

**MINUTES OF
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON MAY 20, 2021**

PRESENT: Mark L. Morgan, Chair
Clay A. Cosse, Committee Member
Jason P. 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 May 20, 2021, in the Joseph Yenni Building, Second Floor Council Chambers, 1221 Elmwood Park Blvd., Jefferson, Louisiana. Mr. Morgan called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Opening Comments: None.

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 April 15, 2021.

Public Comments: None.

Safety Minute:

Darren Deruisa, Electrician Specialist Leader with the Complex Structures Group and an active member of the Electrical Workers Local Union 130, provided the Safety Minute message on the danger of heat stress. He emphasized that everyone should watch for symptoms of heat stress and heat exhaustion, such as heavy sweating, dizziness, exhaustion, blurred vision, vomiting and loss of appetite, that may they or their fellow workers may experience. He explained that he and his crew are ensuring that they have the supplies necessary to combat the upcoming summer heat, including coolers and sufficient ice and water for long workdays, and that they take regular breaks when working outdoors so that everyone can sufficiently hydrate. He stressed the importance of hydration, especially for FPA employees working in areas where it would be difficult for help to reach them.

Mr. Morgan pointed out that the biggest safety concern in South Louisiana is heat stress and heat exhaustion.

New Business:

A. Discussion of the 2021 Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP).

Chris Humphreys, Director of Engineering, explained that staff updated the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) over the past couple of months, including contact information (internal and external) within various lists. On May 3rd the updated draft CEMP was sent to Board members for review and the comments received were addressed. Upon approval by the Board, the 2021 CEMP will be printed and available for June 1st.

The Operations Committee will recommend that the Board approve the 2021 CEMP.

B. Discussion of the proposed updated resolution to authorize the FPA Regional Director and/or the Director of Engineering, effective May 31, 2021, to approve the extension of a contract expiration date to accomplish the completion of the original tasks, without additional compensation or changing any of the other terms and conditions of the contract.

Kelli Chandler, Regional Director, commented that the proposed resolution would allow the approval of time extensions for contracts to allow the completion of task orders with no cost changes.

Herbert Miller, FPA President, explained that an amendment to the proposed resolution is planned to be offered at the Board meeting to specify that the extension of a contract can only be for the time period for delays not caused by a contractor. Mr. Morgan concurred with the amendment and pointed out that most FPA's construction contracts include provisions for liquidated damages to cover additional overhead and inspection costs.

The Committee will recommend that the Board approve the proposed resolution relative to contract extensions, subject to the inclusion of the amendment recommended by Mr. Miller.

C. Discussion of the proposed award of a contract to Baker Pile Driving and Site Work, LLC, in the amount of \$760,456.80 for the East Jefferson Sheet Pile Wall Rehabilitation Project.

Mr. Humphreys advised that five bids were received for blasting and painting the sheet pile wall near the old East Jefferson Levee District (EJLD) facility. The sheet pile wall is located behind the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS); however, it is part of the secondary protection and is in need of maintenance. The bids range from \$760,456.80 to almost \$1.5 million (three bids were close on the low end and two were on the high end). The Engineer's estimate for construction was \$850,000. The FPA's consultant, Jacob Engineering, reviewed the low bid submitted by Baker Pile Drive and Site Work, LLC. (Baker), found the bid to be responsive and recommended that the contract be awarded to Baker. The sheet pile was driven as part of a DOTD

project that was altered in the 1980's; therefore, the sheet pile could have been driven prior to 1980.

The Committee will recommend that the Board approve the award of the contract for the East Jefferson Sheet Pile Wall Rehabilitation Project to Baker.

D. Discussion of the proposed Change Order to the contract with Kort's Construction Services, Inc., in an amount up to \$115,000.00 to provide an additional row of Turf Reinforcement Matting (TRM) behind the originally scoped single row of TRM for the Lakeshore Drive Improvements Seawall Area Erosion Control Paving Project Reach 3A.

