

**MINUTES OF THE
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY–EAST
BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024**

The regular monthly Board Meeting of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (Authority or FPA) was held on January 18, 2024, in the Franklin Avenue Administrative Complex, Meeting Room 201, 6920 Franklin Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana, after due legal notice of the meeting was sent to each Board member and the news media and posted.

Mr. Cosse called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. and led the pledge of allegiance. Mr. Fierke called the roll and a quorum was present:

PRESENT:

Clay A. Cosse, President
Roy M. Arrigo, Vice President
Thomas G. Fierke, Secretary
William A. Settoon, Jr., Treasurer
Herbert I. Miller
K. Randall Noel
Derek N. Rabb
Deborah M. Settoon

ABSENT:

Richard G. Duplantier, Jr.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

A motion was offered by Mr. Noel, seconded by Mr. Fierke and unanimously adopted, to adopt the agenda.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-18-24-01 - APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER ROLLING FORWARD THE ORLEANS LEVEE DISTRICT'S MILLAGE RATES WITHOUT FURTHER VOTER APPROVAL AND BOARD MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 21, 2023

On the motion of Mr. Fierke,
Seconded by Ms. Settoon, the following resolution was offered:

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East approves the Minutes of the Public Hearing to consider rolling forward the Orleans Levee District's millage rates without further voter approval and Board Meeting held on December 21, 2023.

The foregoing was submitted to a vote; the vote thereon was as follows:
YEAS: Mr. Arrigo, Mr. Fierke, Mr. Miller, Mr. Noel, Mr. Rabb, Ms. Settoon
and Mr. Settoon

NAYS: None
ABSENT: Mr. Duplantier

SAFETY MINUTE:

Martin Eilers, Director of Risk and Project Management, reported on the FPA's collaborative and proactive response to recent freezes. Updated, accurate weather forecasts were provided by Roger Colwell, GIS Director, and the GIS team, for staff to make informed decisions. Information (e.g., plans, closures and pertinent data) was disseminated by the Public Information team. Facilities, Maintenance and Operations staff worked proactively to ensure facilities and structures were prepared, protected and operational. A proactive approach helps to reduce incidents and reportable injuries.

OPENING COMMENTS BY PRESIDENT AND COMMISSIONERS:

Mr. Miller advised that he authored Agenda Item XII.A.1 and that the purpose of the resolution was not to criticize any current or past Commissioners who may have contributed to any campaigns during their tenure on the Board. Anyone who had done so should be given the benefit of the doubt that they were either unaware of the prohibition or had forgotten it. The newspaper article on this issue noted that several civic and business groups expressed concerns. He stated that he was proud of his seven years of service on the Board. The FPA was founded at the insistence of the public following Hurricane Katrina. Prior to the FPA's founding, board members were politically appointed for the three levee districts now under the FPA's jurisdiction. Many of these members were technically qualified; however, some were not. Commissioners must now go through a vetting process by an independent group prior to their nomination and must be appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. FPA Board members are well qualified for their service with multiple members having engineering degrees, MBAs and law degrees, and a broad range of governmental and business experience.

Mr. Miller further explained that the public wanted politics out of the Board; therefore, the prohibition against political activity was placed in the law. He stated that the Board cannot keep elected politicians out of its business. There have been attempts by elected politicians in the past, some successful, some not, to have the Board take certain actions or modify the structure of the Board. The Board is likely unable to prevent future attempts of political interference from elected officials. However, it is imperative that current and future Board members maintain their integrity. The resolution simply states that going forward all current Board members will comply with this law and gives a reminder to future Board members of the prohibition against political activity, which they must recite prior to taking their oath of office. He asked that the Board support the resolution.

Mr. Fierke stated, from a parliamentarian standpoint, that Mr. Miller's comments were totally out of order and not germane under Robert's Rules of Order because they addressed a later agenda item. Therefore, the Commissioners' Comments section should not be used to have a discussion of a pending agenda item.

Mr. Cosse stated that he did not have a problem with Mr. Miller's comments since "Opening Comments by President or Commissioners" is broad and the comments pertained to Board business.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None.

PRESENTATIONS: None.

REPORT BY REGIONAL DIRECTOR:

Kelli Chandler, Regional Director, advised that a training session covering a variety of topics is being planned for Board members following the March Board meeting.

