

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

The regular monthly Board Meeting of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (Authority or FPA) was held on March 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. The roll was called and a quorum was present:

PRESENT:

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

ABSENT:

Clay A. Cosse, Secretary

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

A motion was offered by Mr. Hassinger, seconded by Mr. Latiolais and unanimously approved, to adopt the agenda.

RESOLUTION NO. 03-18-21-01 - APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 18, 2021

On the motion of Mr. Morgan,
Seconded by Mr. Hassinger, 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 February 18, 2021.

The foregoing was submitted to a vote; the vote thereon was as follows:
YEAS: Mr. Hassinger, Mr. Joanen, Mr. Latiolais, Mr. Morgan, Mr. Noel and
Mr. Weysham

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Cosse

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION:

The Board recognized past Employees of the Month who had not previously been recognized due to Covid-19 protocols.

Task Force Officer Patrick Conaghan was selected as the Police Employee of the Month for March, 2020. Officer Conaghan is an Investigator in the Orleans Levee District (O.L.D.) Police Department assigned to the FBI's New Orleans Violent Crime Task Force. Officer Conaghan always presents the FPA and the Task Force to the public in the highest, most professional manner and consistently meets the goals and objectives set by the Task Force. He shows outstanding professionalism and courtesy when interacting with other law enforcement agencies and the public.

Officer Scott Meunier was selected as the Police Employee of the Month for August, 2020. Officer Meunier is a Police Officer 3 in the East Jefferson Levee District Police Department. On July 25th Officer Meunier responded to a BOLO on a black Mercedes Benz SUV near I-10 and Clearview. Officer Meunier and a JPSO deputy located the vehicle on Veterans Highway, conducted a felony stop and learned that the Mercedes had approximately a kilo of heroin in a black backpack and that the subject was planning a meet in the Target parking lot. Officer Meunier and the JPSO deputy proceeded to the parking lot, located the vehicle and subject that were described and found that the subject had a large sum of money in a clear bag on the front seat in plain view. With Officer Meunier's assistance, a DEA agent, FBI agent and JPSO were able to link the two parties to the heroin and the money as a drug deal. One kilo of heroin and approximately \$5,000 in cash was seized.

Officer Ryan Frazier was selected as the Police Employee of the Month for February, 2021. Officer Frazier is a Police Officer 2A in the O.L.D. Police Department. On Saturday, January 23rd Officer Frazier, while leaving a paid detail, observed a minivan occupied by multiple subjects wearing hooded sweatshirts, travelling northbound on Elysian Fields Avenue at a high rate of speed while disregarding all traffic signals. Officer Frazier attempted to stop the vehicle by activating his police lights and sirens. The driver of the vehicle disregarded the officer's signals and continued to accelerate. Officer Frazier notified dispatch about the incident and learned the vehicle matched the description of a recently stolen vehicle possibly involved in a carjacking in a neighboring district. Officer Frazier pursued the vehicle through multiple districts and observed the vehicle strike a street sign, two vehicles, and a traffic control device before becoming disabled. Four males exited the vehicle and fled on foot. Officer Frazier apprehended the driver after a brief foot pursuit and placed the subject under arrest for possession of a stolen vehicle, resisting arrest, and multiple hit and run offenses. The subject was also wanted in a neighboring parish for being a suspect in a murder. Officer Frazier was commended by the O.L.D. Police leadership for exemplary performance and dedication to duty.

Zachary Wertz was selected as the FPA Employee of the Month for February, 2021. Mr. Wertz was hired as an Electrician Specialist in August 2019 and was assigned to the Permanent Canal Closures and Pumps (PCCP). Mr. Wertz is a model FPA

employee who not only completes all of his assignments, but works hard to complete as much work as possible each day. He is always on time and has a great attitude. Recently, the water level in Lake Pontchartrain has been dropping below -1.0-ft., which is the level established by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) necessitating closure of the PCCP drop gates. On several occasions the Operations Director had to make quick decisions to close the gates using real time water level trends and tide predictions. When gate closures were required, Mr. Wertz was called in to make the closures and he did so without hesitation and timely completed the closures. Mr. Wertz's exemplary work ethic and his quickness to respond when the lake level drops make him an invaluable member of the PCCP team.

