



The Flood Protection Authority-East

News of Your Flood Defense System

July 1, 2021

Message From President Mark Morgan

When Governor Blanco first assigned me to serve on the Flood Authority and Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) boards fifteen years ago, I had no idea that I would spend nearly a quarter of my life improving flood protection. At that time CPRA had no staff and the Levee Districts that now make up FPA were primarily functioning as grass mowers. There was little to no protection south and east of New Orleans. Today, I am proud of the influence the Board has provided to select protection options, review designs, and head the State's response to the US Army Corps of Engineers' Hurricane Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (System). The System is recognized around the world as a significant accomplishment. Now CPRA and both East and West Authorities have a significant staff of professionals with experience to maintain this system and improve our efficiency to meet the challenges of the future.

The Authorities, East and West were established by legislative act with the purpose of improving flood protection for New Orleans, the Westbank, and surrounding areas. That is our sole purpose. Historical decisions and practices often interrupt our focus. Last month two issues arose that caused interruption. The first, was a legislative resolution to dictate what we do with proceeds from the sale of assets. That is not on us, we do not plan on selling any of our flood protection system. The second, was the threat by legislators that they would shut FPA down because of our traffic management on Lakeshore Drive. Unfortunately, that is on us. We will address these, and other issues not related to flood matters, as quickly and efficiently as possible to remain focused. When an event happens, we want to be no less than 100% focused.

The results of Climate Change will present new challenges, and the FPA is prepared to meet them. We have explored and studied potential long-term maintenance issues and are addressing them. We have discussed the possibility of upgrading to a 200-year level of protection, while recognizing that most of the State has limited protection. We want to continue to upgrade and improve our staff to meet those challenges. The FPA is ready and capable of responding to any event and we want every citizen to recognize our team and be appreciative of their contributions to our outstanding defense system.

SAFETY awareness will be the primary goal of the agency for the remainder of the fiscal year (July 1-June 30, 2022). We want FPA employees to go home to their families and not be concerned about their health. We want the public to rest assured that we are working to protect their property and well-being. When we all become aware of our safety, and that those we work with, everyone will enjoy the benefits of our efficiency.

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www.floodauthority.org

 Flood Protection Authority

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

**Mark L. Morgan, P.E. – President
Roy M. Arrigo, Vice President
Clay A. Cosse'- Secretary
K. Randall Noel, Treasurer
Richard G. Duplantier, Jr.
Eugene J. Joanen, IV
Jason P. Latlolars
Herbert I. Miller, PE, DDE, F. ASCE
Herbert T. Weysham, III**

IN THIS ISSUE	PAGE
FPA Recognizes Service of Joe Hassinger	1
New Appointments to FPA Board	1
Annual Election of FPA Officers	2
Senate EPW Staffers Tour HSDRRS Infrastructure	2
FPA Virtual Tour of Flood Defense System	4
Repairs to Railway Floodgate W-33	5
Improving & Maintaining Our Levee System	6
Operations Throws Light On Safety & Security	7
FPA Public Information Alerts	8

FPA Recognizes Service of Joe Hassinger



Board members Gene Joanen, Randy Noel, Clay Cosse, Mark Morgan, Herbert Miller, Joe Hassinger, Herbert Weysham and Roy Arrigo

Lambert J. (Joe) Hassinger, Jr., was recognized by the Board at its June 17th meeting for his eight years of service to the Flood Protection Authority-East. Mr. Hassinger was appointed by Governor Bobby Jindal on October 16, 2013, to serve on the Board and reappointed by Governor John Bel Edwards on September 28, 2016, to serve a second term, which ended on July 1, 2021.

Mr. Hassinger is a director of the Galloway Johnson, Tompkins Burr & Smith law firm, which is based in New Orleans, with ten other offices across seven states, and has practiced law throughout Louisiana for over 25 years.

Mr. Hassinger served as President of the Board from July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2019. Under his Presidency he provided the leadership needed to regionalize the management, operation and maintenance of the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System and Mississippi River Levee System under the jurisdiction of the Flood Protection Authority-East, and to bring about cultural changes to the organization.

New Appointments to the FPA Board of Commissioners



Roy M. Arrigo was appointed by Governor John Bel Edwards to the Flood Protection Authority-East Board effective April 2, 2021, to fill the vacancy created when former Commissioner Quentin Dastugue resigned. Mr. Arrigo was reappointed by the Governor to serve a new four-year term starting on July 2, 2021, and ending on July 1, 2025.

