

**MINUTES OF
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST
COASTAL COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON APRIL 15, 2021**

PRESENT: Eugene J. Joanen, IV, Chair
Mark L. Morgan, Committee Member
Roy Arrigo, Committee Member

The Coastal Committee of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (FPA or Authority) met on April 15, 2021, in the St. Bernard Parish Council Chambers, St. Bernard Parish Government Complex, 8201 West Judge Perez Drive, Chalmette, Louisiana. Mr. Joanen called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

Opening Comments: Mr. Joanen commented that he anticipates having a number of positive things come out of the Coastal Committee for presentation to the Board.

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

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the Coastal Committee meeting held on March 18, 2021 were approved.

Public Comments: None

New Business:

A. Update on discussions with coastal organizations in Orleans, Jefferson and St. Bernard Parishes and the Northshore.

Mr. Joanen advised that he and Roy Arrigo watched via Zoom the Governor's Advisory Commission on Coastal Protection, Restoration and Conservation meeting on April 13th. The meeting covered a lot of ground from the mid-Barataria Sediment Diversion to other projects that are in and around the FPA's jurisdiction, but not directly related to the FPA, with the exception of the Bucktown Living Shoreline Protection Project. Upcoming meetings of various organizations are being assessed as to their germaneness to the FPA so that information can be gathered and appropriate support provided.

B. Update on search for available documents for living shoreline systems along the Southshore, along with continued examination for the benefit of such projects particularly closer to the western shore.

Mr. Joanen is continuing to explore nearshore living shoreline projects along with researching the matter. Mr. Joanen stated that he was excited to find that there are a number of projects being planned or that are underway for Orleans, Jefferson and St. Bernard Parishes. He advised that FPA staff provided a number of documents and that he had not yet had time to go through all of them.

C. Update on attendance of Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) meetings and establishment of contacts with other organizations.

See Item A.

D. Discussion of attendance of the State of the Coast Conference June 2-4.

Mr. Joanen advised that he would be attending the state of the Coast Conference to be held June 1 – 4.

E. Discussion of support of the Lake Villa Pond Project.

Mr. Joanen advised that he reviewed the documents on the Lake Villa Pond Project. The project is a good design, substantial and well done, having all of the right elements, including outreach and education. The Board will be advised regarding the Coastal Committee's support for the project.

F. Update on the review of the Orleans Land Bridge Project.

Mr. Joanen expressed his support for the Orleans Land Bridge Project. He commented that he anticipated having action items at the next Coastal Committee meeting; e.g., presenting a summary of the data that has been accumulated for feedback.

Chris Humphreys, Director of Engineering, provided an update on the Orleans Land Bridge Project. The FPA's effort, which has been led by FPA Engineer Jacinta Gisclair, has been on-going since January 2020 when the Louisiana Watershed Initiative announced it would provide grants for selected projects. The FPA's application was submitted for the Orleans Land Bridge Project on September 18, 2020. The FPA was notified in March 2021 that the Round 1 application for the Orleans Land Bridge Project was one of the applications being considered for a grant. The application is currently under management review by the Louisiana Watershed Initiative, which will award up to \$60 million in grants by May 2021. The FPA's project, consisting of shoreline protection, armoring and marsh creation, is an extension of the CPRA project near Highway 90 between Lake Borgne and Lake Pontchartrain near Lake Catherine.

Derek Boese, Chief Administrative Officer and the FPA's current representative on the New Orleans Board for the Louisiana Watershed Initiative, advised that the organization has been aware that he would be leaving the FPA on April 30th and that Kelli Chandler, Regional Director, and Mr. Humphreys would be discussing his replacement. An allocation of \$5 million has been made for each of the regions for projects in the initial round of funding. Discussions and vote on the projects is anticipated to take place in May. The discussions thus far have been primarily on setting up the steering committee and outreach.

Mr. Morgan commented that two projects were advertised this week: 1) the Lower Barataria Land Bridge Project (Jefferson Parish West Bank) by the Department of Interior, and 2) the Upper Barataria Mississippi River (Myrtle Grove) Diversion Project by Homeland Security. Both agencies received funding when fines were assessed for the BP oil spill.

Mr. Boese explained that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) requirements for the construction of the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) / Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity Project (LPV) include associated mitigation. The FPA is responsible for the majority of the LPV Project with the remainder being under the responsibility of the Pontchartrain Levee District. The USACE elected not to use mitigation banks for a number of reasons; therefore, four mitigation projects were built. Three of the projects are located in New Orleans East, the Northshore and Maurepas. FPA staff does not have the skill set (e.g., a biologist) to manage mitigation projects. Discussions are on-going with the CPRA regarding the development of an Intergovernmental Agreement so that the CPRA can manage the mitigation projects and be reimbursed by the FPA. The CPRA could tie the projects into its Master Plan for management and monitoring. Ms. Chandler and Mr. Humphreys are being briefed on this matter. Mr. Joanen requested that he also be briefed.

There was no further business; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 a.m.