Ms. Chandler provided the following report:

- The Mississippi River level was at 2.7-ft. It was expected to rise over the next couple of weeks, but not over seven feet, and then fall.
- The freeze plan was recently enacted across FPA facilities, the Permanent Canal Crossing and Pump (PCCP) stations and safe houses. The plan included bleeding water lines at the IHNC Surge Barrier.
- The GIS team has been working on the Levee View Project, which is a Google Street View type of product of the levee system. Thus far data has been collected for 23 miles of levee.
- Fourth Quarter Inspections were completed and were being reviewed by Engineering. The report will be submitted to the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) by the end of January.
- The comprehensive annual inspections were not yet scheduled.
- Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Budget preparation meetings were underway. The draft budget will be presented to the Board at the February meeting.
- PSA Air is set to go live on January 22nd. PSA Air automates invoice processing. The feature allows vendors to email invoices, which are then read virtually and the data is uploaded to the system.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee: Mr. Settoon advised that the Finance Committee did not meet in January. The final report on the FY 2024 Financial Audit was distributed to Commissioners. Mr. Settoon noted that everything was in good financial order and that the auditors had provided a report on the audit at a prior meeting.

Operations Committee: Mr. Fierke reported that the Operations Committee met on January 11th. The Committee delved deeply into some past practices, which had been corrected. He stated that he just received a copy of the Employee Handbook, which was last approved by the Board in 2018. Commissioners who would like a copy of the

Employee Handbook were advised to contact Ms. Chandler who would provide a hard or electronic copy. Mr. Fierke stated that after he reviewed the Employee Handbook and comments by others were received, it should be reapproved by the Board.

Mr. Fierke reported that the Committee also discussed the proposed International Center for Storm Surge Barrier Research, Public Education and Satellite Maintenance Facility. The Committee was trying to advance the project with two motions that were included on the agenda.

Legal Committee: Mr. Rabb advised that the Legal Committee did not meet in January; therefore, he had no report. He asked Kirk Ordoyne, Executive Counsel, to provide any updates that he may have for the Board. Mr. Ordoyne stated that he did not have any updates.

Coastal and Technical Committee: Mr. Fierke advised that the Coastal and Technical Committee did not meet in January; therefore, there was no report.

MOTION TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION TO PROVIDE THAT GOING FORWARD ALL COMMISSIONERS WILL FULLY ABIDE BY THE PROVISIONS OF PARAGRAPH K. (5) OF LOUISIANA REVISED STATUTE 38:330.1, AND AS A REMINDER TO ALL FUTURE BOARD MEMBERS, PRIOR TO THE SWEARING IN OF ANY NEW COMMISSIONER TO THIS BOARD, THE NEW COMMISSIONER SHALL BE REQUIRED TO PUBLICLY MAKE A STATEMENT BEFORE TAKING THE OATH OF OFFICE THAT HE/SHE WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN ANY SUCH CAMPAIGN ACTIVITY.

Mr. Miller offered a motion to adopt a resolution to provide that going forward all Commissioners will fully abide by the provisions of paragraph k. (5) of Louisiana Revised Statute 38:330.1, and as a reminder to all future board members, prior to the swearing in of any new commissioner to this board, the new commissioner shall be required to publicly make a statement before taking the oath of office that he/she will not participate in any such campaign activity. Mr. Cosse seconded the motion.

Ms. Settoon asked was this the same language included on the application for the Board. Mr. Miller responded that it was the same language. He reminded everyone about the comments he made earlier in the meeting.

Ms. Settoon asked was this subject included in the training to be held after the March 21st Board meeting. Mr. Ordoyne responded that training on a variety of topics will be conducted for Commissioners after the March Board meeting. Ms. Settoon pointed out that the issue should be corrected through training and orientation. Mr. Miller asked whether orientation would take place for each new Commissioner at the beginning of his/her term or would there be a delay. Mr. Ordoyne replied that he was not aware of any decision regarding training for individual new Board members. Ms. Settoon pointed out that there is a year between the time that an individual submits an application for the Board and the start of a new appointee's term. It can be difficult to remember language on an application submitted a year prior. Mr. Miller reiterated that the resolution provides a reminder to new Board members about the prohibition.

Ms. Settoon asked who would be responsible for ensuring that an orientation is set up for each new Board member. Ms. Chandler advised that she recently began doing a formal orientation process. Discussions have taken place about revising the orientation and molding it into a more formal process that would include multiple staff members. The issue regarding political activity could be included in the orientation. She stated that she could continue the orientation process and include this topic.

