

**MINUTES OF THE  
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY–EAST  
BOARD MEETING  
THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 2025**

The regular monthly Board Meeting of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (Authority or FPA) was held on March 20, 2025, 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. Carubba called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and led the pledge of allegiance. Ms. Settoon called the roll and a quorum was present:

**PRESENT:**

Roy M. Carubba, P.E., President  
Deborah M. Settoon, P.E., Secretary  
K. Randall Noel, Treasurer  
Richard G. Duplantier, Jr.  
Clay A. Cosse  
Derek N. Rabb

**ABSENT:**

None

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

A motion was offered by Mr. Noel, seconded by Mr. Cosse and unanimously adopted to adopt the agenda. Mr. Cosse asked that the resolutions requiring Mr. Rabb's vote be taken as the next items of business since he needed to leave the meeting early due to a conflicting engagement. Mr. Carubba offered a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Noel and unanimously approved, to take Items XIII.B2 and B3 as the next items of business.

**RESOLUTION NO. 03-20-25-01 - APPROVAL OF THE DESIGN AGREEMENT  
BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY, STATE OF LOUISIANA,  
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST AND  
PONTCHARTRAIN LEVEE DISTRICT FOR THE DESIGN OF THE LAKE  
PONTCHARTRAIN AND VICINITY, LA PROJECT (PO-0066)**

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

**WHEREAS**, the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HDSRRS) requires levee lifts post armoring to keep pace with project grade elevations

necessary for future FEMA Re-Certification requirements pursuant to 44 CFR Section 65.10; and

**WHEREAS**, Federal funds were provided in Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, (Public Law 117-328) to initiate design of incrementally raising the elevation of levees and floodwalls over time required to restore and maintain the ability to provide risk reduction from the projected future 2073 one percent annual exceedance probability storm surge and wave event; and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Louisiana, through the Coastal Protection and Restoration (CPRA), will serve as the non-federal sponsor to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) with the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (SLFPA-E) and Pontchartrain Levee District (PLD) for the USACE's design of the Levee Lift Post Armoring Project; and

**WHEREAS**, the Project includes the incremental raising of the elevation of approximately 50 miles of levee lifts and 3 miles of floodwall along existing HSDRRS levee alignments and new collocated reaches along the Mississippi River, to restore and maintain the ability to provide risk reduction from the projected future 2073 1% annual exceedance probability storm surge and wave event as generally described in the Lake Pontchartrain & Vicinity, Louisiana General Re-Evaluation Report with integrated Environmental Impact Statement, dated July 2021 and approved by the Director of Civil Works on December 16, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, based on the project's primary purpose of coastal storm risk management, the Non-Federal Sponsors shall contribute 35 percent of the design costs for the Project; and

**WHEREAS**, design costs for the project are projected to be \$4,615,385, with the federal share of such costs projected to be \$3,000,000 and the Non-Federal Sponsors' share to be \$1,615,385 (\$1,413,462 SLFPA-E and \$201,923 PLD).

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East approves the Design Agreement between the Department of the Army, State of Louisiana, Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East and Pontchartrain Levee District for the design of the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity, La Project (PO-0066).

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the FPA President is authorized to sign the aforementioned Design Agreement and any and all documents necessary to carry out the above.

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

YEAS: Mr. Carubba, Mr. Cosse, Mr. Duplantier, Mr. Noel, Mr. Rabb and  
Ms. Settoon

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

**RESOLUTION NO. 03-20-25-02 - APPROVAL OF THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE STATE OF LOUISIANA, THROUGH THE COASTAL PROTECTION AND RESTORATION AUTHORITY, SOUTHEAST EAST FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST AND PONTCHARTRAIN LEVEE DISTRICT REGARDING THE DESIGN AGREEMENT FOR THE LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN AND VICINITY LEVEE LIFTS POST ARMORING**

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

**WHEREAS**, the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System requires levee lifts post armoring to keep pace with project grade elevations necessary for future FEMA Re-Certification requirements pursuant to 44 CFR Section 65.10; and

