

**MINUTES OF  
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST  
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON MAY 18, 2023**

**PRESENT:** Clay A. Cosse, Chair  
Thomas G. Fierke, Committee Member  
Herbert I. Miller, Committee Member  
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 May 18, 2023, in the Joseph Yenni Building, Second Floor Council Chambers, 1221 Elmwood Park Blvd., Jefferson, LA. Mr. Cosse arrived during the meeting; therefore, Mr. Settoon 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 voted to approve the Minutes of the meeting held on February 16, 2023. Mr. Fierke abstained from the vote.

**Public Comments:**

None.

**Report of Director of Engineering:**

Chris Humphreys, Director of Engineering, explained that Mr. Cosse requested that an item be included on the Operations Committee agenda for the Director of Engineering to provide a report each month. The following report was provided by Mr. Humphreys:

- **Mississippi River:** The river has fallen below flood stage. The current crest from snowmelt is continuing downstream and should pass New Orleans below flood stage. The river is forecast to fall through the second week of June. It appears that the river will not be an issue during hurricane season. A slope paving repair project located in the Lake Borgne Basin Levee District is anticipated to begin in early June.
- **Permits:** Analytics are used in order to determine costs and recommend adjustment of permit fees when needed. The FPA issues permits for any subsurface activity, construction or otherwise, along the Mississippi River Levee (MRL) within 1,500 feet of the levee and along the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) within 300 feet of the levee. Permit applications must be submitted to the FPA and reviewed and approved by the FPA, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and Coastal Protection and

Restoration Authority (CPRA). Construction below grade is monitored for the MRL and HSDRRS. The following data was provided:

- Average number of permits submitted per month – 35.
  - Most permits submitted in a month - 67 in February 2020.
  - Average number of permits approved per month - 21 permits.
  - Most permits approved in a month - 65 in July 2022.
  - Average permit fees collected per month - \$5,413.56.
  - Total permit fees collected - \$319,400.
- **London Avenue Canal North Erosion Mitigation Project:** The project is located on the east side of the canal and extends from Lakeshore Drive to a point north of the pump station. The erosion exacerbated due to the 2020 hurricane season. The project includes regrading and placement of rip-rap. The erosion mitigation in this area on the west side of the canal will commence shortly.
  - **Floodgate E-13 Sill Raising Project:** The floodgate is located at a low point along Hayne Boulevard near Jordon Road and on the east side of the Seabrook Bridge. Water collects at this low spot due to the slope of the roadway presenting a challenge when closing the floodgate. The floodgate sill was raised about nine inches. This is the first modification of a floodgate.
  - **Floodgate N-6 Slope Paving Repairs:** During Hurricane Ida, railroad personnel opened the floodgate at Highway 90 and drove down the levee and slope paving to reach the railroad track. The railroad will reimburse the FPA for the cost of the slope paving repairs.
  - **2023 Hurricane Season Preparations:**
    - The Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) was updated.
    - Inventories for equipment and supplies have been updated and restocked.
    - Meetings were held with Floodgate and Operations leadership.
    - A hurricane tabletop simulation will be conducted in June.
    - Staff remains weather alert.
    - Floodgates are exercised at least once a year before hurricane season.
    - Inspections are being conducted.
    - Resources are staged as needed.

Mr. Fierke asked the reason the FPA is paying for the new cameras at the IHNC Surge Barrier. Mr. Humphreys explained that the cameras installed on the Surge Barrier by the USACE about ten years ago have surpassed their useful life. The FPA is responsible for the maintenance and replacement of the cameras.

**New Business:**

**A. Review Comprehensive Emergency Operations Plan for 2023.**

Mr. Humphreys advised that the CEMP was emailed to Commissioners. No major changes were made to the CEMP. Updates primarily consist of changes to personnel, stakeholder and agency contact information. Commissioners were asked to contact Mr. Humphreys should they wish a hard copy of the CEMP.

The Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the Board adopt the 2023 CEMP.

Mr. Settoon asked what should Board members do during a serious hurricane. Mr. Humphreys explained that Board members should listen to public officials and evacuate if necessary. Kelli Chandler, Regional Director, advised that should a storm approach, she would provide updates to Commissioners and keep the Board apprised as a storm progresses. Mr. Settoon asked are Board members allowed to come to the FPA facilities. Mr. Humphreys advised that in the past, typically, the President, if he wished, came to the FPA facilities.

Mr. Cosse explained that several disasters have taken place during his tenure on the Board, and that Ms. Chandler and past Directors always contacted him and offered whatever services the FPA could provide to parishes in need. He advised that Commissioners should have a direct line to their parish representatives and inform them about FPA's resources (e.g., front end loaders, backhoes, etc.) that can be provided on loan through the Regional Director.

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