

**MINUTES OF
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON OCTOBER 21, 2021**

PRESENT: Jason P. Latiolais, Chair
Richard G. Duplantier, Jr., Committee Member
Herbert T. Weysham, III, Committee Member

The Operations Committee of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (Authority or FPA) met on October 21, 2021, at the Franklin Avenue Administrative Complex, Meeting Room 201, 6920 Franklin Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana. Mr. Latiolais called the meeting to order at 10:00 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 August 19, 2021.

Public Comments: None.

New Business:

A. Discussion and recommendation of the proposed award of a contract to Industrial & Mechanical Contractors, Inc., in the amount of \$434,700.00 for the SLFPA-East Franklin Avenue Safehouse Improvements Project.

Rusty Kennedy, Director of Risks, Safety and Facilities, advised that the Safehouse Improvements Project was publicly bid and the bids were competitive. The proposed work will address issues with the HVAC trunk line serving the Board Room, renovate the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) as the current room is insufficient for staff, and make small modifications to the kitchen area to facilitate storm response. The HVAC system was installed after Hurricane Katrina; however, contract issues regarding insulation and materials were litigated and the FPA received a settlement payment. The Engineer's estimate for the project is approximately \$600,000; however, additional work will be needed to provide an AV solution for the safehouse. Work is anticipated to start on December 1st. Meetings will need to be held at another facility while work is taking place in the Board Room.

B. Discussion and recommendation of a proposed Task Order with DRC Emergency Services, LLC, for Hurricane Ida Disaster Debris Management and Disposal Services in an amount not to exceed \$4,000,000.

and

C. Discussion and recommendation of a proposed Task Order with Witt O'Brien's, LLC, for Hurricane Ida Disaster Debris Management Monitoring in an amount not to exceed \$250,000.

Mr. Kennedy provided a presentation to the Committee that included maps of the debris removal areas and demonstrations of the debris removal process. He explained that two years ago, the FPA requested proposals in order to have prequalified vendors in place prior to storm events. After its evaluation and estimation of the amount of the debris, the FPA reached out to the three prequalified vendors. One vendor was non-responsive because of a lack of manpower. The two other vendors were responsive and DRC was the most cost effective. The same process was followed to prequalify debris monitoring firms. Responses were received from the three prequalified firms and Witt O'Brien's, LLC, was the most cost effective.

Mr. Kennedy advised that DRC was already removing debris in different parts of the flood protection system and Witt O'Brien's is on site checking load tickets and ensuring proper documentation for FEMA reimbursement. The task orders for both firms are for a 90-day period, ending on January 24, 2022; however, both firms anticipate completion prior to the end of the calendar year. The debris will be brought to landfills and must be documented leaving the FPA site and upon arrival at the landfill. Debris removed from the Lake Borgne Basin Levee District will be brought to the Gentilly landfill. FPA staff have communicated with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) personnel who will be in the field verifying the contractor's work and assisting the FPA as needed. Payment for the work will be 75% FEMA and 25% FPA.

Mr. Kennedy explained that work started about two weeks ago and to-date about 200,000 cubic yards of debris has been removed. Debris in some areas includes marsh grass, creosote timber piles, boats, crab traps and other disposed of items, which must be consolidated before going to the landfill. Debris removal within the East Jefferson Levee District includes large trees from privately owned yards that fell on the FPA's right-of-way (ROW). In accordance with FEMA's reimbursement policy, the FPA will remove only the portion of a tree on its ROW. Removal of the remainder of the tree is the responsibility of the landowner. Notice was provided to the landowners relative to the FPA's debris removal work and included Mr. Kennedy's contact information for comments or questions.

Mr. Kennedy advised that the contract with the debris removal vendor also provides that the vendor must repair areas that they disturb, as well as the areas disturbed by the debris. The vendor will seed areas with rye grass for the winter and will return in the spring to establish Bermuda grass. Seeding will be done using a drone.

D. Discussion and recommendation of the proposed selection of Professional Services Industries, Inc., Gulf South Engineering and Testing, Inc., and The Beta Group Engineering and Construction Services, LLC, for the purpose of entering into Indefinite Delivery-Indefinite Quantity (ID-IQ) contracts for professional Construction Materials Testing and Inspection Services.

and

E. Discussion and recommendation of the proposed selection of Meyer Engineers, LTD., Verges Rome Architects, and NY Associates, Inc., for the purpose of entering into ID-IQ contracts for professional Support Services (Architectural / Mechanical / Electrical / and Other Facility Services).

