'Brien and ECM Consultants to provide Monitoring Disaster Debris Management, in accordance with FEMA Guidelines, after a storm or other qualifying event.

A motion was offered by Mr. Morgan, seconded by Mr. Cosse and unanimously adopted, to recommend to the Board the selection of Rostan, Witt O'Brien and ECM Consultants to provide Monitoring for Disaster Debris Management.

F. Discussion of selection of Cycle Construction Company to provide Maintenance and Operation Services for structures owned and operated by FPA, in accordance with FEMA Guidelines, in connection with a storm or other qualifying event.

Mr. Morgan questioned the submittal of a single proposal to provide maintenance and operation services. Mr. Kennedy explained that six or seven firms showed interest in the RFQ, but did not submit proposals. Staff's intent is to reach out and determine the reasons for non-response. However, staff wanted to ensure that a contract is in place for the start of hurricane season. The contract would include assistance with gate closures in areas where the FPA is understaffed. Re-advertisement of the RFQ and the review and selection process would take a period of about two months.

A motion was offered by Mr. Cosse, seconded by Mr. Morgan and unanimously adopted, to recommend to the Board the selection of Cycle Construction Company to provide Maintenance and Operation Services for structures owned by the FPA.

G. Discussion of proposed flood protection for Lakefront Airport.

Mr. Boese advised that a presentation and an agenda item were placed on the Board agenda relative to flood protection for Lakefront Airport; therefore, a fuller discussion will take place at the Board meeting.

Mr. Boese explained that staff provided information at the May Board meeting about flood protection for Lakefront Airport – a \$150 million asset owned by the FPA and located outside of flood protection. Staff recommended that the Board approve a feasibility study using existing data and that a report be presented to the Board regarding options for flood protection and the costs associated with the options.

Mr. Miller advised that an application was submitted to FEMA for flood protection for Lakefront Airport and that FEMA's decision to deny the request was appealed to Washington. The appeal was denied; therefore, the FPA must take the next step.

There was no further business; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00 a.m.