

**MINUTES OF
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON MARCH 17, 2022**

PRESENT: K. Randall Noel, Chair
Roy M. Arrigo, Committee Member
Eugene J. Joanen, IV, Committee Member

The Finance Committee of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (FPA or Authority) met on March 17, 2022, at the New Orleans Lakefront Airport, Terminal Building, Second Floor Conference Room, 6001 Stars and Stripes Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana. Mr. Noel called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

Opening Comments: None

Adoption of Agenda: The Committee adopted the agenda.

Approval of Minutes: The Committee approved the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on February 17, 2022.

Public Comments:

Ray Landiche explained that his residence is located on Canal Boulevard and that he spends a lot of time on the lakefront. The west side of the lakefront is always overcrowded and there is inadequate parking for the massive crowds that continue to come to the west end. He stated that there is a parking lot located just to the west of Pontchartrain Beach that is closed for no apparent reason other than insufficient fencing to keep people from going into Pontchartrain Beach which has not been maintained. He suggested that this parking lot could be used by people who want to fish or bike on the west side of the seawall behind UNO (not Pontchartrain Beach). He asked that the Finance Committee find some funding for striping, fencing for Pontchartrain Beach, and properly opening the parking lot. He added that Lake Terrace Park, where the FPA recently held a ribbon cutting event, has a parking lot that is full every weekend; therefore, there is inadequate parking for this 3,000-foot area of the lakefront. He asked that parking be expanded in this area as well and stated that he would like to see more of the crowds that come to the lakefront move east so that they are spread out along the lakefront. He commented that the five-mile lakefront is a beautiful asset that he would like to see utilized with adequate parking everywhere.

Mr. Arrigo inquired about a potential visibility issue relative to vehicles heading west on Lakeshore Drive and vehicles exiting the parking lot. Mr. Landiche pointed out that there is a parking lot on the east side of Pontchartrain Beach and that both parking lots are north of Lakeshore Drive. Since lakefront visitors would park on the same side of the roadway as the seawall, the only potential issue may be vehicles exiting the lot.

Mr. Noel advised that this issue would be passed on to the Operations Committee and the Director of Engineering to determine what can or cannot be done. He thanked Mr. Landiche for his comments.

Regional Finance Director's Report:

Denise Businelle, Regional Finance Director, provided the following report:

- The Finance team continues to provide information to the Legislative Auditors upon request. The Legislative Auditors were at the Franklin Facility three days doing interviews.
- PRONTO training will take place several days next week and will include user access training, which will ensure that everyone knows what tasks they have been assigned and allow for questions to be answered. PRONTO training will continue one week per month through June.
- One slight revision was made to the FY 2023 Budgets relative to PRONTO costs.
- The Finance team continues software training in order to comply with GASB 87 requirements relative to leases. Due to the small number of FPA leases, contact has been made with an external CPA and the Legislative Auditor to determine whether the GASB 87 requirement applies to the FPA.
- Positive Pay testing was completed and the program implemented. This is a fraud prevention measure associated with the FPA's banking account and routing numbers.

Mr. Noel inquired about the recent insurance quotes that were received. Kelli Chandler, Regional Director, advised that the FPA is still awaiting several quotes. There were small cost increases and decreases in the quotes received thus far for the various coverages. Ms. Businelle advised that the cost increases are included in the budgets.

New Business:

A. Review of changes made to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Budgets after initial review at the February 17th Finance Committee meeting.

Ms. Businelle explained that the only change made to the FY 2023 Budgets since last month concerned a PRONTO fee. The fee was thought to be monthly; however, it was found to be a one-time fee; therefore, the amount was corrected in the Budgets creating a decrease in expenditures across the levee districts.

Ms. Chandler addressed the \$27 million expense included in the Orleans Levee District's (O.L.D.) FY 2023 Budget. There was an agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) concerning the cost share for pre-Katrina work. The USACE has been reconciling the work-in-kind credits in order to arrive at a final number. The initial O.L.D. reserve for the cost share was \$10 million, which was in accordance with the

USACE's original estimate. The USACE provided a revised estimate of \$27 million. The FPA is working with the USACE relative to the final number and the issue is anticipated to be resolved by the end of the calendar year. O.L.D. reserves will be used to cover the additional cost. The East Jefferson Levee District's pre-Katrina work cost share was closed out last calendar year.

The Finance Committee will recommend that the Board approve the FY 2023 Budgets for the FPA and levee districts.

There was no further business; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.