Mr. Miller announced that Morris Washington was selected as the FPA Employee of the Month for March, 2021, due to the way he exemplifies the FPA's values, his professionalism and his willingness to go the extra mile. Mr. Washington is a Painter Master in O&M Facilities. Mr. Washington demonstrates all of the FPA's values in the daily performance of his duties and his interaction with the FPA team. Mr. Washington has been a Painter in Facilities Maintenance since April 23, 2018, and has made a positive impact in the department with his promptness, attention to detail and his positive attitude. Mr. Washington kept the paint department operating when the paint crew was recovering from COVID-19. His hard work, professionalism and his natural leadership make Mr. Washington a tremendous asset to Facilities Maintenance. Mr. Washington is known for setting the standard for doing things correctly and timely. His commitment, dedication and contribution make him an essential part of the success of the FPA's mission.

The FPA Employees of the Month and Police Employees of the Month were presented Certificates of Commendation and received congratulations from Board members.

OPENING COMMENTS BY PRESIDENT AND COMMISSIONERS:

Mr. Miller encouraged Commissioners and FPA employees to be vaccinated against COVID 19 as soon as they become eligible so that herd immunity can be established within the FPA as an organization.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

PRESENTATIONS: None,

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee: Mr. Noel reported that the Finance Committee met prior to the Board meeting. The Committee recommended that the Board approve the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Budgets and the sale of surplus items by auction. The items to be auctioned were depreciated and have zero value. The Committee made two additional changes to the Investment Policy; therefore, the resolution to approve the revised Investment Policy will be deferred to allow review of the revisions by Executive Counsel. An update was received on the procurement of Asset Management Software. Software vendors were

narrowed to two (IFS Applications and Pronto). The Committee recommended procurement of the software from IFA, the vendor who received the highest score on the grading; however, the Committee recommended that the verbiage in the draft resolution remain as written in order to allow negotiation of the procurement.

Operations Committee: Mr. Morgan advised that the Operations Committee did not meet this month. The Safety Consultant's report, which would have been on the Operations Committee agenda, was included on the Board's agenda.

Coastal Committee: Mr. Joanen reported that the Coastal Committee met prior to the Board meeting. He encouraged Committee members and staff to attend meetings of organizations and agencies, such as the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA). The Committee discussed gathering existing data and information relative to shoreline protection along Lake Pontchartrain. The Committee is seeking good initiatives to fill in the gaps along the Lake Pontchartrain shoreline and new federal funding opportunities, such as the climate change initiative.

Mr. Miller noted that the Coastal Committee had been dormant for some time and commended Mr. Joanen for his enthusiastic effort.

Report by Chief Administrative Officer:

Mr. Boese reviewed the highlights of the Chief Administrative Officer's (CAO) report:

- COVID-19 Update:
One COVID-19 case was reported since last month, bringing the total number of COVID-19 cases since March 2020 to 36. 151 employees have been vaccinated (88% of the employees requesting vaccination). Human Resources is working to get the 20 remaining employees vaccinated. 111 of the FPA's 282 employees declined vaccination. The FPA is encouraging all employees to be vaccinated and will assist employees with scheduling vaccinations ahead of the general population.
- Mississippi River Status:
The river level reached 11-ft. at the Carrollton gage on March 9th. The river is projected to rise to about 13-ft. on March 23 and to drop below 11-ft. about the end of March. The FPA is currently conducting inspections twice per week. The USACE is also conducting inspections. No significant issues have been found.
- USACE Inspections:
Annual inspections have been completed for East Jefferson, Lake Borgne and parts of Orleans (St. Bernard Subbasin and Orleans East Subbasin) and have gone very well. The remaining inspections for Orleans levees will be completed by the end of March. Complex Structure inspections will be conducted throughout April and PCCP inspections will be conducted in early May.

- The Safety Improvement Project along the West End of Lakeshore Drive in Orleans Parish, which includes safety improvements for pedestrians and milling and overlay of the roadway, will commence in March.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION NO. 03-18-21-02 - APPROVAL OF FY 2022 BUDGET FOR THE SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY – EAST

Mr. Noel advised that the FY 2022 Budgets include an increase in insurance premium costs and funding for the Asset Management Software. He noted that the number of staff is almost flat.

