

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

**PRESENT:** Thomas G. Fierke, Acting Chair  
William A. Settoon, Jr., Committee Member

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The Operations Committee of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (Authority or FPA) met on November 17, 2022, in the Franklin Avenue Administrative Complex Meeting Room 201, 6920 Franklin Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana. In Mr. Cosse's absence, Mr. Fierke called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m.

**Opening Comments:** None.

**Adoption of Agenda:** The Committee approved the agenda as presented.

**Approval of Minutes:** The Committee deferred approval of the minutes of the September 15, 2022, Operations Committee meeting to the next meeting.

**Public Comments:**

Ray Landeche advised that he represented the Lakeshore neighborhood and that he had spoken multiple times to Commissioner Arrigo about the issues created when Lakeshore Drive between the West End floodwall and Canal Boulevard was converted to one traffic lane in each direction and a bike path and medians were created. He explained that this may work in the vicinity of the restaurants where parking is on the opposite side of the roadway; however, it does not work for Lakeshore Drive, which is used by numerous commuters going to and from New Orleans East to Metairie. Due to slow moving vehicles (e.g., garbage trucks), 90 percent of the traffic turns off Lakeshore Drive and goes down Canal Boulevard to Allen Toussaint Boulevard. This stretch of roadway was converted by the City to one traffic lane in each direction and a bike path. Since his home is located on Canal Boulevard, he said that he witnessed a number of dangerous incidents involving vehicles, bikers and individuals. He added that he was told that the roadway striping was a temporary test to curb speeding along the Lakefront. He asked that the study area be expanded or that a new study be done to find a better solution and suggested that consideration be given to returning to four traffic lanes with speed bumps in appropriate areas and that a bike path be created independent of the roadway. He also mentioned that he would speak to Engineering staff about the flooding repair between Lakeshore Drive and the levee behind Shelter 1.

**New Business:**

- A. Discussion of the proposed award of a contract to Cycle Construction Company, LLC, in the amount of \$386,097.00, for the Floodgate E-13 Sill Raising - Citrus Lakefront Levee Project and Committee recommendation.**

Chris Humphreys, Director of Engineering, advised that the Floodgate E-13 Sill Raising Project was advertised and four bids were received. The first three bids were separated by one percent. The lowest bid was submitted by Cycle Construction Company (Cycle) in the amount of \$386,097, which was slightly over the Engineer's estimate, but within the budget. He recommended that Cycle be awarded the contract for the project.

The Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the Board approve the award of the contract to Cycle.

**B. Discussion of a proposed Task Order with Evans Graves Engineers in a total not to exceed amount of \$100,460.00 to provide Construction Administration and Resident Inspection Services for the Floodgate E-13 Sill Raising – Citrus Lakefront Levee Project and Committee recommendation.**

Mr. Humphreys advised that the proposed Task Order with Evans Graves Engineers (Evans Graves), the designer of record for the Floodgate E-13 Sill Raising Project, is for a total amount of \$100,460, which includes \$41,960 for Construction Administration and \$58,500 for Resident Inspection. Floodgate E-13 is located at the low point in the area and crosses Hayne Boulevard at Jordan Road, which is an access road used by the Port. The project is needed due to standing water that collects in the gate storage bay, which at one point had alligators. The project is unique because it is the first time that a floodgate is being raised. The project is complex and received a lot of scrutiny and interest from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Transportation and Development and City of New Orleans. He recommended approval of the Task Order with Evans Graves.

Mr. Fierke asked were the numbers for Construction Administration and Resident Inspection reasonable. Mr. Humphreys responded that the Resident Inspection fees are on a time and materials basis for the 65-day construction project and that the hourly rates are included in the Indefinite Delivery-Indefinite Quantity (ID-IQ) Contract with Evans Graves. The Construction Administration fees, which are also on a time and materials basis, are warranted due to the project's complexity and scrutiny. He noted that in the past Evans Graves had been reasonable in its management of time on a project and that services will be monitored by FPA staff.

The Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the Board approve the Task Order with Evans Graves.

**C. Discussion of the proposed award of a contract to Cycle Construction Company, LLC, in the amount of \$999,440.00 for the London Avenue Canal – North Erosion Mitigation Project and Committee recommendation.**

Mr. Humphreys advised that four bids were received for the London Avenue Canal – North Erosion Mitigation Project. Two bids were deemed non-responsive. The low bid was submitted by Cycle in the amount of \$999,440, which is within the budget. The bid is slightly over the Engineer's estimate due to the current limited number of rip-rap suppliers and transportation issues inflating prices. He added that the project is needed and recommended award of the contract to Cycle.