Mr. Arrigo served as a member of the Board of Commissioners of the Lakefront Management Authority, representing Senate District No. 3, from June 16, 2015, through June 1, 2020, and as a Commissioner on the Lakefront Crime Prevention District from February 2011 through June 2015.

Mr. Arrigo is a graduate of Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. Mr. Arrigo retired in 2017 after working as a multistate sales manager with experience managing a salesforce that covered two states, as well as managing the finances and budgets for his sales department.



Richard G. Duplantier, Jr., was appointed by Governor John Bel Edwards on October 30, 2020, to serve on the Flood Protection Authority-East Board for a four-year term starting on July 2, 2021, and ending July 1, 2025. Mr. Duplantier replaces Lambert J. Hassinger, Jr., whose term ended on July 1, 2021.

Mr. Duplantier is a senior partner at Galloway, Johnson, Thompson, Burr & Smith and currently serves as the Managing Partner of Galloway's New Orleans office. He is a respected trial lawyer engaged in general commercial litigation practice and more specifically in products liability, construction, environmental and all facets of professional liability, including medical, accounting and legal malpractice defense.

For over twelve years, Mr. Duplantier served on the Board of Directors of the ASI Federal Credit Union, volunteering his time and energy to reinvigorate the New Orleans community in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. He has volunteered with the Beacon of Hope in efforts to fight blight in New Orleans and rebuild the communities hardest hit by the flood. Currently, he is a member of the National Legal Industry Council of the NGLCC and is President of the Gulf South Chamber, the New Orleans regional affiliate of the NGLCC.

Mr. Duplantier received an undergraduate degree in Communications and Political Science from Marquette University in 1984 and a law degree from Loyola University School of Law in 1988.

FPA-East Board Elects Officers for Fiscal Year 2021-2022

In accordance with its Bylaws, the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East Board at its June meeting each year elects the Officers who will serve a one-year term commencing on July 1st.



At its June 17th meeting, the Board elected Officers who will serve from July 1, 2021, thru June 30, 2022: (pictured left-right) Mark L. Morgan, President; Roy M. Arrigo, Vice President; Clay A. Cosse, Secretary; and K. Randall Noel, Treasurer.

Senate EPW Staffers Tour HSDRRS Infrastructure

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineering, New Orleans District, hosted a four day visit (June 3-6, 2021) by staff members from the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works during which the participants met with Governor John Bel Edwards and toured various flood protection and infrastructure projects around the State.

On day two of the visit (June 4th) the participants toured the 17th Street Canal Permanent Canal Closures and Pumps (PCCP) and the IHNC-Lake Borgne Surge Barrier. The FPA staff participating in the tour were Kelli Chandler, Regional Director, Chris Humphreys, Director of Engineering, and Darren Austin, Operations Director.



FPA Now Offers Virtual Tours of the Flood Defense System

Visitors will have access to the Surge Barrier and 17th Street Canal Pump Station

The Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (FPA) partnered with virtual reality (VR) company, Pyxis LLC., to produce a 15-minute virtual tour of the \$4B Hurricane Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS), which spans three parishes. The new technology allows for viewers to fly over the Lake Borgne-IHNC Surge Barrier or walk through the 17th Street Canal Pump Station with the use of any VR capable headset. The video begins with the history of the HSDRRS system being born out of the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and then takes the viewer airborne to the Surge Barrier where in-person tours would normally begin.



Jared Stanton, Founder of Pyxis, said, “Virtual Reality is perfect for projects exactly like this one. We promised the Flood Protection Authority that once we completed, they would be able to provide people across the globe with a tour, and that's exactly what we have done. Now, if you want to stand in front of the massive pumps, all you need is a cardboard headset and a mobile phone.”



**Permanent Canal Closures and Pumps (PCCP)
17th Street Canal Pump Station**

The video will also be used as a component of the FPA’s educational initiative which is geared towards the middle school science curriculum. The program has been adopted by the St. Bernard Parish School District since 2017. The FPA is currently seeking new schools to adopt the program as well.

The project came about before the pandemic as the FPA was looking at new ways to expand its educational outreach. As school systems continue to seek out innovative ways to teach students and maneuver around COVID-19 protocols, the FPA found this virtual tour to be a huge benefit to classrooms around the area. The FPA purchased 10 MergeEDU softshell headsets to be used during classroom visits.

