

**MINUTES OF THE
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY–EAST
BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2021**

The regular monthly Board Meeting of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (Authority or FPA) was held on February 18, 2021, in the Franklin Avenue Administrative Complex, Meeting Room 201, 6920 Franklin Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana, after due legal notice of the meeting was sent to each Board member and the news media and posted.

Mr. Miller called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m. and led in the pledge of allegiance. Mr. Cosse called the roll and a quorum was present:

PRESENT:

Herbert I. Miller, President
Mark L. Morgan, Vice President
Clay A. Cosse, Secretary
K. Randall Noel, Treasurer
Lambert J. Hassinger, Jr.
Eugene J. Joanen, IV
Jason P. Latiolais
Herbert T. Weysham, III

ABSENT:

None

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

The agenda was amended to take Item XII.A.1 after the adoption of the agenda. A motion was offered by Mr. Hassinger, seconded by Mr. Latiolais and unanimously approved, to adopt the agenda as amended.

RESOLUTION NO. 02-18-21-01 – RECOGNITION OF QUENTIN D. DASTUGUE

Mr. Dastugue thanked the Board for their recognition. He stated that in the early 1980's he was one of the few civil engineers in the State Legislature and he became a critic of Louisiana's levee board system and the way that levee boards were managed. Since that time, many things have happened that changed the shape and scope of the management of levee boards, including regionalization, which he was in favor of in the early 1980's. The most important change has been the quality of the commissioners and the quality of the staff. He stated that it was a surprise at first, but it became a joy to work with the Board members and staff due to the professionalism, experience and abilities they presented in order to make the region a safe place to live. He added that instead of being a critic, he is now a fan.

Mr. Miller stated that he has known Mr. Dastugue for a long time, probably close to 40 years, and that Mr. Dastugue was a State Representative during the time that he worked in the upper echelons of Jefferson Parish Government; therefore, he would see him during legislative briefings. He added that he and Mr. Dastugue share the same alma mater (Georgia Tech) and that they both have civil engineering degrees. He wished Mr. Dastugue the best going forward and stated that he was confident that Mr. Dastugue would continue to have success in all of his future endeavors.

Mr. Hassinger presented a plaque displaying the Board's resolution to Mr. Dastugue.

On the motion of Mr. Cosse, Mr. Hassinger, Mr. Joanen, Mr. Latiolais, Mr. Miller, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Noel and Mr. Weysham

RESOLUTION NO. 02-18-21-01 - "A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING THE COMMITMENT AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF QUENTIN D. DASTUGUE TO THE SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST AND TO THE CITIZENS OF SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA."

WHEREAS, after the devastation resulting from Hurricane Katrina, the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East was created by the Louisiana State Legislature to provide regional flood protection for the Lake Pontchartrain Basin area; and

WHEREAS, due to his outstanding qualifications, expertise and professional experience, Quentin D. Dastugue, CCIM, was appointed to serve on the Board of Commissioners of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dastugue graduated from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 1977 with a degree in Civil Engineering and from the Loyola University Institute of Politics; and

WHEREAS, during Mr. Dastugue's extensive career in the real estate profession and public service, in 1985 he co-founded Property One, a full service commercial real estate firm that grew into one of the largest firms in south Louisiana, and served four consecutive terms as a Louisiana State Representative (1980 - 1996), during which he advocated for levee board reforms, and as Chairman of the House Committee on Transportation, Highways and Public Works; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dastugue served on numerous civic organizations and real estate industry committees, and in addition to his many recognitions, in 2018 he was inducted into the Louisiana Political Museum and Hall of Fame; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Dastugue's extensive professional knowledge and expertise and his experience in public service provided an invaluable resource for the FPA and its constituent levee districts for the operation and maintenance of the over \$14 billion Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System.