**WHEREAS**, Federal funds were provided in Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023, (Public Law 117-328) to initiate design of incrementally raising the elevation of levees and floodwalls over time required to restore and maintain the ability to provide risk reduction from the projected future 2073 one percent annual exceedance probability storm surge and wave event; and

**WHEREAS**, the Design Agreement between the Department of the Army, State of Louisiana, Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (SLFPA-E) and Pontchartrain Levee District (PLD) will be executed for the design of the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity, La Project (PO-0066); and

**WHEREAS**, the State of Louisiana, through the Coastal Protection and Restoration (CPRA), will serve as the non-federal sponsor to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) with the SLFPA-E and PLD for the USACE's design of the Levee Lift Post Armoring Project; and

**WHEREAS**, Art VII, Sec 14(C) of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974 provides that, for a public purpose, the State and its political subdivisions or political corporations may engage in cooperative endeavors with each other; and

**WHEREAS**, the Project includes the incremental raising of the elevation of approximately 50 miles of levee lifts and 3 miles of floodwall along existing HSDRRS levee alignments and new collocated reaches along the Mississippi River, to restore and maintain the ability to provide risk reduction from the projected future 2073 1% annual exceedance probability storm surge and wave event as Generally described in the Lake Pontchartrain & Vicinity, Louisiana General Re-Evaluation Report with integrated Environmental Impact Statement, dated July 2021 and approved by the Director of Civil Works on December 16, 2021; and

**WHEREAS**, the MOA sets forth the terms and conditions of the non-federal sponsor cost share to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the cost share split between SLFPA-E and PLD for the pre-construction engineering and design for the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity (LPV) levee lifts post armoring, which constitute a portion of the greater New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS), as provided in the associated Design Agreement between USACE, the

State of Louisiana, SLFPA-E and PLD for the Design of the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity, LA Project; and

**WHEREAS**, based on the project's primary purpose of coastal storm risk management, the Non-Federal Sponsors shall contribute 35 percent of the design costs under the Design Agreement; and

**WHEREAS**, the design of the LPV levee lift post armoring is estimated at \$4,615,385, with \$3,000,000 being the federal or USACE's cost share and the remaining \$1,615,385 being the responsibility of the Non-Federal Sponsors; and

**WHEREAS**, the SLFPA-E will contribute \$1,413,462 towards the aforementioned project with payment made to the USACE within 30 days of the signing of the MOA by all parties.

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East approves the Memorandum of Agreement between the State of Louisiana, through the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority, Southeast East Flood Protection Authority-East and Pontchartrain Levee District regarding the design agreement for the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity Levee Lifts Post Armoring.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the FPA President is authorized to sign the aforementioned Memorandum of Agreement and any and all documents necessary to carry out the above.

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

YEAS: Mr. Carubba, Mr. Cosse, Mr. Duplantier, Mr. Noel, Mr. Rabb and  
Ms. Settoon

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Mr. Noel offered a motion to take Agenda Items XIII.A.1, 2, 3 and 4 as the next items of business. The motion was seconded by Ms. Settoon and there was no objection.

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 03-20-25-03 - APPROVAL OF FY 2026 BUDGET FOR THE SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY – EAST**

Ms. Settoon advised that the Finance Committee discussed the Fiscal Year 2026 budgets. The Committee had no issues with the budgets.

On the motion of Mr. Carubba,

Seconded by Ms. Settoon, the following resolution was offered:

**WHEREAS**, the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East has reviewed financial projections for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026, including estimated operating revenues and expenditures; and

**WHEREAS**, funding in the following amounts is required as detailed by the line item budget for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026:

**TWELVE MONTHS ENDING JUNE 30, 2026 BUDGETS**

	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>CAPITAL PROJECTS</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Intergovernmental	-	-	-
Rev From EJ	4,235,800	-	4,235,800
Rev from LBBLD	1,148,700	-	1,148,700
Rev from OLD	9,287,400	-	9,287,400
Interest Income	46,000	-	46,000
Misc Revenue	387,600	-	387,600
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>15,105,500</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>15,105,500</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Personnel Services	8,867,000	-	8,867,000
Training	344,400	-	344,400
Professional Services	326,000	-	326,000
Contractuals	3,875,500	-	3,875,500
Materials	417,900	-	417,900
Equipment	476,600	-	476,600
Other Charges	14,550	-	14,550
MMCI	-	350,000	350,000
Cost Sharing	-	-	-
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>14,321,950</b>	<b>350,000</b>	<b>14,671,950</b>
Other Sources/Uses	8,000	-	8,000
<b>Net Changes in Fund Balance</b>	<b>791,550</b>	<b>(350,000)</b>	<b>441,550</b>
<b>Fund Balance, Beginning</b>	<b>3,614,246</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,614,246</b>
<b>Unassigned Fund Balance, Ending</b>	<b>4,405,796</b>	<b>(350,000)</b>	<b>4,055,796</b>

**WHEREAS**, the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority - East is mandated to submit an approved budget by April 1, 2025, to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget and other various oversight authorities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Finance Committee at its meeting held on March 20, 2025, reviewed the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority East General Fund Budget for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026.

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East approves the General Fund Budget for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026.

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

YEAS: Mr. Carubba, Mr. Cosse, Mr. Duplantier, Mr. Noel, Mr. Rabb and  
Ms. Settoon

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

**RESOLUTION NO. 03-20-25-04 - APPROVAL OF FY 2026 BUDGET FOR THE  
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY – EAST ON BEHALF  
OF THE EAST JEFFERSON LEVEE DISTRICT**

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On the motion of Mr. Noel,

Seconded by Mr. Carubba, the following resolution was offered:

**WHEREAS**, the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East on behalf of the East Jefferson Levee District (EJLD) has reviewed financial projections for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026, including estimated operating revenues and expenditures; and

**WHEREAS**, funding in the following amounts is required as detailed by the line item budget for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026:

**TWELVE MONTHS ENDING JUNE 30, 2026 BUDGETS**

	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>CAPITAL PROJECTS</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Tax Revenue	12,060,000	-	12,060,000
Intergovernmental	365,000	-	365,000
Rev from LBBLD	-	-	
Interest Income	1,065,700	-	1,065,700
Misc Revenue	129,200	1,140,000	129,200
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>13,619,900</b>	<b>1,140,000</b>	<b>14,759,900</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Personnel Services	5,953,600	-	5,953,600
Training	18,000	-	18,000
Professional Services	130,000	-	130,000
Contractuals	1,354,400	-	1,354,400
Materials	592,500	-	592,500
Equipment	1,396,000	-	1,396,000
Other Charges	488,800	-	488,800
MMCI	-	9,834,900	9,834,900
Cost Sharing	4,495,800	-	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>14,429,100</b>	<b>9,834,900</b>	<b>24,264,000</b>

Other Sources/Uses	250,000		250,000
<b>Net Changes in Fund Balance</b>	<b>(559,200)</b>	<b>(8,694,900)</b>	<b>(9,254,100)</b>
<b>Fund Balance, Beginning</b>	<b>42,044,949</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>42,044,949</b>
<b>Unassigned Fund Balance, Ending</b>	<b>41,485,749</b>	<b>(8,694,900)</b>	<b>32,790,849</b>

**WHEREAS**, the East Jefferson Levee District is mandated to submit an approved budget by April 1, 2025, to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget and other various oversight authorities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Finance Committee at its meeting held on March 20, 2025, reviewed the East Jefferson Levee District General Fund Budget for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026.

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority - East approves the General Fund Budget of the East Jefferson Levee District for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026.

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

YEAS: Mr. Carubba, Mr. Cosse, Mr. Duplantier, Mr. Noel, Mr. Rabb and

Ms. Settoon

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

**RESOLUTION NO. 03-20-25-05 - APPROVAL OF FY 2026 BUDGET FOR THE SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY – EAST ON BEHALF OF THE ORLEANS LEVEE DISTRICT**

On the motion of Mr. Noel,

Seconded by Mr. Cosse, the following resolution was offered:

**WHEREAS**, the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East on behalf of the Orleans Levee District (OLD) has reviewed financial projections for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026, including estimated operating revenues and expenditures; and

**WHEREAS**, funding in the following amounts is required as detailed by the line item budget for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026:

**TWELVE MONTHS ENDING JUNE 30, 2026 BUDGETS**

	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>SLIP FUND</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Tax Revenue	27,808,900	24,651,200	52,460,100
Grant Revenue	-	-	-
Intergovernmental	1,040,900	-	1,040,900

Rev from LBBLD	673,600	-	673,600
Rev from Nonflood	-	-	-
Mineral Revenue	-	-	-
Interest Income	1,733,800	3,521,500	5,255,300
Misc Revenue	1,826,600	-	1,826,600
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>33,083,800</b>	<b>28,172,700</b>	<b>61,256,500</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Personnel Services	18,108,400	-	18,108,400
Training	105,500	-	105,500
Professional Services	500,000	-	500,000
Contractuals	5,731,600	-	5,731,600
Materials	2,554,100	-	2,554,100
Equipment	1,476,800	-	1,476,800
Other Charges	1,098,900	969,100	2,068,000
MMCI	-	26,677,880	26,677,880
Cost Sharing	9,027,400	-	9,027,400
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>38,602,700</b>	<b>27,646,980</b>	<b>66,249,680</b>
Other Sources	300,000	-	300,000
<b>Net Changes in Fund Balance</b>	<b>(5,218,900)</b>	<b>525,720</b>	<b>(4,693,180)</b>
<b>Fund Balance, Beginning</b>	<b>29,890,743</b>	<b>60,256,549</b>	<b>90,147,292</b>
<b>Unassigned Fund Balance, Ending</b>	<b>24,671,843</b>	<b>60,782,269</b>	<b>85,454,112</b>

**WHEREAS**, the O.L.D. is mandated to submit an approved budget by April 1, 2025, to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget and other various oversight authorities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Finance Committee at its meeting held on March 20, 2025, reviewed the O.L.D. General Fund and SLIP Fund Budget for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026.

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East approves the General Fund and SLIP Fund Budget of the Orleans Levee District for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026.

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

YEAS: Mr. Carubba, Mr. Cosse, Mr. Duplantier, Mr. Noel, Mr. Rabb and  
Ms. Settoon

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

**RESOLUTION NO. 03-20-25-06 - APPROVAL OF FY 2026 BUDGET FOR THE  
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY – EAST ON BEHALF  
OF THE LAKE BORGNE BASIN LEVEE DISTRICT**

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

**WHEREAS**, the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East on behalf of the Lake Borgne Basin Levee District (LBBLD) has reviewed financial projections for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026, including estimated operating revenues and expenditures; and

**WHEREAS**, funding in the following amounts is required as detailed by the line item budget for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026:

**TWELVE MONTHS ENDING JUNE 30, 2026 BUDGETS**

	<b>GENERAL FUND</b>	<b>CAPITAL PROJECTS</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>REVENUES</b>			
Tax Revenue	3,669,500	-	3,669,500
Intergovernmental	163,000	-	163,000
Interest Income	111,400	-	111,400
Misc Revenue	5,500	-	5,500
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>3,949,400</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,949,400</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
Personnel Services	1,394,600	-	1,394,600
Training	-	-	-
Professional Services	30,000	-	30,000
Contractuals	233,700	-	233,700
Materials	112,900	-	112,900
Equipment	338,000	-	338,000
Other Charges	99,900	-	99,900
MMCI	-	3,367,800	3,367,800
Cost Sharing	1,822,300	-	1,822,300
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>4,031,400</b>	<b>3,367,800</b>	<b>7,399,200</b>
Other Sources	80,000		80,000
<b>Net Changes in Fund Balance</b>	<b>(2,000)</b>	<b>(3,367,800)</b>	<b>(3,369,800)</b>
<b>Fund Balance, Beginning</b>	<b>1,554,313</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,554,313</b>
<b>Unassigned Fund Balance, Ending</b>	<b>1,552,313</b>	<b>(3,367,800)</b>	<b>(1,815,487)</b>

**WHEREAS**, the LBBLD is mandated to submit an approved budget by April 1, 2025, to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget and other various oversight authorities; and

**WHEREAS**, the Finance Committee at its meeting held on March 20, 2025, reviewed the LBBLD General Fund Budget for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026.

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority - East approves the General Fund Budget of the Lake Borgne Basin Levee District for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2026.