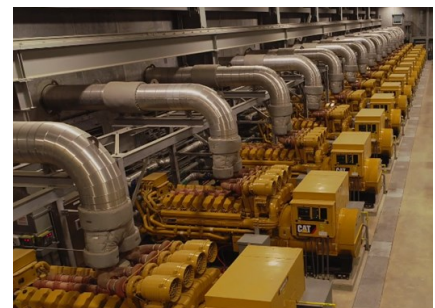
The VR tour also increases the FPA’s global reach as a member of I-STORM, an international network for storm surge barriers which spans 30 countries. FPA Regional Director Kelli Chandler said, “We have had hundreds of visitors from the I-Storm community visit our structures in the past, but due to the pandemic we had to stop the tours. This gives our partners a completely new and innovative option to visit the structures once again.” The FPA had over 800 visitors from 10 countries to its HSDRRS system in 2019.

The video can be found on the FPA website www.floodauthority.org. Pyxis created custom-branded, cardboard headsets for FPA-East that will be available upon request and availability. Agency partners may request up to 5 cardboard headsets that will be sent as flat mailers once the request is approved. Agencies may request to visit the FPA-East office located at 6920 Franklin Avenue to use the FPA-issued Oculus VR headset onsite.

For more information, please contact the FPA Public Information Office at 504-286-3100. To learn more about Pyxis, LLC visit www.pyxisvr.com.



PCCP pumps (above) & generators (below)



Repairing Railway Floodgate W-33

The City of New Orleans as a port city effects the entirety of the United States and even the world. Thousands upon thousands of tons of cargo run through the City via ships, trucks, and most importantly to this article by rail. Of the 244 land based flood gates operated by the Flood Protection Authority, 38 are railway gates. Coordination with the many rail owners and operators for closures and maintenance is no easy feat when any closures affect the entire nations supply train.

The current project to repair Floodgate W-33 along the Inner Harbor Navigational Canal (IHNC), like many of our flood gates is hidden in plain sight. Hundreds drive over it daily on Interstate 10, never realizing the importance of the railways operating and floodwalls/gates standing at the ready below. Locals will know the area as the “Old Almonaster Bridge.”

This section of rail affects several Class I Railroads. It is an intersection of several rails as well as a connection to railyards on either side of the IHNC. Class I Railroads are defined as those with greater than \$250 million in revenue.

The floodgate was damaged in early 2019 due to a derailment.



Left: Photo taken prior to beam removal, January, 2019.

Right: Temporary HESCO basket closure, hurricane Barry, July 2019.



Left: Column Resteeeling, May 17, 2021.

Right: Concrete Column Placement, June 2, 2021



The project included repairing/rebuilding the walls directly adjacent to the gate opening, rebuilding the columns that hold the beam for rolling the gate into place and rebuilding the sills around the railway tracks.

The project is nearing completion at the time of the writing of this article. The FPA is at the ready and prepared to implement a temporary closure as needed until the project is complete.

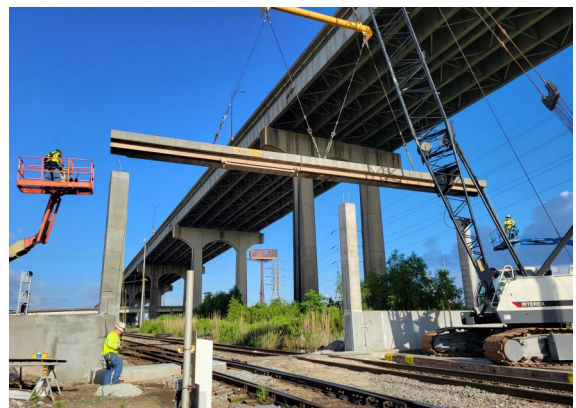
By Jacinta Gisclair, Levee Safety Engineer



Left: Sill Placement, June 22, 2021

Right: Beam Placement June 29, 2021

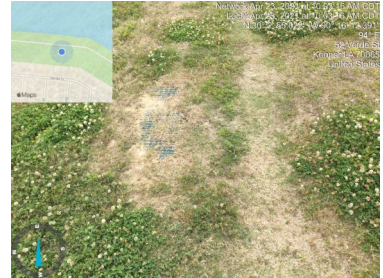
Contractor:
Boh Brothers
Construction Co., LLC



