

**MINUTES OF
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON MAY 16, 2019**

PRESENT: Herbert I. Miller, Chair
Clay A. Cosse, Committee Member
Mark L. Morgan, 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 16, 2019, in the St. Bernard Parish Council Chambers, St. Bernard Parish Government Complex, 8201 Judge Perez Drive, Chalmette, Louisiana. Mr. Miller called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Opening Comments: None.

Adoption of Agenda: The agenda was adopted by the Committee.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the April 18, 2019, Operations Committee meeting were approved.

Public Comments:

Ray Landeche stated that he appreciated the Committee's action last month deferring the advertisement of Phase IV of the Lake Pontchartrain Seawall Erosion Control Project until today's meeting; however, he had not learned much additional information regarding the planned development and design over the past 30 days. Based on a limited presentation by Design Engineering, Inc. (DEI) to the Non-Flood Protection Asset Management Authority (NFA) on May 13th, it appeared that DEI is recommending that the plan be unchanged and that only 50 parking spaces be developed, which limits public access to the park. He advised that he visited the site multiple times since the last meeting. He stated that he would like the FPA to proceed with the seawall repair; however, the original design of the area comprising Phase IV had a thru street going through the park that included 150 parking spaces and additional curbside parking. The new design has 50 parking spaces. The new design calls for destroying the roadway, even though 25 percent of the roadway was repaired post-Katrina by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). He stated that in his assessment the current cement road needs some panel repairs and that about one-third or 50 of the parking spaces need repair. He questioned the reason for the redesign of the park. He stated that this is the only seawall project that reduces access to the public and reduces parking spaces, and he questioned the reason for this reduction. He advised that the Lakeshore Property Owners Association's board will meet on May 20th and that he wanted to present information to his neighbors who voiced concern about limiting access to the public. He stated that 3,000-feet of the lakefront is more than 10 percent of the 5.2 miles of available public access to the lakefront. His concern is that anytime

access is limited in one area, it causes overcrowding in other areas. He hoped that the FPA reconsiders the current design and, if possible, goes back to the original design.

Robert Romero advised that he serves on the NFA Board and NFA Recreation and Subdivision Committee. The NFA Recreation and Subdivision Committee discussed the Phase IV project at its most recent meeting. He explained that the entire park area included in Phase IV runs into the Lake Terrace Subdivision. Lake Terrace Subdivision unanimously approved and support the Phase IV project. He stated that there has been a lot of discussion about parking, the roadbed and vehicle access. The engineers for the project developed a solution that was satisfactory to the Recreation and Subdivision Committee and to Lake Terrace relative to vehicle access. Phase IV completes the Seawall Erosion Control Project. The park included in Phase IV extends along the lakefront from Bayou St. John to UNO with a roadway that has access on one end but dead-ends on the other end at the exit. This issue has been resolved. The Recreation and Subdivision Committee looked closely at the availability of parking, determined that a small pocket park had been created and that 50 parking spaces were adequate. He pointed out that even increasing the parking spaces to 98 would encroach upon the levee. The Recreation and Subdivision Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the FPA move forward with the Phase IV project.

New Business:

A. Discussion of the proposed advertisement of Phase IV of the Lake Pontchartrain Seawall Erosion Control Project for bids.

Mr. Morgan commented that the Operations Committee deferred this item for thirty days in order to have the FPA's engineer revisit the parking situation and verify that the local residents were not opposed to the design.

Derek Boese, Chief Administrative Officer, advised that at this time the FPA has not received any information that would cause a change in course from the original staff recommendation. He explained that the design includes 50 parking spaces, a cul-de-sac and drainage improvements in the park and that the major component of the project is the seawall erosion control improvements. The park has been closed off since Hurricane Katrina because of damage to the roadway. Prior to Hurricane Katrina the roadway was a thruway with access from and to Lakeshore Drive. The levee lift and realignment caused the closure of one end of the roadway creating a cul-de-sac. Reopening the thruway would require access over the levee. A number of issues were considered when evaluating the creation of additional parking spaces, including drainage, retaining green space and impacts to the seawall. In addition, there was a safety concern because of the need for police officers to have line of sight of the entire parking area. A major concern at different points along the lakefront is the inability to easily observe an area when passing without having to drive into every nook and cranny. Expanding parking spaces in Phase IV would take the spaces around the bend of the levee thus losing the line of sight needed for security purposes.

Mr. Miller stated that he met with the FPA's engineer and discussed the project and that he was satisfied with current design.

Mr. Morgan offered a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Weysham and unanimously adopted, to recommend to the Board that it move forward with the advertisement of the Phase IV project.

B. Discussion of revised Emergency Operations Procedures Manual for 2019.

Mr. Morgan advised that he reviewed the updated Emergency Operations Procedures (EOP) manual and that the only comment he had was that the organizational structure should probably be revisited.

Mr. Boese explained that the EOP manual was developed to be a living document and that the manual will be refined as staff learns lessons during each event. The manual was updated to include the Permanent Canal Closures and Pumps (PCCP). Staff intends to update the manual to include High River emergency responses and plans. The organizational chart presents a challenge in attempting to display the command and organizational structure and agency liaisons in the most effective and efficient way possible. Stevan Spencer, Chief Engineer, added that the levee districts confirm and update the emergency contacts listed in the manual each year.

Mr. Boese advised that the pump stations were previously entangled in the Lake Borgne Basin Levee Districts' (LBBLD) EOP manual. The pump stations were removed from the main document and will be included as an appendix.

