

**MINUTES OF  
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST  
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON JUNE 15, 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 June 15, 2023, in the Franklin Avenue Administrative Complex, Meeting Room 201, 6920 Franklin Avenue, New Orleans, La. Mr. Cosse called the meeting to order at 10:35 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 meeting held on May 18, 2023.

**Public Comments:**

None.

**Report of Director of Engineering:**

Chris Humphreys, Director of Engineering, provided the following report:

- **Mississippi River:** The current elevation of the river is about 11-ft. at Cairo, Illinois, and is expected to decrease to 10-ft., which is extremely low for this time of year. Navigation issues are being closely monitored. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is monitoring the river due to the possibility of a salt water wedge coming up the river, which has never happened two consecutive years. The low river stage will allow the FPA to do the slope paving repairs in St. Bernard Parish.
- **LPV 146 Leaning Monoliths:** The project is located at Highway 46 in St. Bernard Parish. Two monoliths (T6 and T7) have rotated out of plane due to the loading on the piles from the bypass road. Each year for the past several years and in February, 2023, the USACE provided a letter to the FPA for the upcoming hurricane season advising that models and analyses determined that the same level of risk reduction was being provided. However, the USACE advertised and awarded a contract to remove and replace the monoliths and piles. The project will not commence until the end of hurricane season. The piles will be replaced with longer and more H-piles. The sheetpile will remain since it was not affected.

Mr. Cosse commented that when this issue was first discovered the variance was about 1-1/2 inches and asked did the variance increase. Mr. Humphreys responded that the variance increased slightly. The USACE determined that it is a deficiency and that removal and replacement is warranted.

- **Lakefront Foreshore Erosion (East Jefferson):** The FPA has been working on this issue for a number of years. A PL 84-99 Project Information Report was advanced by the USACE through the Division and was approved. The FPA recently received a letter from the USACE advising that approval should be received from Headquarters in the next couple of weeks, which will provide a total of \$24 million for the USACE to design and award the project. The rock will be rebuilt and the clay fill that had eroded replaced. A decision has not yet been made about whether a local 20 percent cost-share will be needed for the project. The proposed project will stretch about 5 miles from the West Return Wall to about 1,000 feet past the Suburban Canal/Pump Station.
- **Permanent Canal Closures and Pumps (PCCP) pump update:** The USACE's Joint Venture (JV) contractor inspected all of the pumps, with the exception of Pump No. 1 at the London Avenue PCCP which the USACE had contracted Lakey, Inc., to pull and repair. A visual inspection was done mostly of the lower diffuser bearing housing of the pumps, which was the carbon steel that was badly corroded on Pump No. 1. Some minor repairs and cosmetic coating repairs were done. The JV's pump manufacturer, Patterson Pumps, looked at all of the data from the assessment and deemed all of the pumps acceptable for the 2023 hurricane season. Lakey, Inc., removed and reinstalled the lower bearing housing and the lower impeller shaft for Pump No. 1 and the pump performed well during the wet and dry tests. Pump No. 1 was back in service on May 29<sup>th</sup>.

Kelli Chandler, Regional Director, advised that a table top exercise was held this week to run through various scenarios on the operation of the temporary pumps should they be needed. Use of the temporary pumps would be a last resort operation. The temporary pumps will be primed and fueled in advance; however, cell service is required for remote operation. Should cell service fail, a USACE employee or contractor would have to manually turn on the temporary pumps. Discussions are continuing relative to the temporary pumps.

Mr. Humphreys advised that the assessment of the PCCP pumps was completed and the JV is working on its proposal and recommended path forward. Ms. Chandler submitted a letter to the USACE advising that the FPA wanted to be at the table for all of the discussions and to provide input. The FPA provided its preferences on the repairs to the USACE and is waiting for the discussions to advance. Repairs will not commence until the end of hurricane season.

Ms. Chandler advised the Committee about a proposed educational meeting to discuss the repairs and issues and go into a deeper dive on the pumps and other issues. The focus has been on corrosion; however, this is not the only issue that needs repair. It is important for the FPA to be engaged as the USACE and JV negotiate the repairs so that the FPA is not faced with the same issue in the future. An email will be sent to Commissioners to determine their availability for the meeting. Legal staff determined that since the proposed meeting will be

informational only and no Board business or decisions will take place, it would not be a public meeting. A color coded drawing will be provided that identifies which parts of the pumps are made of carbon steel and which are made of stainless steel. The drawing is a good indication of the amounts of carbon versus stainless steel and which parts the FPA will ask to be replaced with stainless steel for maintenance purposes. Implications of maintenance will be discussed at the proposed meeting. A pump must be taken apart in order to maintain the lower bearing housing, which is not feasible for the FPA. A suggestion was made that the proposed meeting take place at one of the PCCP pump stations.

- **Hurricane season:** An 8:00 a.m. advisory showed a wave off the coast of South Africa with a 20 percent chance of development over the next seven days.

**New Business:**

**A. Discussion of the proposed award of a contract in the amount of \$504,154 to Cycle Construction Company, LLC, for the Hayne Boulevard Relief Well Project.**

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Mr. Humphreys advised that bids were received with the lowest bid submitted by Cycle Construction Company, LLC, in the amount of \$504,154, which was within \$4,000 of the Engineer's estimate (\$500,000) and within budget. The project is located in a low area that holds water at the corner of Hayne Boulevard and France Road. The relief wells relieve pressure when the water is elevated. The project includes grading and concrete pipe. The outfall pipes from the wells will discharge into the new pipes and drainage system. The project spreads over two fiscal years. He recommended that the contract be awarded to Cycle Construction.

A motion was offered by Mr. Miller, seconded by Mr. Settoon, and unanimously adopted to recommend that the Board award the contract to Cycle Construction.

**B. Discussion of the proposed award of a contract to Rotolo Consultants, Inc., for Furnishing Labor, Equipment, Materials and Supplies for Grass Cutting Services for approximately 894 acres of levee within the Orleans Levee District with ten maximum cuts per annum at a total annual estimated cost of \$208,750.00**

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Mr. Settoon inquired about the grass maintenance schedule. Mr. Humphreys advised that the grass maintenance is in accordance with a pre-determined schedule based on the growing season; therefore, it varies each month. Ms. Chandler added that the contract was put out for bid.

A motion was offered by Mr. Fierke, seconded by Mr. Settoon, and unanimously adopted to recommend that the Board award the contract to Rotolo Consultants, Inc.

There was no further business; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.