Mr. Humphreys explained that after the 2020 storm season FPA staff discovered that the area reinforced with Turf Reinforcement Matting (TRM) located behind the paving in previously constructed reaches of the Seawall Erosion Control Project experienced significant erosion and scouring as a result of seawall overtopping. The erosion took place in the reinforced portion and further inland beyond the reinforcement. The plans for Reach 3A, which is currently under construction, includes only one row TRM. Since erosion is occurring further back in the other reaches, it would be prudent at this time to include an additional row of TRM in Reach 3A. The total contract value of the Reach 3A project is \$10.4 million. Mr. Morgan pointed out that Lake Pontchartrain is generally rising in elevation; therefore, the seawall overtopping would reach further inland.

The Committee will recommend that the Board approve the proposed Change Order to the contract with Kort's Construction Services, Inc.

E. Discussion of the proposed authorization to award a contract to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder and execution of said contract in an amount not to exceed \$173,991.53 for the Hurricane Zeta Damage (Erosion) Repairs.

Mr. Humphreys advised that the proposed contract would address erosion that took place during the 2020 storm season in the reinforced and adjacent areas of a previously constructed reach of the Lakefront Seawall Erosion Control Project west of Reach 3A. The erosion became most apparent after Hurricane Zeta. The original TRM will be peeled back, the area backfilled and regraded, the TRM replaced and additional TRM installed. Bids will be solicited for the project and the construction cost will be reimbursed by FEMA. The not to exceed amount provided is a conservative estimate for the work.

The Committee will recommend that the Board approve the authorization to award a contract to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder for the Hurricane Zeta Damage (Erosion) Repairs.

F. Discussion of the proposed award of a contract in the amount of \$1,255,230.00 to Arc Mechanical Contractors, Inc. for the FPA Franklin Avenue Facility Fire Protection System Improvements Project.

Rusty Kennedy, Director of Facilities, Safety and Risks, advised that the FPA Franklin Avenue Facility Fire Protection System Improvements Project was advertised and two bids were received on May 6th. Due to a mathematical error when totaling the line items, the bid submitted by Arc Mechanical Contractors, Inc. (Arc) of \$1,327,000 was corrected and reduced to \$1,255,230. Arc was comfortable with the corrected bid amount and FPA staff was comfortable with moving forward with Arc as the lowest responsive bidder. The FPA's consultant, Digital Engineering, reviewed the bid and recommended that the contract be awarded to Arc. The second bid was submitted by Lou Con in the amount of \$1,365,000. Arc was a subcontractor on the Administration Building and Warehouse renovations project completed in 2019 and therefore familiar with the Franklin facility. The project consists of replacing the backflow preventer and updating the pump house and the fire suppression system in the warehouse, along with other maintenance items. The new system will be in place prior to the old equipment being decommissioned. The switchover should take about half a day. Construction administration will be provided by Digital Engineering and inspection can be handled in-house for the 150-day project.

The Committee will recommend that the Board award the contract to Arc.

G. Discussion of a proposed Task Order with Evans-Graves Engineers, Inc. in the amount of \$174,570.33 for Permitting, Preparation of Plans and Specifications, and Bid Support for the Erosion Mitigation Project – 17th Street Canal, Old Hammond Highway to Veterans Boulevard (East Side).

Mr. Humphreys explained that Old Hammond Highway to Veterans Boulevard (East Side) is the last phase of the 17th Street Canal Erosion Mitigation Project. Erosion mitigation was done by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers after Hurricane Katrina on the west side of the 17th Street Canal from Old Hammond Highway to Veterans Boulevard. The east side of the canal reach includes at least three scenarios with varying lengths (approximately 50-feet, 25-feet and no bank exposed above the water level). Evans-Graves did a good job on previous outfall canal erosion mitigation projects and has a proven design that works; however, the subject reach will also require the evaluation of a more extensive pile solution. The estimated construction cost is \$9 million.

The Committee will recommend that the Board approve the issuance of the proposed Task Order to Evans-Graves Engineers, Inc.

There was no further business; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 10:48 a.m.