

**MINUTES OF  
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST  
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON NOVEMBER 19, 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 November 19, 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 explained that a significant discussion of Workers Compensation Insurance rates and issues took place at today's Finance Committee meeting. He stated that the safety culture starts with the Board's Commissioners; therefore, the Operations Committee is implementing a safety minute at the beginning of its meetings to help modify the FPA's culture. He asked that Rusty Kennedy, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, present today's safety minute.

Mr. Kennedy spoke on the topic of safely lifting objects. The leading cause of back injury on the job is lifting or handling objects incorrectly. He provided the following tips: think before you lift, know your limits, plan your lift and clear obstructions from your pathway, keep the object close to your body, do not twist your body, adopt and maintain a stable position, wear appropriate clothing and suitable shoes, look ahead as you move slowly, lower and place the object in a safe area and then, if needed, slide the object into a constricted spot. Ask for help or use the appropriate equipment for moving objects that you cannot safely lift.

Mr. Morgan commented that he noticed in his 28 years of owning a business that the greatest cause of injury is when new employees try to prove themselves by taking on more than they can handle. He suggested the adoption of a buddy system for new employees to ensure they are staying within safety guidelines.

**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 October 15, 2020.

**Public Comments:** None.

**New Business:**

**A. Discussion of the issuance of a proposed task order to Linfield, Hunter and Junius, Inc., for topographic surveys, bathymetry and engineering services to refine the cost estimates provided in the New Orleans Lakefront Airport Flood Protection Feasibility Study / Assessment.**

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Chris Humphreys, Director of Engineering, explained that the Board awarded a contract to Arcadis for a feasibility study for the proposed flood protection at Lakefront Airport. Arcadis narrowed the initially developed eleven alternatives to three and presented a 40 percent range of costs for the three alternatives. The 40 percent cost range was developed without doing any surveys, bathymetry and geotechnical work resulting in uncertainties and was unacceptable for moving forward. The work included in the proposed task order would provide information and data for Linfield, Hunter and Junius (LHJ) and Arcadis to refine the costs to a more reasonable range of 15 percent. The task order would allow an extensive study of Alternatives 3 and 3-A (approximately 17,000 feet of floodwall). The scope of work includes four design reaches with about 30 percent structural design of the floodwalls. The scope of work addresses size of footings, concrete pile caps, pile lengths and sizes, refining the alignment, transitions and tie-ins to the existing Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS), profile drawings and site plans for Alternatives 3 and 3-A, typical floodwall gate monolith sections, and real estate and mitigation requirements. The FPA Engineering staff reviewed the scope of work, determined that it is appropriate and supported approval of the task order. He reiterated that the refinement of the costs is needed in order to move forward with the project and seek funding assistance from Federal and State sources.

Mr. Morgan noted that the FPA currently has an Indefinite Delivery-Indefinite Quantity (ID-IQ) Contract with LHJ. Mr. Humphreys added that LHJ is familiar with the Lakefront Airport and has a quantity of survey data already on file. Derek Boese, Chief Administrative Officer, stated that LHJ has a relationship with Arcadis in connection with other projects. Arcadis will be a subcontractor to LHJ; therefore, the FPA would not lose anything, but would gain from LHJ's experience.

Mr. Morgan commented that the FPA spent \$300,000 for Arcadis to arrive at a 40 percent cost range and would be spending another \$288,599 to reach a point where it could seek public assistance, since the FPA would not be able to provide 100 percent funding for the construction project.

Mr. Humphreys further explained that the bulkhead currently surrounding the Lakefront Airport is approaching the end of its useful life and must be replaced in the not too distant future. The length of bulkhead encompassed by the floodwall alignment is approximately 7,000 feet. The estimated cost of the 7,000-foot length of floodwall is \$57 million, based on pricing from a 2003 project in today's dollars. Much of the proposed work can be used for reconstruction of the bulkhead should the flood protection project not go forward. If constructed, the floodwall would replace the bulkhead along the 7,000-foot portion of the alignment.

Mr. Latiolais commented that the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport recently received significant funding and asked did Lakefront Airport receive any recent Federal funding. Wilma Heaton, Director of Governmental Affairs and Chair of the Lakefront Management Authority, responded that Lakefront Airport received about \$150,000 of the recent round of Federal funding, which can be used for payroll reimbursement and COVID-19 related expenses, but not for capital projects.