Improving and Maintaining Our Levee System

EJLD and OLD Lake Pontchartrain Levee Crown Sod Protection

On June 16, 2021, the Flood Protection Authority awarded a contract in the amount of \$166,566.20 to J.C. Cheek Contractors for installing sod on approximately 12,000 feet of levee crown in the East Jefferson Levee District and \$134,857.58 for installing sod on approximately 9,000 feet of levee crown in the Orleans Levee District. The sod will be installed at intermittent locations along the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS). These sites are experiencing wearing of the grass and eroding of the soils on the levee crowns, which causes the Turf Reinforced Matting to become exposed and unprotected. The projects will re-establish the soils and vegetation to keep the mats and the levee protected.



Lakeshore Drive Improvements - Seawall Area Erosion Control Paving Project Reach 3A

Reach 3A of the Lakeshore Drive Improvements Seawall Area Erosion Control Paving Project extends from Bayou St. John to the London Avenue Canal. Completion is anticipated on July 23, 2021

In addition to driving vinyl sheets on the landside of the seawall to prevent seepage and reduce erosion, the project will repair the eroded areas and help protect the trees near the shoreline from storm surges and saltwater intrusion. New trash receptacles, park benches and picnic pavilions are being installed, along with new and improved lighting. Considerable drainage had been added to help prevent standing water in the large park areas. Three of the four drainage phases are complete.



Pedestrian access to the site will be improved with the (almost completed) new staircases, which will allow pedestrians to safely traverse the bridge over Bayou St. John. On the East side of the project, the dedicated turn lane from Lakeshore Drive is also almost complete, with roadway paving operations already started. Very little concrete work remains and only one monolith is left to pour. The project is being constructed by Kort's Construction Services, Inc.

*By Donald F. Jerolleman, Jr., MSc, PE,
Senior Project Manager*

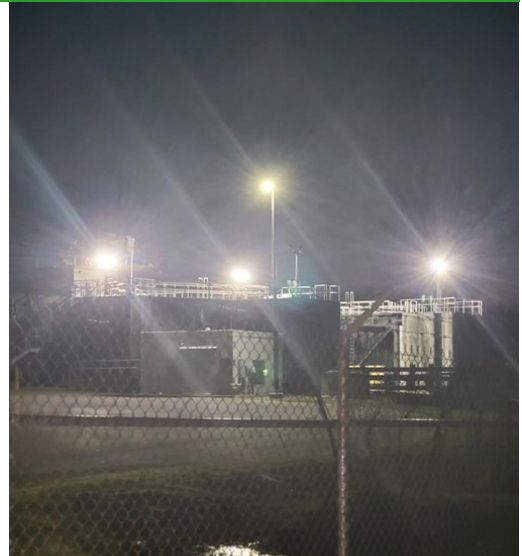


Operations Throwing A Little Light on Safety & Security

When we think of safety in the workplace, I think it is safe to say that most of us think of the Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) we use on a daily basis, be it eye protection, hearing protection, fall protection, safety shoes, life vests, Hi-Viz gear or even raincoats. Since most of the work done by the crews of the FPA are typically done during daylight hours, we probably don't even give a second thought to lighting.

However, be it the darkening of the skies due to an impending storm, the shortened days of the winter season, or the need to work overnight for a high tide event, lighting can play a very major role in the safety of those who must work in darkened conditions.

There have been several efforts underway to more safely conduct operations at night, including fitting our vehicles with spotlight and light bars. Unfortunately, vehicles and light bars can only reach so far and get so close to structures like our sector gates and other flood control structures that are often much higher than the surrounding ground elevation.