Mr. Arrigo commented that he was surprised that the motion received a second. He stated that the Board could not adopt the resolution because it did not have the authority to place requirements on new Board members. Qualifications and requirements for Board members are set by the Louisiana Legislature. In addition, it is redundant because new Board members are required to take the Oath of Office, which includes following State law. Mr. Miller pointed out that new Commissioners agree to this language when they sign their application for appointment to the FPA Board. He said that he wanted to ensure going forward that the Board remains apolitical. He commented about solicitations received after he became a member of the Board and that he responded by citing this language which prohibits campaign contributions.

Mr. Fierke stated that at the basic level the motion was unconstitutional in that it infringes upon a Commissioner's First Amendment rights. It is also unconstitutional under the Louisiana Constitution because it deprives Commissioners of due process. The FPA Board was the only board singled out for this requirement. At the Board level, it is a new requirement as Mr. Arrigo attempted to articulate, but was apparently misunderstood. The Board does not have the authority as a board to make requirements for being on the Board. He urged Commissioners to vote no on the motion. Mr. Miller pointed out that this requirement also applies to the SLFPA-West Board. Mr. Fierke agreed that this requirement also applies to the SLFPA-West Board, but it is insufficient relative to due process.

Mr. Miller called for the vote on the motion. Mr. Cosse called for a roll call vote. The motion failed with Mr. Arrigo, Mr. Fierke, Mr. Noel, Mr. Rabb, Ms. Settoon and Mr. Settoon voting nay, and Mr. Cosse and Mr. Miller voting yea.

DISCUSSION OF SCHEDULE FOR FPA COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

Mr. Miller advised that he asked that this item be placed on the agenda. He explained that after the Board was created and for a number of years, Committee meetings were held two weeks prior to the monthly Board meetings. The President changed the scheduling of Committee meetings to immediately prior to the Board meetings because a Commissioner from North Carolina was on the Board who had to fly in for meetings. Committee meetings were held prior to the Board meetings for the seven years that he had been on the Board. He stated that there had been only a few incidences where Committees had to defer action on an item because more information was needed, such as the item on the IHNC Surge Barrier visitor's center. Committee meetings held on a different date than a Board meeting is an added cost because of the payment of a second per diem each month. A question came up about paying a per diem to non-committee members who attend a Committee meeting. Under the Board's Bylaws, any Board member can attend any Committee meeting and comment, but cannot vote at the

Committee level. If every Board member attends every Committee meeting and elects to receive a per diem, it would cost the FPA \$20,000 per year. Article 4, Paragraph 3 of the Bylaws states that Committee Chairs are authorized to set the time and date for their meetings. He requested that the Committee Chairs consider their agendas and if the meetings can take place prior to the Board meeting rather than a week before, that they do so.

Mr. Rabb asked was Mr. Miller asking Committee Chairs to use their judgment and be flexible. Mr. Miller responded that if he is a member of a Committee that meets a week prior to the Board meeting, he would attend the meeting. However, in his experience he did not think Committee meetings a week prior to the Board are normally required. Mr. Rabb clarified that the Committee Chairs would need to use their judgment relative to scheduling their meetings.

Ms. Settoon inquired about the policy for per diem payments. Denise Williams, Regional Finance Director, advised that the Bylaws provide that Board members can be paid a per diem for their attendance at regular, special and committee meetings, not to exceed two meetings per month. She pointed out that there would also be an additional cost for live streaming the meetings.

Ms. Settoon and Mr. Arrigo concurred with Mr. Rabb's approach. Mr. Arrigo noted that when all of the Committee meetings were held prior to the Board meeting, at least one Committee had to rush through its agenda.

Mr. Settoon commented that the January 11th Operations Committee meeting was two hours in length and included an executive session. He pointed out that he attended the meeting because he provided transportation for Mr. Fierke and that he specifically sat in the audience so that he would not be accused of attending in order to collect a per diem payment. Mr. Miller clarified that Mr. Settoon's attendance at the Operations Committee meeting was not the reason for his comments. He agreed with Mr. Rabb's approach for scheduling Committee meetings.

Mr. Fierke clarified that he specifically asked staff, were non-committee members entitled to a per diem and that the answer was yes. He stated that Mr. Settoon was at the Operations Committee meeting, but sat in the audience and did not participate, and that he requested Ms. Settoon to attend the meeting because he thought she would be interested in providing valuable input on the topics.

