

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

PRESENT: Mark L. Morgan, Chair
Jason P. Latiolais, Committee Member (via videoconference)
Herbert T. Weysham, III, Committee Member

The Operations Committee of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (Authority or FPA) met on July 16, 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 July Operations Committee meeting, scheduled for Thursday, July 16, 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 at 6920 Franklin Ave., New Orleans, La., or virtually, via video conference. The video conference was livestreamed for observation by the public, accessible from the following links: <https://stream.lifesizecloud.com/extension/2000076559/d7307d29-07a1-4d48-8d55-9318165661e6> and <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2z1ZTSeDZIQ>

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 would be read into the record.

Mr. Morgan called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Opening Comments: Mr. Morgan advised that he just received information relative to a request regarding the Monticello Avenue Levee. The information will be provided to the full Board at its meeting later this date.

Adoption of Agenda: The Committee approved the agenda as presented.

Approval of Minutes: The Committee approved the minutes of the Operations Committee meeting held on June 18, 2020.

Public Comments: There were no comments by the public in attendance and no comments submitted to be read.

New Business:

- A. Discussion of a one-year extension of the ID-IQ Contracts for providing Geotechnical Engineering and Testing Services.**
 - B. Discussion of a one-year extension of the ID-IQ Contracts for providing Surveying Services.**
 - C. Discussion of a one-year extension of the ID-IQ Contracts for providing Civil Engineering Services.**
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Mr. Morgan advised that items A, B and C requesting a one-year extension of the current Indefinite Delivery-Indefinite Quantity (ID-IQ) contracts for various engineering services would be discussed together.

Chris Humphreys, Director of Engineering, explained that the ID-IQ Contracts were awarded last year for a one-year initial term and two one-year options, as follows:

- Geotechnical Engineering and Testing Services (not to exceed value of \$500,000): Eustis Engineering, LLC, Ardaman & Associates, Inc. and Fugro Consultants, Inc.
- Surveying Services (not to exceed value of \$500,000): Linfield, Hunter & Junius, Inc., T. Baker Smith, LLC, Bryant Hammett & Associates and Fenstermaker.
- Civil Engineering Services (not to exceed value of \$1 million): AECOM, Burk-Kleinpeter, Evans-Graves, HNTB, Linfield, Hunter and Junius, Tetra Tech, Jacobs and Design Engineering, Inc.

The Committee briefly discussed the distribution of task orders among the firms. Mr. Latiolais inquired about the disparity in the monetary value of task orders issued under the previous ID-IQ contracts. Mr. Humphreys informed the Committee that the previous ID-IQ contracts divided engineering services into sub-disciplines; however, the current ID-IQ contracts combined the sub-disciplines into one category (Civil Engineering). Mr. Morgan pointed out that Burk-Kleinpeter had a greater share of task orders under their previous ID-IQ contract because of their expertise in pump stations and the turnover of the Permanent Canal Closures and Pumps to the FPA. He noted that the unequal distribution of task orders has been corrected and the FPA is now issuing task orders in a fair, across-the-board manner.

Mr. Weysham asked had staff experienced problems with any of the consulting firms. Mr. Humphreys responded that the staff has not had any problems with any of the firms. All of the firms have produced work of good quality and are service oriented.

The Committee will recommend that the Board approve the one-year extension of the ID-IQ Contracts for Geotechnical Engineering and Testing Services, Surveying Services, and Civil Engineering Services.

D. Discussion of the proposed issuance of a task order to Digital Engineering with a total not to exceed amount of \$118,483 for design and construction administration services for the Franklin Avenue Fire Protection System Improvements Project.

Rusty Kennedy, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, explained that the Franklin Avenue Fire Protection System Improvements Project has been a budget line item for several years and involves maintenance improvements that need to be addressed.

Andrew Woodroof, Senior Project Manager for Digital Engineering, introduced Robert Delaune, Vice President, and Fannie Bennett, Director of Client Services. Digital Engineering (Digital) is a full service water resources and transportation engineering firm. IMC Consulting Engineers, which focuses in electrical and fire protection, will a sub-consultant on the project. In general, Digital will handle everything outside of the facility and IMC will handle everything within the facility's walls.

Mr. Woodroof advised that the facility is approximately 10 acres under roof. The current sprinkler system was installed in the 1980's, along with a 10-inch underground fire loop around the exterior of the facility with a 1,500-gallon per minute fire pump and a 50,000-gallon water storage tank. The storage tank and fire pump are currently inoperable and out-of-date. The purpose of the evaluation phase of Digital's contract was to determine the adequacy of the existing fire protection system and recommend improvements. Digital conducted field surveys and generated a site layout based on their findings and record drawings. A fire hydrant flow test was conducted to determine the incoming system pressure from the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (SWBNO). IMC performed hydraulic calculations of the sprinkler system, which were used to determine compliance with current codes and standards.