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

WHEREAS, the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East has reviewed financial projections for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022, including estimated operating revenues and expenditures; and

WHEREAS, funding in the following amounts is required as detailed by the line item budget for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022:

TWELVE MONTHS ENDING JUNE 30, 2022 BUDGETS

	GENERAL FUND	CAPITAL PROJECTS	COMBINED
REVENUES			
Intergovernmental Revenue	122,900	-	122,900
Revenue from Lake Borgne	1,507,600	-	1,507,600
Revenue from East Jefferson	3,312,700	-	3,312,700
Revenue from Orleans	7,269,900	-	7,269,900
Interest Income	5,200	-	5,200
Misc Revenue	54,700	-	54,700
Total Revenue	12,273,000	-	12,273,000
EXPENSES			
Personnel Services	7,264,400		7,264,400
Training and Travel	206,700		206,700
Professional Services	469,600		469,600
Contractual Services	2,469,800		2,469,800
Materials and Supplies	240,300		240,300
Equipment Purchases	262,800		262,800
Other Charges	9,400		9,400
Project Related Cost		1,350,000	1,350,000
Total Expenses	10,923,000	1,350,000	12,273,000

CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES	1,350,000	(1,350,000)	-
FUND BALANCES, BEGINNING OF YEAR (as of June 30, 2020 per audit)	7,248,585		7,248,585
Less: Transfer to LBBLD	(3,600,000)		(3,600,000)
FUND BALANCES AT END OF YEAR	4,998,585	(1,350,000)	3,648,585

WHEREAS, the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority - East is mandated to submit an approved budget by April 1, 2021, to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget and other various oversight authorities; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee at its meeting held on March 18, 2021, reviewed the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority East General Fund Budget for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East approves the General Fund Budget for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Cosse

RESOLUTION NO. 03-18-21-03 - APPROVAL OF FY 2022 BUDGET FOR THE SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY – EAST ON BEHALF OF THE EAST JEFFERSON LEVEE DISTRICT

On the motion of Mr. Noel,

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

WHEREAS, the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East on behalf of the East Jefferson Levee District (O.L.D.) has reviewed financial projections for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022, including estimated operating revenues and expenditures; and

WHEREAS, funding in the following amounts is required as detailed by the line item budget for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022:

TWELVE MONTHS ENDING JUNE 30, 2022 BUDGETS

	GENERAL FUND	CAPITAL PROJECTS	COMBINED
REVENUES			
Ad Valorem Taxes	9,526,400	-	9,526,400
Intergovernmental Revenue	492,100	-	492,100
Interest Income	200,000	-	200,000
Misc Revenue	267,500	-	267,500
Total Revenue	10,486,000	-	10,486,000
EXPENSES			
Personnel Services	4,270,200	-	4,270,200
Training and Travel	21,000	-	21,000
Professional Services	76,000	-	76,000
Contractual Services	680,700	-	680,700
Materials and Supplies	449,000	-	449,000
Equipment	939,700	-	939,700
Other Charges	327,800	-	327,800
Cost Sharing	3,312,700	-	3,312,700
MMCI Services	-	7,296,000	7,296,000
Total Expenses	10,077,100	7,296,000	17,373,100
Income Before Other Sources (Uses)	408,900	(7,296,000)	(6,887,100)
Insurance Proceeds	-	-	-
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES	408,900	(7,296,000)	(6,887,100)
FUND BALANCES, BEGINNING OF YEAR, (per audit)	34,965,574	-	34,965,574
Less: FY 21 Maintenance Reserve	(22,138,000)	-	(22,138,000)
Add: Corp Portion of FY 21 Maintenance Reserve	7,605,000		7,605,000
Escrow Maintenance Reserve			
FUND BALANCES AT END OF YEAR, UNRESERVED	20,841,474	(7,296,000)	13,545,474

WHEREAS, the East Jefferson Levee District is mandated to submit an approved budget by April 1, 2021, to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget and other various oversight authorities; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee at its meeting held on March 18, 2021, reviewed the East Jefferson Levee District General Fund Budget for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority - East approves the General Fund Budget of the East Jefferson Levee District for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022.