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

YEAS: Mr. Carubba, Mr. Cosse, Mr. Duplantier, Mr. Noel, Mr. Rabb and  
Ms. Settoon

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

**RESOLUTION NO. 03-20-25-07 - APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 20, 2025**

On the motion of Mr. Noel,

Seconded by Mr. Carubba, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East approves the Minutes of the Board Meeting held on February 20, 2025.

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

YEAS: Mr. Carubba, Mr. Cosse, Mr. Duplantier, Mr. Noel, Mr. Rabb and  
Ms. Settoon

NAYS: None

ABSENT: None

Mr. Carubba announced that Mr. Rabb elected to resign from the Board effective close of business on March 20, 2025. He thanked Mr. Rabb for his hard work during his tenure as a Commissioner and wished him well in his future endeavors.

**Election to fill the vacancy in the Office of Treasurer**

Mr. Carubba nominated Mr. Noel to fill the vacant Office of Treasurer. The nomination was seconded by Ms. Settoon. The Board voted unanimously to elect Mr. Noel as the Board's Treasurer.

On the motion of Mr. Carubba,

Seconded by Ms. Settoon, the following resolution was offered:

## **RESOLUTION NO. 03-20-25-08 - ELECTION TO FILL THE OFFICE OF TREASURER**

“A resolution stating the results of the election to fill the unexpired term of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East Treasurer.”

**WHEREAS**, the Board adopted revised Bylaws at a Regular Board Meeting held on December 17, 2009, which provide in part for the designation and election of Officers of the Board; and

**WHEREAS**, Article IV, Section 1 (Officers and Elections), designates the Officers of the Board to be elected from among the members of the Board of Commissioners at the regularly scheduled June meeting; and

**WHEREAS**, Article IV, Section 1 further provides that officers shall assume their duties on July 1<sup>st</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, Article IV, Section 2, provides that officers shall be elected to serve one-year terms; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board at its meeting on June 20, 2024, elected William A. Settoon to fill the office of Treasurer for a one-year term ending on June 30, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, Mr. Settoon resigned as Treasurer of the Board of Commissioners effective February 24, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, an election was held on March 20, 2025, and the Board elected K. Randall Noel to fill the vacant office of Treasurer for the unexpired term ending on June 30, 2025.

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED**, that in accordance with election held this date, K. Randall Noel shall serve as Treasurer of the Board for the unexpired term ending on June 30, 2025.

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

YEAS: Mr. Carubba, Mr. Cosse, Mr. Duplantier, Mr. Noel and Ms. Settoon

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Rabb

## **OPENING COMMENTS BY PRESIDENT AND COMMISSIONERS:**

Mr. Noel stated that he built his daughter and granddaughter a house on Mirabeau Avenue in New Orleans. Every day he drove across the London Avenue Canal and saw a placard on the Hurricane Katrina disaster that caused him to reflect on the Board's mission. The FPA has the biggest flood control system in the Mississippi River Valley, the United States and quite possibly the world. The system includes 192 miles of levees and floodwalls, 246 floodgates, eight navigable floodgates, and 17 pumps in the Permanent Canal Closure and Pumps (PCCP) that address the exact reason the City of New Orleans flooded. The Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) was built at a cost of \$14.8 billion, most of which was taxpayer dollars. The FPA staff of 200+ people have been operating and maintaining the flood

protection system and it survived 12 hurricanes without a glimpse of failure. He assured the public that the system works, it is completely inspected each quarter and is continually inspected. The FPA Board of Commissioners found things built in the system that needed repair, worked with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and the repairs were made. The pumps are being repaired with the help of the Joint Venture that constructed the PCCP, the USACE and the Coastal Protection Restoration Authority (CPRA) so that they do not fail. Failure of the pumps would be catastrophic and the City of New Orleans could not survive another flood.

Mr. Noel assured the public that everything possible is being done to maintain and operate the flood protection system in the proper manner. To say anything other than this to the public is irresponsible.