Mr. Woodroof explained that the study concluded that the existing system has very little safety factor with incoming system pressure and is not expected to be in compliance with codes. The fire hydrant flow test was performed in January, 2020, and the residual pressure into the building was 48 psi; however, the test was suspected to be an anomaly on the high end and borderline as far as sufficient pressure for adequate fire flow within the building. The test result had only a 3 psi cushion; therefore, should pressure from the SWBNO drop below 45 psi, the existing system would no longer have adequate flow to meet codes. The evaluation phase findings were reviewed:

- The existing sprinkler/alarm system inside the building are generally in good condition and meets applicable codes; however, minor upgrades are needed.
- The installation of heaters is recommended throughout the facility to maintain an adequate temperature to keep the sprinkler from freezing. The airspace around the sprinkler system must be maintained at 40 degrees in order to meet codes.
- The storage tank is no longer needed and can be eliminated.
- The existing fire system pump has exceeded useful life and should be replaced.

- The backflow preventer should be moved above-ground. The existing backflow preventer, which is no longer in line with codes, was installed underground and the vault has frequently flooded.
- The existing fire pump house would require significant upgrades to bring it to code; therefore, a new fire pump house is recommended. All of the components would be assembled on a skid at the factory and would be factory tested. The new fire pump house would be brought in on a truck, dropped into place and hooked into the existing piping and electrical systems.

Mr. Woodroof advised that the estimated construction cost for the project is \$1.4 million, including a contingency multiplier of 20 percent. A contingency item is included in the estimate for a new electrical feed with Entergy, if needed. The proposed schedule for the project is as follows: design to be completed within 150 days of receipt of notice to proceed, application for State Fire Marshall approval prior to bidding, bidding - approximately 60 – 75 days, and construction - approximately 150 days.

Mr. Weysham inquired about the condition of the existing piping. Mr. Woodroof responded that IMC inspected the existing sprinkler system piping and determined that there was no need to upgrade the piping. Digital has not been able to expose and inspect the underground piping. The flow test provided the expected results for piping of that size. Digital can look further into the underground piping and determine whether improvements should be recommended.

Mr. Weysham asked would insulation be sufficient to provide freeze protection in lieu of heating the piping. Mr. Woodroof responded, no. IMC will also perform HVAC calculations to ensure that only heaters that are needed are installed and assure 40-degree airspace around the system. Mr. Morgan questioned whether heaters would be necessary within the warehouse and requested that this item be kept separate for further evaluation of its necessity before moving forward with construction. Mr. Woodroof added that Digital has an interior building survey that will aid in the analysis.

Mr. Morgan inquired about the contract provisions concerning the approval of sub-consultants and requested that staff ensure that the sub-consultant meets the minimum insurance and contractual requirements. He commented that from a safety standpoint the FPA needs to move forward with the work.

The Committee will recommend that the Board approve the proposed task order with Digital Engineering.

E. Discussion of the proposed issuance of a task order to Meyer Engineers with a total not to exceed amount of \$225,054 for design and construction administration services for the Franklin Avenue Warehouse Office Renovations Project.

James Papia, Director of Architecture for Meyer Engineers, introduced Terri Dupre, Director of Business Development, and Jennifer Wickham, Project Manager. Meyer

Engineers (Meyer) is an architectural and civil engineering firm with 50 years of history. Meyer has five licensed architects, one licensed interior designer and twelve licensed civil and structural engineers. Services include construction administration and resident inspection. Meyer has experience with the following types of projects: Flood Control/Coastal Protection, Multi-Use Public and Commercial Facilities, Renovations and New Construction, and Roads, Drainage, and Wastewater.

Ms. Wickham advised that Meyer completed a programming report in February to set up the project scope. The next step is the design and planning. The renovations will take place in the 9.6-acre warehouse. Currently, FPA teams meet in the middle of the open space and office pods in various conditions are intermittent within the warehouse. The goal of the project is to upgrade the current conditions by providing private offices and communal spaces (including kitchenettes for lunch, showers and laundry, and making the space livable for storm events), air conditioning and heating, fire protection upgrades, and bringing the area into code and ADA compliance. Up to nine exterior doors will be evaluated based on code and could be replaced. All of the fire exit doors will be evaluated to ensure they meet code and have the correct signage.

Ms. Wickham explained that the program totals 15,200 square feet (about one-third of an acre) and includes four spaces:

- South end offices
- Front end offices
- Complex Structures Department
- Employee workout area (near south end offices)

Finishes will be durable and abuse-resistant construction and kept within an economical budget. The total construction estimate is \$2.5 million (office space \$110 per sq. ft., employee workout area \$90 per sq. ft., and bringing the mezzanine storage area into compliance \$100 per sq. ft.).

Mr. Kennedy explained that the 40 by 45-ft. (approximate) employee workout room can be used by the 30 Police Officers stationed at the Elysian Fields Avenue police complex for training and conditioning. The room will also provide aerobic space and some workout equipment available to 100+ employees stationed at the Franklin Facility.

Mr. Morgan stated that the preference would be for most of the construction and disruption to take place during the winter and spring months. He noted that the FPA probably has money budgeted for the whole project; however, due to potential questions regarding future revenues, the project may have to be broken over several years at the election of the FPA. Mr. Kennedy advised that the O.L.D. has enough trailers to accommodate phasing the project and shifting staff as the project progresses (similar to the Administration Building/Warehouse Engineering offices renovations).

The Committee will recommend that the Board approve the issuance of the task order to Meyer Engineers.

There was no further business; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.