

**MINUTES OF  
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST  
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE INFORMATIONAL MEETING  
HELD ON NOVEMBER 14, 2024**

**PRESENT:** Roy M. Carubba, P.E., President – Ex Officio Member, Acting Chair  
Derek N. Rabb, Committee Member

---

The Operations Committee of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (Authority or FPA) was scheduled to meet at 10:00 a.m. on November 14, 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. Carubba introduced himself and advised that Tom Fierke, Operations Committee Chair, was unable to attend the meeting.

**Public Comments:** None.

**Report of Director of Engineering:**

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

- **Monitoring the tropics:** Staff was monitoring for tropical disturbances.
- **17<sup>th</sup> Street Canal Rehabilitation Project:** Cycle Construction was ahead of schedule and expected to be out of the canal before the end of December. A sheetpile wall was installed to hold additional fill, which will be covered with geofabric and a geocell filled with aggregate.
- **Permanent Canal Closures and Pumps (PCCP) Repairs:** The Joint Venture (JV) was mobilizing to start the second round of pump repairs at all three PCCP stations. Cranes were expected to be delivered on November 14. Five pumps will be repaired in this round of repairs: one 900 cfs pump at Orleans Avenue PCCP, two pumps (one 900 cfs and one 1800 cfs) at London Avenue PCCP, and two 1800 cfs pumps at 17<sup>th</sup> Street PCCP. The JV's goal is to repair eight pumps during the current off season (December 1 – May 31).

Mr. Carubba asked about the FPA's monitoring or reporting activities. Mr. Humphreys advised that the FPA is heavily involved in the repair project; e.g., reviewing every submittal by the JV. FPA staff must still perform routine operations and maintenance at the three pump stations while the repairs are taking place. Reviews are handled in-house in conjunction with the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA). CPRA hired a corrosion expert to provide assistance.

Mr. Humphreys explained that there are only five sets of stoplogs, which are used to dewater pump cells, restricting repairs to five pumps at a time. The

stoplogs will be dropped and tested next week. Pre-pump removal meetings will begin on December 2. The JV will begin removing pumps shortly thereafter. The replacement parts being manufactured are completed or near completion. All pumps will be fully operational by June 1 (start of next hurricane season). The PCCP pump stations have a total of 17 pumps. Four pumps were repaired last off season (prior to June 1, 2024) and 13 pumps still need repair.

Mr. Arrigo asked can the FPA pumps match Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans (SWBNO) capacities when pumps are removed for repairs. Mr. Humphreys responded that the 17<sup>th</sup> Street PCCP has 30 percent more capacity than SWBNO Pump Station 6, so capacities may be close. The London Avenue PCCP and SWBNO pump station capacities may also be close. Pump repairs are taking place outside of hurricane season.

Wilma Heaton, Director of Governmental Affairs, pointed out that the agreement between the FPA and Jefferson Parish relative to the 17<sup>th</sup> Street PCCP should be reviewed regarding the expiration date.

**New Business:**

**A. Discussion of the proposed issuance of a Task Order to Burk-Kleinpeter, Inc., with a not-to-exceed amount of \$199,267.25 for Civil Engineering Design and Bidding Services for the West Return Wall Rip Rap Maintenance Project located in the East Jefferson Levee District.**

---

Mr. Carubba asked that the discussion of the proposed Task Order be deferred.

**B. Discussion of the scheduling of a proposed public meeting in accordance with LA RS 32:204 to prohibit the operation of electric assisted bicycles / scooters on FPA All Weather Access Roads (AWAR) or paths within the East Jefferson, Orleans and Lake Borgne Basin Levee Districts.**

---

Mr. Humphreys explained that the FPA received complaints from residents about electric assisted bicycles (e-bikes) speeding along the Mississippi River Levee and lakefront levee bike paths. Recently, an individual had an accident riding an e-bike on the levee bike path. For public safety purposes staff recommended prohibiting e-bikes and e-scooters on all levee bike paths and AWARs (all weather access road). RS 32:204 treats e-bikes as bicycles; however, the statute also allows an agency to prohibit e-bikes from using a bike path provided a public hearing is held. Staff asked to be allowed to hold a public hearing in January on the issue and to bring the matter to the Board in January or February. The public hearing will be advertised in December

Kirk Ordoyne, Executive Counsel, noted that the Legal Department had been advising Mr. Humphreys regarding this issue. Ms. Heaton suggested that staff consult with the Attorney General or Association of Levee Boards of Louisiana regarding the applicability of RS 32:204 to the FPA. Mr. Ordoyne stated that in LA RS 32:1, the definition of local parish authority includes all boards and commissions that have jurisdiction within a parish to have governance in a parish.

Mr. Heaton advised that she was contacted by a resident who was cycling along the bike path on the levee and was involved in an accident caused by a horse. She recommended that the proposed policy includes horses. Mr. Humphreys concurred.

Mr. Carubba asked to hear from the Superintendent of Police. Superintendent Joshua Rondeno explained that relative to levee systems users, public safety is the primary goal of the Orleans and East Jefferson Levee District Police Departments. In his opinion, horses, in addition to e-bikes, pose a problem. E-bikes also present a potential fire hazard. Fire Departments face challenges producing the types of suppressants needed at a moment's notice for this type of fire, which could cause structural integrity issues. Mr. Humphreys concurred with Superintendent Rondeno, explaining that sod is a part of the levee armoring.

Superintendent Rondeno stated that the greater public good is best served by not allowing horses, that can suddenly be stunned and harm citizens, and e-bikes, due to speed and the fire potential, to use levee bike paths or AWARs. Enforcement of a prohibition would not be an issue; however, a rule or law must be on the books for the Levee District Police Officers to enforce.

Superintendent Rondeno advised that he will attend the public hearing. Stacy Gilmore, Public Information Director, will assist with the hearing. The hearing will be recorded.

- C. Discussion of the proposed selection of firms for the purpose of entering into Indefinite Delivery-Indefinite Quantity (ID-IQ) contracts to provide professional Construction Materials Testing and Inspection Services on an as-needed basis.**
  - and**
  - D. Discussion of the proposed selection of firms for the purpose of entering into ID-IQ contracts to provide professional Supports Services (Mechanical, Electrical and Plumbing) on an as-needed basis.**
- 

Mr. Carubba asked that Items C and D regarding the selection of firms for ID-IQ contracts be deferred.

Mr. Humphreys advised that staff was in the process of reviewing the responses to the Requests for Qualifications. He anticipated that the recommendations would be available for the November Board meeting.

- E. Discussion of a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with St. Bernard Parish for safe-housing Lake Borgne Basin Levee District employees.**

Mr. Humphreys advised that a written agreement with St. Bernard Parish Government (SBPG) to house Lake Borgne Basin Levee District (LBBLD) personnel in the event of a major storm expired. Currently, there is a verbal agreement with SBPG for safe-housing LBBLD employees; however, the FPA is seeking a formal agreement. The

FPA is also seeking grants to harden the Violet facility to safe-house LBBLD employees in the future.

Ms. Heaton advised that Commissioner Cosse, who represents St. Bernard Parish, requested that the item be included on the agenda for discussion. Parish President Louis Pomes reached out to Mr. Cosse and made the offer to safe house employees. SBPG is agreeable with executing a formal agreement.

Mr. Humphreys advised that LBBLD employees (about eight individuals) had been staying at the Violet facility during storm events. However, the employees must be housed at a fortified structure during a major hurricane.

There were no further discussions; therefore, the meeting was adjourned.