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Cosse

RESOLUTION NO. 03-18-21-04 - APPROVAL OF FY 2022 BUDGET FOR THE SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY – EAST ON BEHALF OF THE ORLEANS LEVEE DISTRICT

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

WHEREAS, the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East on behalf of the Orleans Levee District (O.L.D.) has reviewed financial projections for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022, including estimated operating revenues and expenditures; and

WHEREAS, funding in the following amounts is required as detailed by the line item budget for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022:

TWELVE MONTHS ENDING JUNE 30, 2022 BUDGETS

	GENERAL FUND	SLIP FUND	COMBINED
REVENUES			
Ad Valorem Taxes	21,602,700	18,994,500	40,597,200
Intergovernmental Revenue	1,806,600	-	1,806,600
Revenue from Lake Borgne	475,100	-	475,100
Mineral Revenue	200,000	-	200,000
Interest Income	200,000	213,700	413,700
Misc Revenue	2,450,200	471,100	2,921,300
Total Revenue	26,734,600	19,679,300	46,413,900
EXPENSES			
Personnel Services	12,923,800	-	12,923,800
Training and Travel	70,600	-	70,600
Professional Services	221,500	-	221,500
Contractual Services	3,697,600	-	3,697,600

Materials and Supplies	1,683,900	-	1,683,900
Equipment	2,942,700	-	2,942,700
Other Charges	898,600	784,800	1,683,400
Cost Sharing	6,918,900	-	6,918,900
MMCI Services	-	31,643,100	31,643,100
Total Expenses	29,357,600	32,427,900	61,785,500
Income Before Other Sources (Uses)	(2,623,000)	(12,748,600)	(15,371,600)
Insurance Proceeds	38,200	-	38,200
Transfer to Lakefront Mgt Authority	-	(1,842,714)	(1,842,714)
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES	(2,584,800)	(14,591,314)	(17,176,114)
FUND BALANCES, BEGINNING OF YEAR, (per audit)	48,813,009	44,445,621	93,258,630
Less: OPEB Reserve per audit plus FY 21	(13,246,704)	-	(13,246,704)
Less: FY 21 Maintenance Reserve	(23,513,000)	(33,300,000)	(56,813,000)
Add: Corp Portion of FY 21 Maintenance Reserve		15,000,000	15,000,000
Escrow OPEB	(2,000,000)	-	(2,000,000)
Escrow PCCP	(500,000)	-	(500,000)
FUND BALANCES AT END OF YEAR, UNRESERVED	6,968,505	11,554,307	18,522,812

WHEREAS, the O.L.D. is mandated to submit an approved budget by April 1, 2021, to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget and other various oversight authorities; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee at its meeting held on March 18, 2021, reviewed the O.L.D. General Fund and SLIP Fund Budget for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East approves the General Fund and SLIP Fund Budget of the Orleans Levee District for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022.

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Cosse

**RESOLUTION NO. 03-18-21-05 - APPROVAL OF FY 2022 BUDGET FOR THE
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY – EAST ON BEHALF
OF THE LAKE BORGNE BASIN LEVEE DISTRICT**

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

WHEREAS, the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East on behalf of the Lake Borgne Basin Levee District (LBBLD) has reviewed financial projections for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022, including estimated operating revenues and expenditures; and

WHEREAS, funding in the following amounts is required as detailed by the line item budget for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022:

TWELVE MONTHS ENDING JUNE 30, 2022 BUDGETS

	GENERAL FUND	CAPITAL PROJECTS	COMBINED
REVENUES			
Ad Valorem Taxes	2,756,200	-	2,756,200
Intergovernmental Revenue	566,500	-	566,500
Interest Income	5,500	-	5,500
Misc Revenue	31,100	3,844,000	3,875,100
Total Revenue	3,359,300	3,844,000	7,203,300
EXPENSES			
Personnel Services	1,554,500	-	1,554,500
Training and Travel	-	-	-
Professional Services	118,800	-	118,800
Contractual Services	891,100	-	891,100
Materials and Supplies	335,400	-	335,400
Equipment	335,400	-	335,400
Other Charges	62,200	-	62,200
Cost Sharing	1,858,600	-	1,858,600
MMCI Services	-	6,104,450	6,104,450
Total Expenses	4,866,300	6,104,450	10,970,750
Income Before Other Sources (Uses)	(1,507,000)	(2,260,450)	(3,767,450)
Insurance Proceeds	-	-	-
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES	(1,507,000)	(2,260,450)	(3,767,450)

