

**MINUTES OF
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST
COASTAL COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON MARCH 18, 2021**

PRESENT: Eugene J. Joanen, IV, Chair
Mark L. Morgan, Committee Member
Herbert T. Weysham, III, Committee Member

The Coastal Committee of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (FPA or Authority) met on March 18, 2021, in the Franklin Avenue Administrative Complex, Meeting Room 201, 6920 Franklin Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana. Mr. Joanen called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Opening Comments: Mr. Joanen advised that today's meeting would essentially cover where the Committee stands and participation to support the Committee's efforts.

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

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the Coastal Committee meeting held on January 21, 2021 were approved.

Public Comments: None

New Business:

A. Discussion of potential cooperative meetings with coastal organizations in Orleans, Jefferson and St. Bernard Parishes and the Northshore.

Mr. Joanen commented that coastal restoration is a hot topic in Louisiana and that keeping up with all of the projects, initiatives and meetings is almost a daily effort; therefore, he would be reaching out to staff and others who offered support regarding attending meetings. He noted the importance of forging partnerships with entities with projects in the vicinity of the FPA's flood defense system. He stated that at this time he is primarily focused on the south shoreline of Lake Pontchartrain and is attempting to ascertain the status of coastal activities in this area.

B. Discussion of support of recent oyster initiative.

Mr. Joanen commented that he received an invitation in September 2020 relative to the oyster initiative. He noted the importance of supporting good initiatives, even though they may not have a direct relationship with flood protection, as a matter of good will.

C. Discussion of search for available documents for self-healing/wave reduction technologies.

Mr. Joanen advised that he is seeking existing documents for energy reducing initiatives along the Lake Pontchartrain shoreline (e.g., floating islands, self-healing beaches and

creation of wetlands), in order to develop a compendium of existing research and present the findings. Further study may be needed on some of the research and technologies. He stated he would also like to begin developing a conceptual plan that is cohesive with existing plans and that part of this effort is identifying funding sources. The primary focus is prolonging the life of the flood defense system; project components, such as recreation, habitat and water quality, are added benefits. He requested input from Commissioners and stakeholders regarding the Committee's efforts and focus.

D. Discussion of continuing identification of projects that benefit the FPA-East and stakeholders.

Chris Humphreys, Director of Engineering, offered the support of the Engineering staff. He advised that Jefferson Parish is soliciting a partnership and financial support for a living shoreline project extending from Bucktown Harbor to the Bonnabel Boat Launch in order to move the project into construction. The project includes constructing berms about 400-feet offshore and developing a marsh between the shoreline and the barrier, resulting in land accretion. The project cost is about \$8 million and Jefferson Parish has about \$6 million of funding. The project would benefit the FPA's levee system. Mr. Joanen asked to meet with Jefferson Parish representatives relative to the project.

Derek Boese, Chief Administrative Officer (CAO), advised that Jefferson Parish also expressed interest in the area referred to as the "duck pond" near the Suburban Pump Station. The FPA discussed partnering with Jefferson Parish on the project by fixing the foreshore rock work and facilitating the water exchange. Jefferson Parish would handle the recreational and educational components of the project. Mr. Humphreys agreed that the FPA could embrace the civil, structural part of the project.

Mr. Morgan offered to provide materials that he acquired that would be of interest to the Committee and noted the importance of someone attending the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) meetings.

Mr. Humphreys advised that the FPA submitted a grant application to the Watershed Initiative for a project along the Lake Borgne-Lake Pontchartrain interface that consists of armoring the landbridge between Lake Catherine and Lake Pontchartrain. The project ducktails with a CPRA project for marsh creation and shoreline protection.

Mr. Joanen asked did FPA staff track federal funding opportunities. Mr. Boese responded that Rusty Kennedy, Deputy CAO, tracks these opportunities; however, the FPA also engaged a couple of consultants to track funding opportunities. Mr. Joanen pointed out that there are new opportunities related to climate change and offered his assistance with authoring grant applications.

There was no further business; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 9:49 a.m.