

**MINUTES OF
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 17, 2020**

PRESENT: Mark L. Morgan, Chair
Jason Latiolais, Committee Member
Herbert T. Weysham, III, Committee Member

The Operations Committee of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (Authority or FPA) met on September 17, 2020, at the Franklin Avenue Administrative Complex, Meeting Room 201, 6920 Franklin Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana. Mr. Morgan called the meeting to order at 10:35 a.m.

Opening Comments: Mr. Morgan commented that staff has been busy the past several weeks preparing for and monitoring the recent tropical storms/hurricanes.

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 August 20, 2020.

Public Comments: None.

New Business:

A thru D. Discussion of request for the Louisiana Capital Outlay Program to fund certain SLFPA-E, EJLD, LBBLD and O.L.D. projects for Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-2022.

The Committee considered Items A through D together. Chris Humphreys, Director of Engineering, reviewed the Capital Outlay Program (COP) funding requests:

Flood Protection Authority (FPA):

- Terrorism Prevention and Emergency Response Command Center, Security Cameras and Perimeter Fending (\$2.2 million) - Includes 39 cameras, high water vehicles, patrol boats and flat boats.
- Surge Barrier Public Safety and Educational/Visitors Center Complex (\$1.25 million) – Each year the FPA conducts numerous tours of the IHNC Surge Barrier, some of which include dignitaries and governmental officials from various countries.

East Jefferson Levee District (EJLD):

- Jefferson Parish Lakefront Erosion Protection Repairs – Reach 1 (\$10.5 million) – The EJLD Lakefront Levee is 5.2 miles in length. Reach 1 is 1.9 miles (approximately 10,000 feet). Work consists of restoring the rock dike that settled and repairing the eroded wave berm behind the rock dike.

Lake Borgne Basin Levee District (LBBLD):

- Design and Construct a Safe-House Facility to House LBBLD Staff During a Storm/Emergency Event (\$4 million) – Currently, the LBBLD does not have a hurricane resistant facility and LBBLD employees who must remain on duty during a storm event must be housed in the St. Bernard Parish Civic Center.

Orleans Levee District (O.L.D.):

- Bayou St. John Water Management Improvements (\$875,000) - Includes elevation and hydrology studies and design and construction of a weir.
- Highway 90 Land Bridge (\$5 million) – Shoreline protection project for the natural land bridge upon which Highway 90 sits. The land bridge is located between Orleans and St. Tammany Parishes and is beneficial since it prevents surge from entering into Lake Pontchartrain. The FPA has also applied for funding from the Watershed Initiative for the land bridge.

The Committee will recommend that the Board approve the COP funding requests for the FPA, EJLD, LBBLD and O.L.D.

E. Discussion of the proposed issuance of Amendment No. 1 to Task Order 30-07-01 with Linfield, Hunter and Junius, Inc. to include Engineering Services During Construction and Construction Inspection Services at a total not-to-exceed amount of \$82,520.15 for the Orleans Marina Seepage Repair Phase I and II Projects, thereby increasing the total not-to-exceed amount of said task order to \$170,304.89.

Mr. Humphreys explained that last month the Board approved the award of a contract for both phases of the drainage repair project to Kort's Construction Services, Inc. The requested amendment to the task order would allow Linfield, Hunter and Junius to provide Engineering Services during Construction and Construction Inspection Services. The scope of the original task order was to study the effect of the drainage issues on the floodwall and included bathymetry surveys in the Marina, topographic surveys, assessment of the settlement, determination of the problem and development of a solution.

The Committee will recommend that the Board approve Amendment No. 1 to the Task Order issued to Linfield, Hunter and Junius.

F. Discussion of the proposed issuance of a task order to HNTB with a total not to exceed amount of \$122,532.84 to provide Schematic Design, Design and Construction Documents and Bidding Assistance for the replacement of ten tripping dolphins at the GIWW Surge Barrier east closure gate.

Gerry Gillen, Operations Director, explained that the tripping dolphins are extensively used by the maritime industry, especially when the Barge Gate is closed and velocities increase. Tugs pushing a large number of barges use the tripping dolphins to tie up some of the barges in order to lessen the number being pushed through the navigation gate. Staff noticed three years ago that the dolphins were deteriorating and began investigating responsibility for their replacement. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) indicated that the FPA is responsible for the maintenance of the dolphins as a project feature; however, the USACE has not yet provided a formal response.

Mr. Gillen further explained that, at this time, remnants of only one of the five dolphins located on the flood side of the barrier remains and two deteriorating dolphins remain on the protected side. The tripping dolphins, which at the time of construction were not considered permanent, were originally constructed by USACE in-house labor during construction of the barrier. Estimates are being obtained on a prototype of the dolphins used for the West Closure Complex and construction costs to replace all ten dolphins could range from \$2 million to \$2.5 million. A permit will not be required from the USACE since the replacement of the dolphins is considered maintenance. Funding for the project's design is included in the FY 2021 Budget.

The Committee will recommend that the Board approve the issuance of a Task Order to HNTB.

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