FUND BALANCES, BEGINNING OF YEAR, (as of June 30, 2020 per audit)	3,579,543	-	3,579,543
Add; Transfer from FPA	3,600,000	-	3,600,000
FUND BALANCES AT END OF YEAR, UNRESERVED	5,672,543	(2,260,450)	3,412,093

WHEREAS, the LBBLD is mandated to submit an approved budget by April 1, 2021, to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget and other various oversight authorities; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee at its meeting held on March 18, 2021, reviewed the LBBLD General Fund Budget for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority - East approves the General Fund Budget of the Lake Borgne Basin Levee District for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2022.

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Cosse

Motion to approve revisions to the FPA Investment Policy.

Mr. Noel explained that two additional revisions were made to the Investment Policy at the Finance Committee meeting and must be reviewed by Executive Counsel. The additional revisions would allow investments with a rating of BBB (reduced from a rating of A) and placement of a cap of \$500,000 for investments not approved by the Board. Ms. Chandler clarified that the \$500,000 cap would apply to purchases of corporate bonds only. Mr. Noel offered a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Hassinger and unanimously adopted, to defer the motion to approve revisions to the FPA Investment Policy to next month's Board meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 03-18-21-06 - AUCTION OF SURPLUS ITEMS

Mr. Noel advised that the Finance Committee recommended that the Board approve the sale of the surplus items by auction. The items depreciated to a value of zero on the FPA's financial records; therefore, the sale of those items will be additional revenue for the FPA and levee districts. He pointed out that Board members and FPA employees cannot bid on the surplus items.

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

WHEREAS, the East Jefferson Levee District (EJLD), Orleans Levee District (O.L.D.) and Lake Borgne Basin Levee District (LBBLD) intend to sell certain items by auction that have been determined to be surplus; and

WHEREAS, a notarized affidavit shall be executed by the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (FPA) Chief Administrative Officer on behalf of the EJLD, O.L.D. and LBBLD listing the items to be sold by auction, an estimated value of each item and certifying that the items listed are surplus.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East authorizes the sale of surplus items by the EJLD, O.L.D. and LBBLD by an auction and authorizes the FPA Chief Administrative Officer to execute any and all documents necessary to accomplish the above.

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Cosse

RESOLUTION NO. 03-18-21-07 - AUTHORIZATION TO IDENTIFY VENDOR FOR PROPOSED AWARD OF CONTRACT TO PROVIDE ASSET MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE BETWEEN THE VENDOR CANDIDATES ASKED TO PROVIDE FINAL PROPOSALS

Mr. Noel advised that the Finance Committee recommended the selection of one of the two final vendors; however, the resolution before the Board would not be changed so that staff can proceed with negotiations for the best opportunity. IFS received the highest score in the grading and staff will proceed with the negotiations.

On the motion of Mr. Noel,

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

WHEREAS, the implementation of an asset management software in the tracking of the assets of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (FPA) would allow for the centralized tracking of important details in real time, which would be useful and beneficial to the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East and the levee districts within its jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, consistent with the presentation made by the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer to the Finance Committee at the committee meeting on February 18, 2021, evaluation of multiple asset management software vendor candidates has resulted in the identification of two vendors from whom final proposals have been requested; and

WHEREAS, final proposals are currently under review, with each vendor providing any supplemental information needed to inform the content of a proposed contract; and

WHEREAS, it is advantageous to the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East to continue progress towards selection of a vendor to provide asset management software, as an annual subscription, and implementation of same, to include procedure development and training, and to finalize terms;

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, the Board of Commissioners of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East authorizes the Deputy Chief Administrative Officer or his designee to evaluate the final proposals and to make the final selection of a vendor to provide asset management software and related services, with said selection to be presented to the Board for award of the contract for acquisition and implementation on the terms negotiated.