Mr. Settoon asked about the project's location. Mr. Humphreys explained that the project is located between the PCCP (Permanent Canal Closures and Pumps) pump station and Lakeshore Drive. This area experiences high velocities from the pump station towards the lake, as well as wave action. Erosion control projects have taken place along all three of the outfall canals which are experiencing erosion.

The Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the Board approve the award of the contract to Cycle.

**D. Discussion of a proposed Task Order with Evans Graves Engineers in a total not to exceed amount of \$126,740.00 to provide Construction Administration and Resident Inspection Services for the London Avenue Canal – North Erosion Mitigation Project and Committee recommendation.**

Mr. Humphreys advised that the proposed Task Order with Evans Graves, the designer of record for the London Avenue Canal – North Erosion Mitigation Project, is for a total amount of \$126,740, which includes \$54,740 for Construction Administration and \$72,000 for Resident Inspection for the 80-day construction project. The rates are included in the ID-IQ Contract with Evans Graves. The Construction Administration fees are approximately 5 percent of the contract amount.

The Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the Board approve the Task Order with Evans Graves.

**E. Discussion of the proposed award of a contract to Command Construction, LLC, in the amount of \$161,350.00, for the CSX Hurricane Ida Floodgate N-6 Repairs Project and Committee recommendation.**

Mr. Humphreys advised that that the CSX Hurricane Ida Floodgate N-6 Repairs Project was advertised and two bids were received. Command Construction, LLC, submitted the lowest bid in the amount of \$161,350, which is below the Engineer's estimate. The entire cost of the project will be reimbursed by CSX Railroad. He recommended that the contract be awarded to Command Construction.

Mr. Settoon asked about the location of the work. Mr. Humphreys advised that Floodgate N-6 is located in New Orleans East where the CSX railroad tracks cross the levee.

The Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the Board approve the award of the contract to Command Construction.

**F. Discussion of a proposed Change Order in an amount of \$146,985 to the contract with CM Combs Construction, LLC, increasing the total contract amount to \$5,039,290, for the SLFPA-E Warehouse Office Renovations Project and Committee recommendation.**

Mr. Humphreys explained that the proposed Change Order to the contract with CM Combs Construction, LLC (Combs) is for the total amount of \$146,985, which includes \$58,905 for additional fire alarm devices required by the Fire Marshal, \$43,665 for sealing joist framing to allow access between the ceiling and the roof so that the building's utilities can be reached without dismantling the ceiling, and \$44,415 for office changes on the north and south ends of the building to allow additional space for IT servers and air conditioning to accommodate the servers. Issues were discovered during construction due to the age of the building. The Change Order increases the contract amount approximately seven percent. He stated that the work is warranted and needed, and recommended approval of the Change Order.

Mr. Settoon asked had there been on-going issues with the Fire Marshal. Mr. Humphreys responded, no; a number of issues were found during the Fire Marshal's inspection, which was required under the building permit.

Mr. Fierke asked the purpose of the project. Mr. Humphreys explained that the project included construction within the warehouse of a large amount of storage space, office space for maintenance crews on both ends of the building, and showers, as well as improvements to utilities and removal of piping. Maintenance staff had been using small temporary storage buildings as office and storage spaces.

The Committee voted unanimously to approve the Change Order to the contract with Combs.

**G. Discussion of a proposed Change Order in an amount of \$81,488.37 to the contract with Arch Mechanical Contractors, Inc., increasing the total contract amount to \$1,424,801.63, for the Franklin Avenue Facility Fire Protection System Improvements Project and Committee recommendation.**

Mr. Humphreys explained that the proposed Change Order in the amount of \$81,488.37 to the contract with Arch Mechanical Contractors, Inc., is needed for high voltage electrical switch repairs. A booster pump was installed by the contractor because of low pressure in the fire protection system line. In the process of de-energizing and re-energizing to bring the booster pump on line, two sets of three switches blew up. The Change Order is needed to ensure that the FPA is operating safely and that power is not lost. One set of switches is needed for the far southern end of the building, which is currently without power, and the second set is needed for the remainder of the building.

Mr. Settoon asked was the fire suppression system all water. Mr. Humphrey responded, yes; the FPA considered, but chose not to use halogen for server rooms. When asked the reason for the high voltage switches (13,800 volts), he explained that the higher the voltage, the lower the amps and smaller the wires that are needed to carry power. The building is very large; therefore, there is some economy in this setup.

The Committee voted unanimously in favor of recommending that the Board approve the Change Order to the contract with Arch Mechanical Contractors.

There was no further business; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.