

**MINUTES OF
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE INFORMATIONAL MEETING
HELD ON OCTOBER 10, 2024**

PRESENT: Thomas G. Fierke, Chair

The Operations Committee of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (Authority or FPA) was scheduled to meet at 10:00 a.m. on October 10, 2024, in the Franklin Avenue Administrative Complex, Meeting Room 201, 6920 Franklin Avenue, New Orleans, La. Due to the lack of a quorum, an informational meeting was held.

Opening Comments: Mr. Fierke advised that he decided to conduct the informational meeting because he did not want to deny the public the opportunity to speak on any of the agenda topics.

Public Comments: None.

Report of Director of Engineering:

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

- Monitoring the tropics – The track of Hurricane Milton was shown on a graphic. Staff will continue monitoring the tropics.
- Rehabilitation Request for PL (Public Law) 84-99 Relief –The following items were included in the request to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for PL 84-99 relief. An inspection with the USACE was conducted at each of the four sites.
 - East Jefferson Lakefront Levee Foreshore Protection Erosion - The erosion has worsened.
 - New Orleans East Back Levee Slides (LPV-111) - New slides occurred after Hurricane Francine.
 - Caernarvon Sector Gate Vibration - The vibration issue has been known for a long time; however, it has worsened.
 - West Return Floodwall Seepage – The seepage was an issue known to the USACE prior to turning the project over to the FPA.
- Digital Twin Project – Malay Ghose Hajra, Chief Engineer, is leading the effort on the creation of a digital twin for most of the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS). A pilot project was done on the 17th Street Canal PCCP (Permanent Canal Closure and Pumps). Operations and Maintenance manuals and manufacturers manuals, as well as other important information and data, can be attached to the digital twin. A presentation on the Digital Twin Project was anticipated to be provided to the Board in November.

- Teledyne Multibeam Sonar – The FPA acquired the sonar equipment, which is being used to obtain bathymetry data. Thus far bathymetry data has been collected at the West Return Wall in anticipation of the proposed rip-rap rehabilitation project, the London Avenue Canal Pump Station intake and the IHNC Surge Barrier.

New Business:

A. Update, including maps, photos, and diagrams as necessary, on the Lakefront Management Authority (LMA) Floodgate L-18 and valve issue(s).

Mr. Fierke advised that he and Mr. Humphreys will meet separately with the Lakefront Management Authority (LMA) regarding the Floodgate L-18 and valve issues. He explained that he and Mr. Settoon met with Mr. Humphreys and Kelli Chandler, Regional Director, regarding the issues. He commented that it was not appropriate to try to discuss this issue in this forum. It is necessary to see the maps up close.

B. Discussion of proposed contracts with DRC Emergency Services, LLC, and CERES Environmental Services, Inc., to provide a proposal for Disaster Debris Management services and recommendation to the Board.

Mr. Fierke advised that DRC Emergency Services, LLC, and CERES Environmental Services, Inc., were responsible and seem to be very responsive. Both companies can scale up when needed and have been used by the FPA. Mr. Fierke advised that he will recommend that the Board approve contracting with the two firms.

Mr. Humphreys clarified that the FPA had contracted with one of the firms during the previous selection process. The other firm is well known.

Mr. Fierke explained that it would be advisable to select two firms because the sooner the debris is collected and estimates are made, the higher the percentage of FEMA reimbursement.

There were no further discussions; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 10:12 a.m.