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

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

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Cosse

REPORT BY SAFETY CONSULTANT.

Mr. Morgan advised that he requested that the Safety Consultant provide initial feedback on his findings. He commented on the importance of the findings due to Workers' Compensation premium costs and time lost from injuries.

Rusty Kennedy, Deputy CAO, introduced Sal Rabito, FPA Safety Consultant, and commended Mr. Rabito on his interaction with staff and his ability to remedy the issues discovered.

Mr. Rabito advised that he has represented Gallagher Basset Services (GBS) for 14 years. GBS is a part of Arthur J. Gallagher and is a well-established company primarily providing loss control and claims services to insurance carriers, as well as third party administration services. The FPA's contract with GBS provides for 310 service hours over a four-month period (approximately two days per week).

Mr. Rabito reviewed the process he followed. Issues that needed immediate attention were first addressed. Next, a loss analysis was performed, which included a review of locations where injuries were occurring, along with the types of injuries and incidents, in order to gain a better understanding of the issues. In addition, a working understanding was gained of the FPA's operations by visiting every facility, watching every crew work, attending safety meetings and walking the shops. The next phase was the performance of hazard assessments or surveys of the facilities. Photos were taken of any issues discovered during the surveys and submitted to Mr. Kennedy and Earl Kugelmann, Maintenance Director, along with notes regarding the deficiencies pictured.

Mr. Rabito explained that his personal mission was to establish a safety presence with supervisors and field employees and for employees to realize that he was there to help. Hazards identified in the field were used as a lessons-learned intervention and

employees were told what they were doing wrong and provided instruction on how to do things properly.

Mr. Rabito further explained that he had noticed that hazards were being identified; however, the abatement process was stalled. He commented on the importance of following through to ensure that the abatement is completed and provided an example where he personally contacted an outside source to do a simple fix that met OSHA mandates to rectify a safety hazard. He added that he is calling safety hazards to the attention of managers, impressing on them their responsibility to ensure that hazards are corrected, and training them to take the next step to move the abatement process forward to rectify situations. He noted that he was receiving great support from supervisors and upper management.

Mr. Rabito reviewed the near term goals:

- Update FPA documented safety policies and procedures - Mr. Rabito stated that Gallagher is able to produce a good program for the FPA and that he could contour the program to address the FPA's operations and develop a good policy. The document would be reviewed with employees to ensure they have a good understanding of the policy and their responsibilities.
- Create training certification processes for the all FPA crafts – Mr. Rabito noted that FPA employees want to do things correctly, but need guidance. Each craft is being defined and a certification process will be established for each craft. Employees will need to be recertified annually. In addition, assistance is being sought from vendors regarding the operation of equipment.
- Perform initial and ongoing supervisor safety management trainings.
- Develop a risk assessment, self-audit process for field / warehouse - A safety inspection app (iAuditor) is being developed for supervisors to perform self-audits for their particular areas of supervision.

Mr. Rabito reviewed the long game:

- Creation of a viable, easy to manage world-class safety culture – This takes buy in from the Board, management, supervisors and employees. He suggested that safety become a part in the selection of future employees of the month.
- Hiring of a capable, well presented professional safety manager.
- Establish consistent event investigations and post incident practices – It was noted that in some cases multiple forms are filled out for incidents, the people who are doing the investigations have not had the proper training for investigations, and the root cause of incidents are not be discovered; therefore, the abatement procedures may or may not work.
- Gallagher's ongoing provision of loss control related support.

Mr. Latiolais commented that he works for a large construction company which surveyed employees and discovered a disconnect between what management and

workers in the field thought was lacking. He suggested a hazard recognition program in which employees can submit forms to report hazards, as well as reviewing trends.

Mr. Joanen inquired about high risk activities. Mr. Rabito responded that the FPA's exposures are not huge. He added that being a political subdivision of the State of Louisiana, the FPA is not required to follow OSHA guidelines. Mr. Latiolais pointed out that FPA employees could be involved in multiple employer sites, such as a contractor's construction site, and would need to follow OSHA guidelines.

