

**MINUTES OF
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON JUNE 18, 2020**

PRESENT: Quentin D. Dastugue, Chair
Mark L. Morgan, Committee Member
Herbert I. Miller, President

The Finance Committee of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (Authority or FPA) met on June 18, 2020.

In accordance with Section 2 of the Governor's Proclamation Number 59 JBE 2020: Renewal of State of Emergency for COVID-19 Extension of Emergency Provisions, the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority – East held its June Finance Committee meeting, scheduled for Thursday, June 18, 2020, both physically and virtually, with limited capacity for attendance and observation at the physical meeting location. Commissioners, FPA leadership, essential staff, media and the public were allowed to participate, space permitting, in the physical meeting held at 6920 Franklin Avenue, New Orleans, La., or virtually, via video conference. The video conference was livestreamed for observation by the public, accessible from the following link: <https://stream.lifesizecloud.com/extension/2000076559/d7307d29-07a1-4d48-8d55-9318165661e6>

Consistent with La. R.S. 42:14(D), public comments could be submitted via email to comments@floodauthority.org beginning 30 minutes prior to commencement of the meeting and continuing during the conduct of the meeting until the Public Comment item on the published agenda was reached, at which point comments received were read into the record.

Mr. Dastugue called the meeting to order at 10:45 a.m.

Opening Comments: None.

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

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the May 21, 2020, Finance Committee meeting were approved.

Public Comments: Mr. Dastugue called for public comments. No public comments were submitted.

Regional Director's Report:

Kelli Chandler, Regional Finance Director, reviewed the highlights of her report:

- The Finance Department provided support for the Maintenance crews in preparation for and during Tropical Storm Cristobal. Meals, which were provided in takeout containers, and food service for employees during the tropical storm were much improved.
- Improvements to the Franklin Facility storeroom are continuing. The inventory database is currently being redesigned.
- The project to automate travel reimbursements is continuing.
- Vendors are continuing to sign up for ACH payments. Thus far almost 100 vendors have signed up.
- The project to automate project invoices has been completed. Invoices can be uploaded via the FPA website portal, electronically routed to the project manager for approval, and then routed to the Finance Department. The system will write the data into the accounting software. Payments will be made electronically.
- Insight Spreadsheet Service has been installed for report writing. Staff will begin training on the software. Reports will be designed to provide information, such budget to actuals and contract tracking. Staff will be able to refresh the reports to access to real time data.

New Business:

A. Discussion of selection of The New Orleans Advocate as the Official Journal for publications as required under R.S. 43:171 for the Flood Protection Authority (FPA), East Jefferson Levee District and Orleans Levee District and the St. Bernard Voice as the Official Journal for the Lake Borgne Basin Levee District for a one-year term commencing on July 1, 2020.

Ms. Chandler advised that the Board is required to select an official journal for various publications and public notices. The Advocate meets the legal requirements to serve as the official journal for the FPA, Orleans Levee District (O.L.D.) and East Jefferson Levee District (EJLD). The St. Bernard Voice meets the legal requirements to serve as the official journal for the Lake Borgne Basin Levee District (LBBLD).

The Committee will recommend that the Board select the aforementioned journals as stated.

B. Discussion of the approval of the representations made by management in the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaires for the FPA, Orleans Levee District, East Jefferson Levee District and Lake Borgne Basin Levee District for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2020.

Ms. Chandler explained that the representations made by management in the Compliance Questionnaires indicate that the FPA and levee districts are in compliance with all of the applicable laws.

The Committee will recommend that the Board approve the Compliance Questionnaires.

C. Discussion of the proposed Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) with the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority Board (CPRA Board) for CPRA's commitment of up to \$4,000,000.00, payable as reimbursement, for the rehabilitation and repair of pumps within the internal drainage and pumping system presently under the FPA's jurisdiction in St. Bernard Parish.

Derek Boese, Chief Administrative Officer, explained that the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) initially offered \$4 million to St. Bernard Parish Government (SBPG) as part of the arrangement last year for the takeover of the LBBLD pump stations. The dollar amount is the result of the Evans-Graves and CPRA analyses of the pump stations' deficiencies. The FPA concurred that the pump stations' repairs and upgrades would benefit the public. The agreement for the takeover of the pump stations is currently in litigation; therefore, the CPRA made the funding available to the FPA. The FPA would pay for the repairs and upgrades and the CPRA would reimburse the FPA for the expenditures. The proposed Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) would allow the FPA to access the funding. The FPA would commence the design work and, depending upon the status of the litigation and takeover, continue with the construction. The funding is dedicated for the pump station work only and not work on the canals. The funding is not at risk for being rededicated on July 1st by the State.

Mr. Boese further explained that the current concept would have the FPA initiating the design of the different components. Even if the issues are settled and the proposed ad valorem tax proposition is passed by St. Bernard Parish voters, it may take some time to turn over the pumping and drainage system to SBPG. He recommended that the FPA move forward with and complete the design. At that point should SBPG take over the pumping and drainage system, the FPA could provide the designs to SBPG so that they could proceed with the construction. If the issues are not resolved, then the FPA could continue with construction. A joint FPA-SBPG project is not envisioned.

Mr. Miller noted that the proposed ad valorem tax proposition is scheduled for August 15th. He stated that he had spoken with St. Bernard Parish President Guy McInnis regarding this matter and that everyone seemed to be in agreement with the FPA proceeding with the IGA as discussed in today's Committee meeting. If the proposed millage proposition is passed by St. Bernard Parish voters, the FPA can revisit the IGA and the proposed path forward.

Mr. Boese commented that the FPA would use its existing Indefinite Delivery-Indefinite Quantity (ID-IQ) Contracts for the design services. Mr. Miller cautioned that careful consideration should be given to the consultants selected for the design work to ensure they are qualified and experienced in pump station renovations. In addition, in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, the FPA must ensure that the consultant's staff is capable of performing the work. Mr. Boese advised that Gerry Gillen, Operations Director, and

Darren Austin, Operations Engineer, are reviewing the current consultants under ID-IQ contract to ensure that firms with the appropriate abilities and capabilities are selected.

Mr. Dastugue inquired about delaying the effective date of the IGA until after August 15th. Mr. Morgan cautioned that with the State's current financial condition, the funding could be lost after June 30th. Michelle White, Executive Counsel, pointed out that the IGA does not include deadlines for commencing work and is fairly open ended beyond the commitment and purpose of the funding. The FPA is not obligated to move forward with haste once the IGA is in place.

Mr. Cosse, who had just arrived at the meeting, was asked to comment on the proposed ad valorem tax millage proposition in St. Bernard Parish. Mr. Cosse stated that he was told that all three major political factions will support the proposition and that, in his opinion, the passage of the proposition looks good.

The Committee will recommend that the Board approve moving forward with the proposed IGA between the CPRA and FPA.

There was no further discussion; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 11:00.