Mr. Duplantier concurred with Mr. Noel and added that the general public does not understand that the work performed by the FPA team of engineers and maintenance staff over the past 12 to 15 years has been subject to international peer review by experts from around the world who come to see what the FPA has done and how it operates. The experts have given the FPA high marks in its operations and have used the FPA's work as a resource for what is happening around the world for flood protection. The experts are saying that what the FPA is doing is right.

Ms. Settoon stated that as a registered professional engineer she agreed with Mr. Noel and Mr. Duplantier's comments. She commended Chris Humphreys, Interim Regional Director, and the dedicated engineers who work with him.

Mr. Carubba concurred with the Commissioners' comments. He stated that since being made President on November 1, 2024, he has taken a personal role in the two most important components of the system: 1) the ability to close the gates and valves in order to have a closed system and 2) ensuring the pumps work. He agreed that failure of the pumps would be catastrophic. When he became President, Superintendent of Police Joshua Rondeno made known to him the inequities that existed in some of the departments for the men who actually close floodgates and shut valves. These men were recognized by the Board last month for their efforts. The pay inequities and their treatment are in the process of being corrected. Morale is better. He stated that, in his opinion, the FPA is better prepared now than prior to his undertaking this part of his responsibility.

Mr. Carrubba stated that it is critical that the 17 PCCP pumps work. In the last month he turned more of his effort towards the pump repairs. The FPA has a staff of incredible people; however, there has been a disparity in the attention given to the maintenance staff and the days of their neglect are over. If the floodgates are not closed and the pumps don't work, nothing else matters. He assured the public that New Orleans will not suffer another Katrina.

Mr. Carubba stated that Governor Jeff Landry gave him three mandates. First and foremost, to ensure no one floods, and the FPA is doing this. Second, to make sure no

one's house gets robbed by restoring the Police. Third, the Board deliver clean, efficient governance and steward the public's money the way it was intended. He stated that the Board is doing all three of these things.

Mr. Carubba stated that on the Board level it boiled down to differences of opinions. How the differences of opinions are resolved make the difference. Three Board members resigned earlier in the week and one today. In his opinion, it was because they could not reconcile how to solve the differences. He stated that he was grateful for their service and wished them well. He assured everyone that the FPA will continue its mission and with the help of the Board and FPA employees no one is going to flood.

### **PRESENTATIONS TO EMPLOYEES: EMPLOYEE OF THE QUARTER AWARD AND RETIREMENT PLAQUE**

Mr. Carubba announced that the Employee of the Quarter was James Thomas. Mr. Thomas is a Maintenance Repairer Master in the Complex Structures team (Department 317). Mr. Thomas never shies away from a task, follows through on every task, and does what he is supposed to do consistently each and every day. The Board thanked Mr. Thomas for his service.

Ms. Setton presented Glenda Boudreaux, Administrative Assistant to the Board, with a plaque in honor of her retirement. Ms. Settoon stated that Ms. Boudreaux has been an employee of the State of Louisiana for 52 years and with the Orleans Levee District/FPA 49 years. She commented on Ms. Boudreaux's service to the Board. She said that the Board will miss Ms. Boudreaux's years of experience and knowledge of how the Board must operate.

Wilma Heaton, former Director of Governmental Affairs, explained that she worked closely with Ms. Boudreaux for 28 years. She stated that it only takes a moment to see Ms. Boudreaux's integrity, work ethic, honesty, and, most of all, her love for the employees. She is the epitome of a public servant. Ms. Boudreaux started in Louisiana State Civil Service in March 1973 and transferred to the Orleans Levee District in 1976. Since the FPA's inception in 2007, she was given the responsibility of consolidating files from the three levee districts. In 2006 the U.S. Senate issued subpoenas for twenty years of records. Working out of a temporary office, Ms. Boudreaux provided the U.S. Senate the twenty years of records. The misinformation was cleared up because of her compliance with the subpoenas. Prior to Hurricane Katrina, Ms. Boudreaux managed the leases for all of the Orleans Levee District's properties. She started her career taking shorthand. When she decided a newsletter was needed for morale, she learned the software and created the employees' newsletter. Over the years she did anything she was asked to do and provided support agencywide. In 2019 and 2020 Ms. Boudreaux was selected by the Louisiana State Civil Service League as one of twenty Civil Service employees in Louisiana to be honored and was awarded Charles E. Dunbar Award Honorable Mention.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Craig Berthold thanked Roy Arrigo, who resigned from the FPA Board on March 17, 2025, for his years of service. He stated that Mr. Arrigo was a man of integrity and that he and Mr. Arrigo fought against a land grab on the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Canal. He stated that FPA employees are extremely hard-working people and that the Commissioners give up much of their time. Mr. Arrigo spent a lot of time and energy and was dedicated to serving and making the Authority as strong as he could.