Ryan Foster, Engineer-Manager, explained that the Indefinite Delivery-Indefinite Quantity (ID-IQ) contracts contemplated under items D and E would replace the ID-IQ contracts that expire this month. At its meeting in June, the Board approved advertising and issuing Requests for Qualifications (RFQ) for these services. The RFQs were advertised in the July – August timeframe and responses were received in September. The responses were reviewed by five reviewers that included four staff members and one Commissioner. In both instances, the reviewers basically came to the same decision on the selections. The contracts will be for a three-year term with no renewal options. Contracts for Construction Materials Testing and Inspection Services will have a cap of \$300,000 and contracts for Support Services will have a cap of \$500,000. Staff determined these amounts sufficient for the three-year contract term. Mr. Latiolais advised that he was one of the reviewers of the responses for Support Services.

Mr. Foster advised that the FPA currently has ID-IQ contracts with Professional Services Industries, Inc., and Meyer Engineers for Facility Services, and with N-Y Associates for Construction Administration and Inspection. He verified that the FPA was satisfied with the past performance of these consultants.

F. Discussion and recommendation of the proposed execution of a contract with Cycle Construction Co., LLC, and Boh Bros. Construction Co., LLC, which have been prequalified, in accordance with FEMA guidelines, to allow said contractors to participate in future competitive bidding prior to and after a storm or other qualifying event for providing operation and/or maintenance repairs of flood control structures owned and operated by FPA on a Task Order basis.

Mr. Latiolais abstained from the discussion and consideration of Item F.

Darren Austin, Director of Operations, explained that in accordance with FEMA guidelines, the FPA is pre-qualifying contractors to provide operation and/or maintenance repairs of the flood control structures to facilitate bidding after a storm or other qualifying event. The reviewers included four staff members and one Commissioner (Mark Morgan). The FPA expanded its previous RFQ and pre-qualification process to include all flood control structures, including levees and floodwalls, in lieu of just complex structures. Cycle Construction Co., LLC, and Boh Bros. Construction Co., LLC, scored high and both firms are recommended for pre-qualification. Task orders under the contracts will be brought to the Board for approval.

G. Discussion and recommendation of proposed request to the LA Capital Outlay Program to fund certain SLFPA-E projects for Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-2023.

H. Discussion and recommendation of proposed request to the LA Capital Outlay Program to fund certain EJLD projects for FY 2022-2023.

I. Discussion and recommendation of proposed request to request to the LA Capital Outlay Program to fund certain LBBLD projects for FY 2022-2023. and
and

J. Discussion and recommendation of proposed request to the LA Capital Outlay Program to fund certain O.L.D. projects for FY 2022-2023.

Mr. Latiolais advised that Items G, H, I and J regard requests by the FPA and East Jefferson Levee District (EJLD), Lake Borgne Basin Levee District (LBBLD) and Orleans Levee District (O.L.D.) for Louisiana Capital Outlay Funding for FY 2022-2023.

Chris Humphreys, Director of Engineering, reviewed the five proposed projects:

FPA - Phase I – International Center for Storm Surge and Climate Change Research and Public Education – Initially the proposed request was for design and planning; however, Mr. Humphreys recommended that construction be included and that the funding request be revised to \$4,257,000. The proposed project was expanded to include climate change research.

FPA - Terrorism Prevention and Emergency Response Command Center, Security Cameras and Perimeter Fencing - \$2,200,000. The project primarily consists of perimeter fencing and cameras at various locations in the flood protection system.

EJLD - Jefferson Parish Lakefront Erosion Protection Repairs, Reach 1 - \$10,500,000. The project is to rebuild the rock dike that has settled from the West Return Wall to the Duncan Canal (about 10,000 feet).

LBBLD - Design and Construct a Safe-House Facility to House LBBLD Staff During a Storm/Emergency Event - \$4,000,000. The safehouse is more urgently needed because the pump stations, some of which included safe housing, were turned over to the St. Bernard Parish Government.

O.L.D. - Bayou St. John Water Management Improvements - \$875,000. Burk-Kleinpeter, Inc., developed a Water Management Plan for Bayou St. John. The proposed project includes investigative work and construction that are needed in order to allow the sector gate to be opened more frequently.

K. Discussion and recommendation of a proposed Change Order to the contract with Kort's Construction Services, Inc., in the amount of \$47,076.75 for the inclusion of additional electrical and earthwork protection items in the contract for the Lakeshore Drive Improvements Seawall Area Erosion Control Paving Project Reach 3A.

Mr. Foster advised that construction of the Reach 3A project has been on-going for about a year-and-a-half. The substantial completion walk-thru will take place on October 22. The Change Order is for additional work requested by FPA staff to lessen maintenance difficulties. The contractor's cost proposal was reviewed by staff and recommended for approval.

There was no further business; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.