Mr. Miller asked, would the FPA have access to SCADA information from the Jefferson Parish pump stations during a storm event? Mr. Boese replied, yes; Jefferson Parish has been very accommodating. The FPA is negotiating a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) with Jefferson Parish for the 17th Street Canal PCCP. The FPA has offered Jefferson Parish access to its SCADA information.

Mr. Miller asked, does the FPA have staff assigned to the Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) for the three parishes? Mr. Boese replied, yes; two person police teams are assigned (so that each individual can take a 12 hour shift) as FPA liaisons for the EOCs for the three parishes.

Mr. Morgan offered a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Weysham, and unanimously adopted to recommend that the Board approve the updated EOP manual.

C. Discussion of the increase of the not to exceed cost for the construction of the levee lift portion of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) LPV.111.01 (ARM-09) armoring/levee lift project to \$10 million (an increase of \$8 million) with \$3.5 million of said increase to be funded from the unused funding transferred to the USACE for the LPV 109.02a (ARM 05) project and \$4.5 million to be transferred by the Orleans Levee District to the USACE.

Mr. Spencer explained that the FPA originally requested that the USACE raise 4,000 linear feet of LPV 111.01 as part of its ARM-09 armoring/levee lift project; therefore, the USACE provided an initial estimate of \$2 million for the levee lift work. The USACE's preconstruction surveys indicated that the remainder of LPV 111.01 had subsided (an additional 23,500 linear feet) and needed to be raised. The additional funding would allow the levee to be raised from 6 to 12 inches to reach the initial elevation in advance of the recertification of the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) in 2023. The USACE's ARM 05 levee lift/armoring project is under budget; therefore, \$3.5 million can be shifted from the ARM 05 project to the ARM 09 project. It was pointed out that if the FPA does not approve the additional funding for the LPV 111.01 levee lift work, the USACE will only proceed with armoring the levee and the FPA will be required to raise and re-arm the levee at its expense prior to 2023.

Mr. Morgan offered a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Weysham and unanimously adopted, to recommend that the Board approve the additional cost for the LPV 111.01 (ARM 09) levee lift work.

D. Discussion of the proposed appropriation of a temporary servitude at the appraised value offered to property owner Chad Phillip Blanchard in St. Bernard Parish for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' seepage control project.

Mr. Miller explained that the FPA provided an offer to the property owner and the property owner submitted a counter offer without substantiating information. The property owner's offer was rejected by the FPA; therefore, the FPA must proceed with the appropriation at the original offer. He asked, was the FPA on sound legal ground with the appropriation? Michelle White, Executive Counsel, replied, absolutely.

Mr. Morgan offered a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Weysham and unanimously adopted, to recommend that the Board proceed with the appropriation of the temporary servitude.

E. Discussion of the proposed award of a contract for a PCCP amplifier system installation in order to enhance hand radio communications at the Permanent Canal Closures and Pumps. (Bids to be received on May 15, 2019)

Mr. Boese explained that the USACE exercised the PCCP pump stations prior to their turnover to the FPA; however, it did not test the PCCP pump stations in the manner in which they would be operated during an event. While testing the PCCP pump stations the FPA discovered communications issues due to the amount of concrete and steel in the facilities. The communication issues are safety issues both within the pump stations as well as when communicating with the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (SWBNO) and other entities. The amplifier system, which includes an external antenna to boost radio signals at each facility, will augment the FPA's hand held radio capabilities. The cost of the amplifier system will be shared with the SWBNO.

Gerry Gillen, Operations Director, explained that an assessment was performed by Tomba Communications and a scope of work and estimated cost was provided. Since the initial estimate was about \$150,000, the FPA advertised a request for bids. An addendum was issued to the bid request requiring all installed cable to be in conduit and for the contractor to provide its own lift system for the antenna installations. One bid in the amount of \$221,000 was received from Motorola. Motorola will take the lead using Motorola solutions and subcontract work to Tomba Communications. Mr. Boese pointed out that when taking into account the addendum, the bid was probably about 20 percent over the initial estimate. He stated that staff was comfortable recommending that the project proceed.

Mr. Morgan offered a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Weysham and unanimously adopted, to recommend that the Board approve the award of a contract for the installation of the PCCP amplifier system.

F. Discussion of a proposed Intergovernmental Agreement between the East Jefferson Levee District and the Parish of Jefferson for the recreational use of the all weather access road located on the Lakefront Levee in unincorporated Jefferson Parish.

Mr. Boese explained that Jefferson Parish intends to implement a double pathway in order to facilitate recreational usage of the all weather access road, which necessitates the execution of a CEA between the FPA and Jefferson Parish. The USACE and Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) approved the usage from a permit perspective. The CEA provides that Jefferson Parish will be responsible for striping, signage and ramp maintenance for all four bridges. Jefferson Parish will be responsible for maintenance costs up to \$20,000 per year. Maintenance costs over \$20,000 per year will be cost shared (50/50%) between the FPA and Jefferson Parish. The FPA will be responsible for repair costs for the roadway should it be damaged in the future while repairing the foreshore protection. He stated that the negotiated CEA presents a good solution and benefits both the FPA and the public. The Jefferson Parish Council will consider approval of the CEA at its next meeting.

Mr. Morgan inquired about the inclusion of a hold harmless provision in the CEA. Ms. White advised that the CEA includes general hold harmless language. Mr. Boese pointed out that the FPA is statutorily protected relative to the recreational usage. The roadway is heavily used by the public and ties into the Bonnabel boat launch and the Bucktown marina area. Mr. Miller noted that the roadway is very well monitored by the EJLD Police Department.

A motion was offered, seconded and unanimously adopted, for the Committee to recommend that the Board approve the CEA.

There was no further business; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 10:27 a.m.