Ms. Chandler pointed out that Board members are entitled to receive per diem payments; however, Board members can elect not to receive a per diem payment.

Mr. Fierke pointed out that three times in a row, the Operations Committee meeting had to be waived or a very cursory meeting was conducted due to time constraints. He stated that Commissioners need to choose whether or not they want the Committees to delve into the work of the Authority. If they want the Committees, as supervisors, to delve in and understand what's going on, then because of timing they should encourage Committee meetings to be held on a different day than Board meetings. He also

suggested that Board meetings start at 10:00 a.m. so that they can end by noon, in lieu of starting at 11:00 a.m. and ending by 1:00 p.m.

Mr. Noel commented that information will be needed in a timely manner so that the appropriate public notices can be provided. It was noted that consistency is needed for the public and that an annual Board/Committee schedule is posted on the FPA website.

Mr. Cosse agreed with changing the starting time for the monthly Board meetings to 10:00 a.m.

MOTION TO RESCHEDULE THE FEBRUARY 15, 2024, MONTHLY BOARD MEETING TO FEBRUARY 22, 2024.

The Board's Bylaws provide that regular monthly Board meetings be held on the third Thursday of each month. The Bylaws further provide that a Board meeting date can be changed by a majority vote of the Board. A request was made to reschedule the February Board meeting due to Mardi Gras.

A motion was offered by Mr. Fierke, seconded by Ms. Settoon and unanimously adopted, to reschedule the February 15, 2024, regular monthly Board meeting to February 22, 2024.

RESOLUTION NO. 01-18-24-02 - SCOPE OF WORK FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR STORM SURGE BARRIER RESEARCH, PUBLIC EDUCATION AND SATELLITE MAINTENANCE FACILITY

Mr. Cosse asked that Wilma Heaton, Director of Governmental Affairs, provide an update to the Board on what had taken place thus far on the International Center for Storm Surge Barrier Research, Public Education and Satellite Maintenance Facility.

Ms. Heaton explained that she found a voluminous amount of materials produced over the last eight years on the project. Initially, RCL worked pro bono and filed Louisiana Capital Outlay Program (COP) requests. When RCL Architects was working on the Orleans Levee District Police Station, the President directed Regional Director Robert Turner to contact RCL for a proposal to beef up the original concept for the visitors' center. At the December 11th Operations Committee meeting, Commissioners received a copy of RCL's 28-page Preliminary Design and Programming Report and Estimate dated November 1, 2017. In 2017 RCL was paid about \$18,000 for the work. Also, in 2017 after Chief Administrative Officer Derek Boese walked the property with RCL, a survey was authorized and performed by Bryant Hammett & Associates. After the work in 2017, COP applications were filed over eight fiscal years using different names for the project.

Ms. Heaton strongly encouraged Commissioners to consider the resolution before them since the Board's decision on the project would be made based on the information it is provided. The resolution formally directs staff to return to the Board with very concise information regarding the project. Staff can develop pros and cons for a basic project that would justify to the public the use of Orleans tax dollars with Engineering taking the

lead on the report to the Board. The project's maintenance component should include pre-storm and post-storm staging. She recommended that the Board consider a basic facility that accommodates international visitors and pre-storm and post-storm staging, and that would be paid for by Orleans tax dollars. The footprint would be in place for applying for Federal funding should the Board wish to include a research and first-rate educational component. Ms. Heaton commented that working together staff can return to the Board with good information and options.

Ms. Heaton noted that the FPA's Purchasing Policy requires that a resolution be adopted to approve the advertisement of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ). The proposed resolution under the next agenda item provides for approval of the advertisement of the RFQ after the Board approves the scope of the project.

Mr. Miller pointed out that a 60-day period was mentioned at the Operations Committee meeting for staff to develop a comprehensive report. Mr. Humphreys advised that 60 days would be adequate to produce the report, which would be provided to Commissioners about a week prior to the meeting.

Ms. Settoon commented that since the Board must consider costs versus other priorities, the scope of work should offer various options. Due to the high costs for certain components, the Board may want to start with a basic project and have a phased expansion plan.

Ms. Heaton pointed out that the FY 2018 COP request for the project was \$4 million. She was advised by the State that the FY 2019 request should be \$1.25 million. The FY 2020 request was \$4 million and the amount increased over the next years to \$6 million and \$8 million. The project has gone through several variations; therefore, a decision is needed by the Board on the project's direction.