WHEREAS, Mr. Dastugue's dedication and support as a member of the Flood Protection Authority Board from September 28, 2016 through December 31, 2020, and as Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee from July 1, 2019 to

December 31, 2020, resulted in many positive achievements and improvements to the regional flood defense system.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East hereby expresses its gratitude and appreciation to Quentin D. Dastugue, CCIM, for his dedication and contributions during his tenure as a member of the Board of Commissioners of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East and for his service to the citizens of Southeast Louisiana.

The foregoing was submitted to a vote; the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Mr. Cosse, Mr. Hassinger, Mr. Joanen, Mr. Latiolais, Mr. Miller, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Noel and Mr. Weysham

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION NO. 02-18-21-02 - APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 21, 2021

On the motion of Mr. Noel,

Seconded by Mr. Latiolais, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East approves the minutes of the Board Meeting held on January 21, 2021.

The foregoing was submitted to a vote; the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Mr. Cosse, Mr. Hassinger, Mr. Joanen, Mr. Latiolais, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Noel and Mr. Weysham

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION:

Mr. Miller announced that the FPA Employee of the Month is Zach Wertz and the Police Employee of the Month is Officer Ryan Frazier. Mr. Wertz is an Electrician Specialist assigned to the Permanent Canal Closures and Pumps (PCCP) and Officer Frazier is a Police Officer 2A in the Orleans Levee District Police Department. Due to COVID-19 protocols and adverse weather conditions, the Board will formally recognize the Employees of the Month for February at a future meeting.

OPENING COMMENTS BY PRESIDENT AND COMMISSIONERS:

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

PRESENTATIONS:

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee: Mr. Noel reported that the Finance Committee met prior to the Board meeting. The Committee reviewed the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Budget to actuals and the draft proposed FY 2022 Budget, and received an update on the FPA's search for Asset Management Software. The final FY 2022 Budget will be adopted by the Board at its March meeting.

Operations Committee: Mr. Morgan reported that the Operations Committee met prior to the Board meeting. The Committee reviewed the two items on its agenda and the Committee's recommendation will be provided at the time that the items are taken up by the Board.

Coastal Committee: Mr. Joanen advised that the Coastal Committee did not meet in February. He stated that he is making great progress with gathering information relative to the region and planned to join in the next Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) meeting. The Coastal Committee will meet in March.

REPORT BY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER:

Derek Boese, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), reviewed the highlights of his report:

- **COVID-19 update:**

The FPA experienced 35 cases since March 2020 (12% of employees). All employees have recovered and most have returned to work. Several employees with recent cases have not yet returned to work.

The FPA's 282 employees were surveyed about receiving the COVID-19 vaccine:

- 103 employees were vaccinated (60% of those requesting the vaccine).
 - 68 employees still need vaccines (40% of those requesting the vaccine).
 - 111 employees declined vaccines (39% of all employees).
- **Mississippi River Status:** The river is currently at about 9 feet at the Carrollton Gage. The river level is falling and is projected to drop to 6 feet for the next month. Staff will continue monitoring river levels.
 - **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) annual inspections:**
 - The East Jefferson inspection took place on January 21 and went very well.
 - The Lake Borgne inspection will take place on March 2.