Mr. Rabito explained that most incidents are not due to huge exposures or risks, but are routine, such as vehicles backing into objects and mowers hitting objects. The FPA's statistics improved in 2019 relative to work related injuries.

Mr. Latiolais recommended that although the FPA is not required to adhere to OSHA standards, it should hold itself to these higher standards.

Mr. Boese commented that, except for one recent serious accident, most of the incidents have been minor and suggested that the cause could be distraction. The Operations and Maintenance staffs responded to several major storms without accident or injury because everyone was focused.

Mr. Morgan thanked Mr. Rabito for his report and reviewed the four major takeaways: 1) a change in the FPA safety culture is needed in order to protect employees, 2) better training and procedures are needed, 3) the Authority needs to step up and ensure things are being done safely, and 4) a full time, dedicated safety professional is needed.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECT UPDATE.

Chris Humphreys, Director of Engineering, provided an update on four projects. The pictures included in the presentation were taken from filming taken by a drone.

- The Mitigation of Outfall Canal Erosion – 17th Street Canal project was completed by Cycle Construction within the time allotted by the contract (November 18, 2020). The contractor's bid was \$4,011,608 and the final contract amount was \$3,979,724. The outfall canals experience relatively high velocities during pumping, as well as rapid drawdown, which causes erosion and bank instability. The solution to this problem is a system of geocell on top of a nonwoven geotextile fabric, which is placed on top of a graded layer of new fill and anchored with 24-inch J-hooks on a pattern (three cells vertically and two cells horizontally) and pinned to the slope. In certain reaches rip-rap is used from the bottom of the cell to the bottom of the slope. The 6-inch deep cells are filled with one to three-inch diameter stone. Sheetpile was added for stability along a 750-foot length of the levee on the east side of the canal near Veterans Boulevard.
- The Seawall Erosion Control Paving Project – Reach 3A (between London Avenue Canal and Bayou St. John) is ongoing. The notice to proceed was issued on May 27, 2020, and the project is anticipated to be completed May 31, 2021. The

contractor's bid amount was \$10,495,752.60 and the project, including the \$103,000 change order to repair storm related damage that was outside of the contractor's scope, is currently on budget. This is the seventh and final phase of the Seawall Erosion Control Paving Project. The seawall is a Works Progress Administration project constructed in the 1930's. The current contract addresses the erosion behind the seawall steps. The contractor excavated behind the steps, drove 15-ft. long vinyl sheetpile to form a seepage barrier, backfilled with compacted sand, built up the adjacent area, drove piles and constructed a concrete cap. The project also includes repair of the expansion joints along the seawall, a maintenance roadway and two small pavilions for picnic tables.

- The FPA will submit documentation to FEMA by the end of March for the accreditation of the 40 Arpent Levee, which is currently provisionally accredited. The inspection of the levee system (about 24 miles) was performed using a drone, providing permanent documentation of the levee's current condition. The sheetpile located in certain areas of the levee was filmed on both sides by the drone.
- Operations and Maintenance requirements developed by the USACE mandate that the FPA survey the Outfall Canals at least every other year, and more frequently if the PCCP drop gates are closed due to tropical storms. Pilot studies were used to determine the best methods for the surveys. As a result, Fenstermaker was engaged to perform LIDAR and bathometric surveys. The two data sets were combined to allow versatility. ASVs (Autonomous Surface Vehicles) were used for the hydrographic (Sonar) survey and aerial drones were used for the topographic LIDAR survey. The surveys are used to detect scour, shoaling and sedimentation, and to provide cross sections and full contours of the canal. The surveys can be compared from year to year to detect differences. Staff will do a series of cross sections along the 17th Street Canal from Veterans Boulevard to Old Hammond Highway and provide the data to the FPA's civil and geotechnical consultants for the design and stability analysis for final phase of the Mitigation of Outfall Canal Erosion – 17th Street Canal Project.

The next regular monthly meeting of the Board will be held on April 15, 2021, in the St. Bernard Parish Council Chambers, St. Bernard Parish Government Complex, 8201 West Judge Perez Drive, Chalmette, LA.

There was no further business; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 12:20 p.m.