Mr. Morgan advised that the goal of the flood protection feasibility study is to obtain a good engineering estimate for the construction of the project, commit to funding a percentage of the project cost, and to seek funding assistance from Federal and State sources for the remaining cost. Mr. Boese added that the FPA is not at a point today with the Arcadis work to be able to make a good assessment and provide a cost to potential Federal and State funding sources. Mr. Humphreys pointed out that Arcadis took a conservative approach in developing the 40 percent range cost estimates. The proposed task order also includes optimization of wall height and pumping.

Mr. Morgan recommended moving forward with the task order and stated that the approval of the task order will be discussed at the Board meeting and that the Commissioners may have other comments and questions relative to the task order.

**B. Discussion of the proposed award of a contract to Kostmayer Construction, LLC, in the amount of \$1,319,499.00 for the Outfall Canals, Lakefront and MRGO Floodgates Sandblast, Paint and Repair Project.**

Mr. Humphreys advised that the engineer's estimate for the Outfall Canals, Lakefront and MRGO Floodgates Sandblast, Paint and Repair Project is \$1.5 million. Five competitive bids were received. Kostmayer Construction, the successful bidder on the previous floodgate painting and repair project, is the lowest bidder on the current project. He recommended that the contract be awarded to Kostmayer Construction.

The Committee will recommend that the Board approve the award of the contract to Kostmayer Construction.

**C. Discussion of the issuance of a proposed task order to Burk-Kleinpeter, Inc., in the total amount of \$98,172.25 for Construction Administration and Resident Inspection Services for the Floodgate Painting Project (GIWW, MRGO, Lakefront and Outfall Canals).**

Mr. Humphreys advised that Burk-Kleinpeter, Inc., did the design for the Floodgate Painting Project and will provide resident inspection services to ensure the work is done in accordance with the design. The proposed task order also includes testing that will be performed by a NACE (National Association of Corrosion Engineers) certified firm that specializes in coatings. NACE certified testing services are essential since surface preparation is an important part of the work. He stated that the proposal, inclusive of the testing services, is reasonable and recommended that the proposed task order be approved.

The Committee will recommend that the Board approve the proposed task order with Burk-Kleinpeter, Inc.

**D. Discussion of the issuance of a proposed task order to Fenstermaker with a fixed fee cost of \$143,000 for the topographic and bathymetric surveys of specified sections of the 17<sup>th</sup> Street, London and Orleans Ave. Outfall Canals.**

Mr. Humphreys explained that Fenstermaker did an excellent job on a pilot study utilizing unmanned drones and ASVs for the platform for the bathymetric surveys. Fenstermaker provided a proposal and discounted rate for surveys of all three (17<sup>th</sup> Street, London and Orleans Avenue) outfall canals. The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) is anxious to receive information from the surveys because of the recent tropical storm/hurricane events. The surveys will reveal whether there has been any possible movement of riprap or erosion. The surveys are required annually as part of the FPA's Operations and Maintenance (O&M) requirements. He recommended that the proposed task order with Fenstermaker be approved.

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

**E. Discussion of the proposed award of a contract to Hard Rock Construction, LLC, in the total amount of \$116,000 for the Relocation of Valve OHV-09 West of the Seabrook Complex (Hayne Boulevard).**

Mr. Humphreys advised that two bids were received for the Relocation of Valve OHV-09 West of the Seabrook Complex. The lowest bid (\$116,000) was submitted by Hard Rock Construction. In-house engineering services were used for the project. The budgeted amount for the project is \$120,000. The valve (15-inch pipe) is currently located in a very wet area that is frequently underwater making it difficult to access. Since the valve is located in the levee slope, a temporary restraining structure must be constructed on both sides of the floodwall so that the valve can be removed from its current location, the pipe replaced, and the valve placed on the protected side of the floodwall. He recommended that Hard Rock Construction be awarded the contract for the work.

The Committee will recommend that the Board approve the award of the contract to Hard Rock Construction for the relocation of the valve.

Mr. Humphreys advised that the following projects are being advertised in December with the award of the contracts anticipated to take place in January: NASA Levee Repair Project, Orleans Avenue Outfall Canal Erosion Mitigation Project, Lakeshore Drive Traffic Improvement and Resurfacing Project, and W-33 and E-07 Floodgate Repair Project).

There was no further business; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.