- Orleans inspections are scheduled for March 9, 11 and 30. Inspections of the Complex Structures are scheduled for April 12, 14, 19 and 27 and for the Permanent Canal Closures and Pumps (PCCP) for May 3-5.
- Update of projects in design:
 - LBBLD Pump Stations (PS) 1 and 4 Climber Screen and Equipment Replacement (65% complete)
 - LBBLD PS 5 Bridge and Miscellaneous Improvements (95% complete)
 - PCCP Fuel Offload (99% complete)
 - GIWW Sector Gate Capstan Winch (80% complete)
 - Surge Barrier Barge Gate RRM (60% complete)
 - GIWW Tripping Dolphin Replacement (50% complete)
 - Franklin Yard Parking/Drainage/Washrack (95% complete)
 - Franklin Backflow Preventer/Fire Suppression (95% complete)
 - Franklin HVAC/EOC (99% complete)
 - Franklin Warehouse Renovations (90% complete)
- Update of projects in construction:
 - New Projects Kicking Off:
 - W-33/E-7 Floodgate Repairs (56-day duration)
 - NASA Levee Repairs (150-day duration)
 - Lakeshore Drive Street Reconfiguration (120-day duration)
 - Orleans Avenue Canal Erosion Control (200-day duration)
 - Floodgate Blasting/Painting (210-day duration)
 - In Progress:
 - Seawall Erosion Phase IV – Completion May 2021
 - Substantial Completion:
 - Violet Canal Levee Re-Alignment
 - 17th Street Canal Erosion Control
- Safety: A Safety Director Consultant has been embedded with the FPA via Gallagher Insurance. The consultant visited Lake Borgne Basin Levee District Pump Station 8 where a recent accident occurred, reviewed the analysis of the accident and is completing his report. He also visited the PCCPs, the complex structures and the Franklin Facility. The consultant provides immediate feedback concerning any issues he encounters.
- Upcoming auction: The list of items to be auctioned will be presented to the Board for approval at its March meeting. The auction will be virtual and is anticipated to be held in April or May.
- East Jefferson Levee District Plauche Court office facility: Staff is working through the process for the proposed public sale of the facility. The facility is no longer needed and is a drain on resources and time.

- Training videos: Staff is developing training videos for the PCCPs. Since the PCCP equipment is very complex, it is important to document their operation and maintenance through the videos.

Mr. Miller inquired about the reasons some employees are choosing not to take the COVID-19 vaccine. Mr. Boese explained the FPA is not making the vaccine mandatory and reasons provided by employees for not receiving the vaccine include medical concerns and concerns about the newness of the vaccines. Some employees did not give a reason for not wanting to receive the vaccine. The FPA will continue to follow CDC guidelines.

Mr. Morgan asked about the FPA's Experience Modification Rate (EMR) relative to Workers Compensation Insurance. Matt Byrd with Gallagher Insurance advised that the FPA's EMR is 1.52. Mr. Morgan noted that if the EMR is reduced as a result of having the Safety Director Consultant, it could potentially save the FPA money in Workers Compensation premiums. Mr. Boese pointed out that the Safety Director Consultant is a trained, certified professional. A FPA staff member currently holds the Safety Director position; however, the individual is on medical leave for the next three months. Mr. Latiolais pointed out that with the FPA's 282 employees, it is a large undertaking for one individual. He suggested perhaps having a director with two individuals in the field. Mr. Boese advised that the FPA requested that the Safety Director Consultant provide recommendations not only on what he finds in the field, but also relative to procedures, policies, staffing, training, safety certifications, etc.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION NO. 02-18-21-03 - CHANGE ORDER TO CONTRACT FOR LAKESHORE DRIVE IMPROVEMENTS SEAWALL AREA EROSION CONTROL PAVING PROJECT REACH 3A

Mr. Morgan advised that the Operations Committee reviewed the change order to the contract for the Lakeshore Drive Improvements Seawall Area Erosion Control Paving Project Reach 3A. The change order is in the amount of \$103,530, which exceeded the limit (\$100,000) allowed by FPA's policy for approval of change orders by the CAO without authorization of the Board. The change order was to repair the erosion that occurred during the past storm season so that the contractor could proceed with the aforementioned project. The Board was informed about this issue at its last meeting, and due to the need to move quickly, a recommendation was made to move forward with the change order. Therefore, the Board is being requested to ratify the approval of the change order.