Mr. Miller asked that the report by staff indicate which components are eligible for State or Federal funding and which components would be funded totally by local funds.

Mr. Cosse explained his preference for a basic facility with a meeting room, storage space and restrooms. He pointed out that similar preferences were expressed at the Operations Committee meeting. The ability to have equipment on site is an important consideration. When the project was first proposed, storage of grass cutting equipment was included; however, the FPA subsequently contracted the grass maintenance for the area. Contracting the grass maintenance was a good decision since tractors had to be driven from Franklin Avenue to the green bridge before grass cutting could begin. The current concept for the maintenance component is for pre-storm and post-storm staging. Ms. Settoon suggested that staff provide a cost-benefit ratio to justify the maintenance component.

Mr. Noel asked would a safehouse be included. Ms. Chandler explained that the IHNC Surge Barrier control room included a safehouse. She pointed out that each year significant numbers of visitors and groups tour the Surge Barrier. Currently, there are no shelter or restroom facilities for tourists. Tours are handled by Stacy Gilmore, Public Information Director, and Darren Austin, Operations Director. Due to the number of

requests received, some people have had to be turned away. Staff would like to explore options for this component. A basic facility could be used for multiple purposes.

Mr. Miller pointed out that dollar-wise the IHNC Surge Barrier was the largest U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) project in the history of the United States. Many engineering groups and students want to see the impressive structure. A facility that would showcase the structure would be helpful; however, the Board needs to know the costs and decide whether it should be phased.

Ms. Gilmore explained that the FPA has not been promoting tours; however, numerous requests are received. Group requests of 30 to 40 people are typical and must be split since the control house where graphics and videos are shown only houses 15 to 20 individuals. About 100 people have had to be turned away. Mr. Fierke asked about the criteria for turning someone away. Ms. Gilmore explained that staff must look at their work schedules, since tours are conducted in addition to their regular duties, as well as maintenance schedules. The FPA's mission is operating and maintaining the system. Tours are a wonderful benefit; however, tours take time (travel time to and from the Surge Barrier and 60 to 90 minutes to conduct a tour). Attempts are made to streamline tours. Tour requests for two or three individuals are combined, if possible, with larger groups of about 20 people. Sometimes tours cannot be conducted due to weather conditions. A tour request form is provided on the FPA website. The FPA website also lists requirements; e.g., people must know that they are touring an active work site and must be physically able to walk up the ramp and around the structure.

Mr. Noel commented that he appreciated the tour component; however, the FPA's duty is to ensure monies spent from FPA funds are related to flood protection.

Mr. Fierke stated that the development of a matrix or table by Ms. Heaton and Mr. Humphreys of the colors of money that are possible and what these colors of money can fund would be helpful. He suggested that since several different types of Federal grants may be available, the Mercury group be contacted regarding possible grants. The matrix could be developed in about 30 days and give the Board an understanding of what is doable. Staff could then be provided additional guidance.

Mr. Settoon concurred with Mr. Miller's comments regarding the Surge Barrier, which is the largest public works project in the history of the USACE. The FPA has an obligation to share the structure and what it does with the public. In addition, the FPA's lobbyist in Washington is working on funding for 200-year flood protection and the FPA needs to tell its story. Therefore, the facility is important, not only for maintenance and other needs, but to show the public what the FPA has done, what the USACE has done on the FPA's behalf, how it works, and the FPA's plan for the future. He recommended that the Board move forward on the project.

On the motion of Mr. Noel,
Seconded by Mr. Fierke, the following resolution was offered:

WHEREAS, the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (FPA) submitted requests over the past several years for Louisiana Capital Outlay

Program (COP) funding for the construction of the proposed International Center for Storm Surge Barrier Research, Public Education and Satellite Maintenance Facility; and

WHEREAS, the Operations Committee at its meeting held on September 11, 2023, determined that a more refined project scope should be vetted and approved by the Board prior to the advertisement and issuance of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for Architectural Services for the project; and

WHEREAS, the Operations Committee recommended that FPA staff review the preliminary scope and estimates developed in 2017 for the project, obtain input from all staff members relative to the FPA's needs, and develop a refined, updated preliminary project scope along with preliminary cost estimates; and

WHEREAS, the updated preliminary scope developed by staff shall be presented to the Board for review and input, including the addition and/or deletion of recommended components or elements; and

WHEREAS, the final preliminary project scope shall be approved by the Board, prior to the FPA advertising and issuing an RFQ for architectural services for the project.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that FPA staff is hereby directed to develop a project scope, including cost estimates, for the proposed International Center for Storm Surge Barrier Research, Public Education and Satellite Maintenance Facility, which shall be presented to the Board for review, input, including additions and/or deletions to the scope, and approval.