2. Caernarvon Sector Gate



3. Sector Gate Navigation Lights

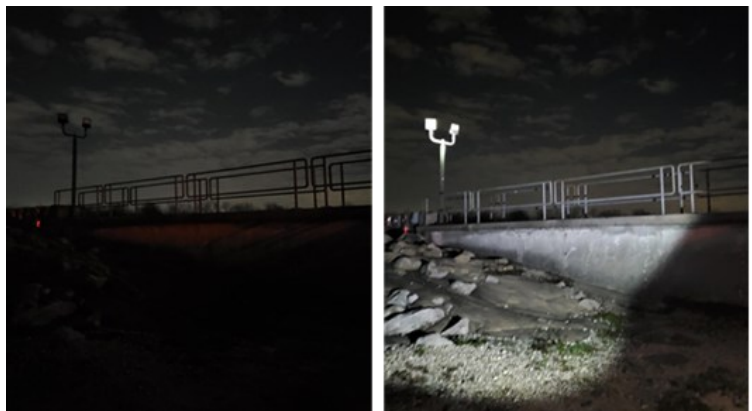
To this end, another such effort has been undertaken by the Complex Structures Electrical Group (317 crew Darren Deruisa, Jovan Trouillier and Eric Alexis), who have been replacing many of the existing, aging structure lights with new, higher performance LED lighting. In Pictures (1) below, it can be seen what a striking difference it makes to our structures that are mostly so remote that they don't even benefit from the light pollution of nearby businesses or street lighting. Similarly, the Operation Department's PCCP Electrical Group (400 crew Darren Nichols, Chris Norfleet and Zack Wertz) has started making the same type of LED conversions to the stations' area lighting. While the originally-installed lights at these sites was adequate, the investment in LED lights offers many advantages, including cooler running, longer life and better efficiency, regardless of the age of the structure.

Security is also another important factor that these structure lighting upgrades have improved. As seen in Picture 2 (above), the Caernarvon site is so well lit that there is no place for anyone wanting to do harm to the structure or equipment to hide. This also helps in the safety aspects of the crews having visibility as they approach the site and being able to spot anything unusual before they get into harm's way.

Finally, there is the public safety aspect of lighting. For our Marine Complex Structures, these come in the form of Navigational Lights as seen in Picture 3 (the red lights). These lights help boaters stay within the limits of the navigation channels of our structures and avoid allisions with unknown obstacles or our structures outside of those limits.

Through improvements like these, we make our workplace a safer and more secure place to work, day or night.

**By Darren J. Austin, P.E.,
Director of Operations Department**



**1. Bayou Bienvenue Sector Gate access walkway with and without lighting.
Can you tell the difference?**

FPA Public Information Alerts

sign-up



If we can't **REACH** you
we can't **ALERT** you

The Flood Protection Authority-East (FPA) strives to provide timely information to the public regarding public safety issues, closures and events that impact people, businesses and communities in order to minimize disruptions and keep the public safe and informed. The FPA implemented the Everbridge Management Platform for providing alerts to the public.

Everbridge is the industry standard using the most up-to-date communication technology and is widely used throughout federal, state and local government agencies, organizations, commerce and industry.

The FPA offers subscriptions to the following Keywords:

Floodgate (Any information on floodgate opening, closing or maintenance)

FPAEast (Any general news about the Flood Protection Authority-East)

River (Any information about the High River or the Mississippi River)

HighTide (Information regarding gate openings and closures as they relate to high tide situations)

It's a simple process to register for these Emergency Alerts. Text the appropriate Keyword listed above to "333111" for the alerts you would like to receive. Should you wish to receive alerts offered under more than one Keyword, each Keyword must be texted to "333111".

New Enhanced FPA-East Website

The Flood Protection Authority-East officially rolled out its new website on July 1st. The website has been enhanced to make it more user friendly and better serve the public.

The website contains a wealth of information about our flood defense system (Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System and Mississippi River Levee), the FPA's mission and the team of professionals that govern, manage, maintain and operate the critical flood defense system, as well as services offered by the FPA. The website also includes Teacher Resources and the middle School Lesson Plans developed by the FPA for Science and Social Studies: "Keeping Your Head Above Water—Know Your Flood Protection System" and "Flood Fight Along the Mississippi River—Mississippi River Lesson Plan."

Visit our website today - www.floodauthority.org

Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East Board and Committee Meetings can be viewed via livestream by visiting the FPA website www.floodauthority.org and selecting Business - Board Meeting Videos. Click on live stream.

The Flood Protection Authority-East (FPA) is currently offering both in-person and virtual tours of the \$4 Billion Hurricane Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS), which spans East Jefferson, Orleans and St. Bernard Parishes. In-person tour groups have the option of visiting the 17th St Canal Pump Station or the Lake Borgne-IHNC Surge Barrier. Groups may sign up for both tours but may not be able to see both on the same day.

For additional information go to the FPA's website www.floodauthority.org and select "Facility Tours". Both in-person and virtual tours can be scheduled by clicking on "Schedule a Tour".

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Associate Editor: Wilma Heaton**

**Comments can be submitted to:
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