

**MINUTES OF  
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST  
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON JANUARY 16, 2020**

PRESENT: Mark L. Morgan, Chair  
Jason P. Latiolais, Committee Member

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The Operations Committee of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (Authority or FPA) met on January 16, 2020, in the Franklin Avenue Administrative Complex, Meeting Room 201, 6920 Franklin Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana. Mr. Morgan called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

**Opening Comments:** Mr. Morgan stated he hoped everyone had a good holiday season.

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

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the November 21, 2019, Operations Committee meeting were approved.

**Public Comments:** None

**New Business:**

**A. Discussion of the award of a contract to Kort's Construction Services, Inc., in the amount of \$10,495,752.60 for the Lakeshore Drive Improvements Seawall Area Erosion Control Paving Project Reach 3A (Project No. 27862).**

Michelle White, Executive Counsel, advised that a Temporary Restraining Order (TRO) was in place preventing the award of a contract at today's Board meeting. The Committee would be allowed to discuss business that did not involve the project's start.

Chris Humphreys, Director of Engineering, addressed the scope of Reach 3A of Seawall Erosion Control Project. The existing small parking lot located off Lakeshore Drive with about eight parking spaces and concrete road extending about 3,000-feet ending in a cul-de-sac will be replaced with a turning lane, an asphalt road, about 50 asphalt parking spaces, and a cul-de-sac. At this point a gated all-weather access road for maintenance vehicles would continue to the end of the project and a cul-de-sac. This seventh and final seawall erosion control project is about 3,700-feet in length. Fifteen-foot long vinyl sheet piles will be driven behind the seawall steps to prevent the washout of materials into the lake and erosion. The joints will be sealed between the steps and the pile supported concrete walkway or plaza to be constructed behind the seawall. The pile supported concrete deck will be about 30-feet wide with elevation differences and contouring for aesthetics. Approximately 1,200 timber piles will be driven for the concrete plaza. The trees will be protected from the fill and erosion. Reach 3A is one of the larger projects primarily due to the removal of the concrete roadway. The project is located on the floodside (unprotected side) of the levee;

therefore, Lakeshore Drive will not be impacted. The project includes extensive drainage for the green space, which was not required in the other projects, four new pavilions and benches.

Brett Liuzza with Design Engineering, Inc. (DEI) noted that the project addresses pedestrian traffic and includes two staircases that connect to each side of the Bayou St. John Bridge. Pedestrians will be able to traverse the project site, cross the Bayou St. John Bridge and continue onto Reach 2D. The engineer's estimate for the project is approximately \$10.7 million.

Mr. Humphreys explained that since Reach 3A is the seventh project, the FPA and DEI have experience with issues that may be expected. DEI will do the resident inspection and a testing lab will be used for the project. Due to the close proximity of the project to the Franklin Complex, FPA staff can frequent the project site.

Wayne Pontiff with Kort's Construction advised that the company has been in business since 2007 and specializes in concrete work and drainage. Kort's will have project manager Heath Hayes on-site at all times and will work with the FPA and DEI.

Mr. Morgan suggested that an evacuation plan be included in the planning process. Mr. Humphreys explained that since the project is on the floodside of the levee, an evacuation plan would not be as critical as a plan to protect the work during severe weather so that materials do not wash into the lake. Provided cautions are taken, this risk should be mitigated.

Kelli Chandler, Regional Finance Director, advised that \$4 million was included in the FY 2020 Budget, which should be ample to cover expenses for the fiscal year, and that the remainder of the required funding will be budgeted in the FY 2021 Budget.

**B. Discussion of the award of a contract to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for the Violet Canal North Realignment – Phase I Project (LBBLD Project No. 4081222).**

Mr. Humphreys explained that bids were opened on January 14th and only one bid was received from Cycle Construction in the amount of \$870,764. The budget for the project is between \$500,000 and \$600,000. The bid was significantly over the budget; however, FPA staff will negotiate with Cycle Construction representatives in order to reduce the contract amount. The most obvious reason the bid is over the project budget is the fact that there is only one U.S. Army Corps of Engineers approved borrow pit remaining in operation at this time. The borrow pit is located in St. Charles Parish, which results in a long haul of material. He recommended that the Board approve the award and execution of a contract in an amount up to \$870,764.

The Committee will recommend that the Board approve the award and execution of a contract with Cycle Construction based on negotiations in an amount up to \$870,764.

There was no further business; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.