The foregoing was submitted to a vote; the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Mr. Arrigo, Mr. Fierke, Mr. Miller, Mr. Noel, Mr. Rabb, Ms. Settoon
and Mr. Settoon

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Duplantier

RESOLUTION NO. 01-18-24-03 - ADVERTISEMENT OF AN RFQ FOR ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR STORM SURGE BARRIER RESEARCH, PUBLIC EDUCATION AND SATELLITE MAINTENANCE FACILITY

Mr. Settoon asked about the resolution before the Board being premature. Ms. Heaton explained that the FPA for many years represented, particularly to the professional community, that the RFQ for architectural services would be advertised. The resolution represents that the Board has control of the project scope and provides that the RFQ will not be advertised until the scope is approved by the Board. Mr. Fierke added that there were two different parties doing pro bono design work; therefore, the resolution clarifies the issue regarding the RFQ for the community. He urged the Board to adopt the resolution.

On the motion of Mr. Miller,
Seconded by Mr. Fierke, the following resolution was offered:

WHEREAS, the Lake Borgne-IHNC Surge Barrier is one of the largest storm surge barriers in the world built at a cost of \$1.2 billion by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) after New Orleans and its surrounding areas were devastated by the storm surge accompanying Hurricane Katrina in August of 2005; and

WHEREAS, the Lake Borgne-IHNC Surge Barrier was turned over to the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (FPA) for Operation and Maintenance (O&M); and

WHEREAS, since taking over the O&M of the Surge Barrier, the FPA has conducted more than 200 formal tours of the barrier; and

WHEREAS, visitors to the surge barrier have included foreign delegations from China, Italy, Chile, Great Britain and other countries; US government dignitaries including US Senators and Congressmen; state and local government officials; members of the worldwide scientific community; and, students from Louisiana, the Netherlands and Canada; and

WHEREAS, today, there are no facilities on site to accommodate visitors to the surge barrier or promote the FPA's educational goals; and

WHEREAS, a well-designed and constructed facility would provide the FPA with the necessary tools to accomplish the following goals:

- Host foreign delegations, US Congressional visitors, state and local governmental officials;
- Attract additional visitors including students, the general public, members of the scientific community, and agencies from around the world who currently operate surge barriers or are planning to construct one;
- Educate visitors about the construction of the barrier and its operation and maintenance requirements;
- Create awareness among visitors of the significance of the flood defense system, how it works, and how their tax dollars are spent to operate and maintain it;
- Create and maintain a regional support base enthusiastic about the proper operation and maintenance of the flood defense system;
- Establish an educational program for local schools and universities, using working scale models, exhibits, presentations, and guided tours;
- Inform visitors about the roles and responsibilities of the various local, state and federal agencies, and their cooperation and coordination activities in partnership with the Authority;
- Provide a venue to discuss and study coastal preservation and restoration activities, and how such activities affect the flood defense system;
- Provide information to residents and businesses about what they can do as part of their shared responsibility to reduce their flood risk.

WHEREAS, the inclusion of a satellite maintenance facility in the center would significantly increase maintenance efficiencies for the Surge Barrier and the surrounding area; and

WHEREAS, architectural services, including project design and project management, are needed for the International Center for Storm Surge Barrier Research, Public Education and Satellite Maintenance Facility, in order to enhance grant opportunities to fund the construction of the facility; and

WHEREAS, the development by in-house staff of a more clearly defined scope for the project is needed, which shall be submitted to the Board for review, input and approval prior to the advertisement and issuance of a Request for Qualifications for the procurement of the aforementioned architectural services.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East, authorizes the advertisement and issuance of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for architectural services, including project design and project management, for the International Center for Storm Surge Barrier Research, Public Education and Satellite Maintenance Facility, subject to and upon Board approval of project scope for the facility.

The foregoing was submitted to a vote; the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Mr. Arrigo, Mr. Fierke, Mr. Miller, Mr. Noel, Mr. Rabb, Ms. Settoon
and Mr. Settoon

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Duplantier

The next regular monthly Board Meeting will be held on Thursday, February 22, 2024.

There was no further business; therefore, the meeting was adjourned.