On the motion of Mr. Morgan,
Seconded by Mr. Noel, the following resolution was offered:

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 03-19-20-01 the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (FPA) authorized the award of a contract in the amount of

\$10,495,752.60 to Kort's Construction Services, Inc. (Kort's), for the Lakeshore Drive Improvements Seawall Area Erosion Control Paving Project Reach 3A (O.L.D. Project No. 27862); and

WHEREAS, a portion of the project area, under the East and West side of the Bayou St. John/Lakeshore Drive overpass, experienced significant erosion during this past storm season, necessitating mitigation and repair of the storm damaged area for which FPA requested that Kort's provide a change order; and

WHEREAS, the exigency of proceeding with the mitigation and repair work prior to the impending installation of pedestrian stairs that connect to the overpass and without halting progress on the project to await consideration of the change order by the FPA Board at the regularly scheduled February 2021 board meeting, FPA Board President, Herbert Miller, approved Kort's change order in the amount of \$103,530, authorizing the mitigation and repair work to promptly proceed; and

WHEREAS, funding for the project is included in Budget Line Item BPROJ018.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority–East ratifies approval of Change Order No. 3 in the amount of \$103,530 to the Contract with Kort's Construction Services, Inc., for the Lakeshore Drive Improvements Seawall Area Erosion Control Paving Project Reach 3A (O.L.D. Project No. 27862).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the FPA Chief Administrative Officer, or in his absence the Director of Engineering, is hereby authorized to execute Change Order No. 3 to the Contract with Kort's Construction Services, Inc., and any and all other documents necessary to accomplish the above.

The foregoing was submitted to a vote; the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Mr. Cosse, Mr. Hassinger, Mr. Joanen, Mr. Latiolais, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Noel and Mr. Weysham

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

RESOLUTION NO. 02-18-21-04 - AWARD OF CONTRACT FOR LANDSIDE RUNOFF CONTROL IMPROVEMENTS – REACH 1 JEFFERSON PARISH LAKEFRONT

Mr. Morgan advised that the Operations Committee reviewed the proposed award of the contract for the Landside Runoff Control Improvements – Reach 1 Jefferson Parish Lakefront Project. Six bids were received and Cycle Construction Company, LLC (Cycle), submitted the lowest bid, which was well under the engineer's estimate for the project. Cycle's bid was reviewed by the FPA's consultant, legal counsel and staff, and although it seemed low, the recommendation was that Cycle be awarded the contract. Cycle has done several projects for the FPA and did good work. The Operation Committee recommended that the contract be awarded to Cycle.

On the motion of Mr. Morgan,

Seconded by Mr. Noel, the following resolution was offered:

WHEREAS, the Landside Runoff Control Improvements – Reach 1 Jefferson Parish Lakefront (EJLD Project E2780086) was advertised and six bids were opened on February 11, 2021, as follows:

Bidding Contractors	Total Base Bid Price
Cycle Construction Company, LLC	\$226,769.00
Durr Heavy Construction, LLC	\$305,210.11
Onshore Materials, LLC	\$377,285.00
ERS, Inc.	\$412,412.00
Vantage Contractors, LLC	\$554,493.94
RAMJ Construction	\$711,950.00

WHEREAS, the lowest responsive and responsible bid was submitted by Cycle Construction Company, LLC, in the amount of \$226,769.00; and

WHEREAS, the Engineering Estimate for the base bid project is \$358,047.25; and

WHEREAS, funding for the project is included in Budget Line Items BPROF004.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority–East (FPA) authorizes the award of a contract in the amount of \$226,769.00 to Cycle Construction Company, LLC, for the Landside Runoff Control Improvements – Reach 1 Jefferson Parish Lakefront Project.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the FPA Chief Administrative Officer, or in his absence the Director of Engineering, is hereby authorized to execute the above mentioned contract with Cycle Construction Company, LLC, and any and all other documents necessary to accomplish the above.

The foregoing was submitted to a vote; the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Mr. Cosse, Mr. Hassinger, Mr. Joanen, Mr. Latiolais, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Noel and Mr. Weysham

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

The next regular monthly meeting of the Board will be held on March 18, 2021, at the Franklin Avenue Administrative Complex, Meeting Room 201, New Orleans, LA.

There was no further discussion; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.