Carol Byram, a resident of Orleans Parish, agreed with Mr. Berthold's comments. She expressed three concerns. First, regarding an Advocate article in March stating that the Nominating Committee for the Flood Protection Authorities was under scrutiny and making ridiculous claims about its members. She noted that Nominating Committee Chair Jay Lapeyre is one of the most highly respected businessmen in the city. When she attended past Nominating Committee meetings, it was comforting to have such an informed group of people maintain a balance of experience and expertise on the FPA Board. Her second concern began in 2007 and for the next seven to ten years several residents attended and commented at almost every Board meeting. She believed that the majority of the Commissioners were honest and sincere, except for one early Board President. After his term ended, Commissioners were free to speak and vote as they pleased. This remarkable change lasted for years. Her third concern was about the Regional Director position. The FPA had great Regional Directors, two of which were engineers who knew every part of the flood protection system. She assumed the FPA's massive, unique and complicated flood protection system would attract many young engineers from around the country. Lastly, she mentioned that she probably attended well over 100 Board meetings and never once did she recall prior to last month's meeting any Commissioner raise his/her voice in anger.

**PRESENTATIONS:** None

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Finance Committee:** Mr. Noel reported that the Finance Committee met prior to the Board meeting. The Committee received the Second Quarter Budget to Actual Report. The Finance Committee reviewed the FY 2026 Budget at its February meeting.

**Operations Committee:** The Operations Committee did not meet in March; therefore, there was no report.

**Legal Committee:** The Legal Committee did not meet in March; therefore, there was no report.

**Special Issues Committee:** Ms. Settoon reported that the Special Issues Committee met prior to the Board meeting. The Committee reviewed the progress on filling three vacancies (Regional Director, Director of Governmental Affairs and Administrative Assistant to the Board). The Selection Committee will be responsible for selecting

individuals to fill the three positions. Due to recent processing issues, the Regional Director vacancy is scheduled to be filled on May 26 instead of May 4. The Administrative Assistant position will be posted soon. Efforts on the Director of Governmental Affairs position can move forward after the job description is revised.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORTS:**

Chris Humphreys, Interim Regional Director, provided the Director's Report. He explained that the New Orleans Lakefront seawall steps stretch about 5-miles and protect the levee from tropical storms and wave action from winter storms. The seawall steps are 90+ years old and studies are being done to determine the best method to rehabilitate them. The solution will cost hundreds of millions of dollars. This is one of the obligations that the FPA is preparing for both financially and engineering-wise.

Mr. Humphreys commented that media coverage is rarely about the dedicated FPA employees who take pride in what they do. These men and women are still at the FPA working every day. The FPA's infrastructure is fully operational and maintained to the highest standards by a team of 220 dedicated personnel working year-round to keep the system best in class. During the six years he has been with the organization, there were twelve major tropical storms and multiple high river events. Staff inspect the levee multiple days, if not every day, each week when the river elevation is above 15 feet. The flood protection system has consistently performed as designed with only marginal loss of property and no loss of life. The flood protection system consists of:

- 192 Miles of Levee/Floodwall
- 3,530 Acres of Levee Turf Maintenance Area
- 246 Floodgates
- 8 Navigable Floodgates
- 3 Permanent Canal Closures and Pumps (PCC)

Mr. Humphreys reported that the First Quarter Inspection for 2025 is 95 percent complete. The inspection includes every component of the system. Annual inspections are conducted with the USACE and CPRA. High River Inspections are conducted when the Mississippi River is above 11 feet at the Carrollton Gage. All of the inspection data is compiled in Semi-Annual Reports (April 15 and October 15) and provided to the USACE and CPRA. Everything is reported, documented and transparent.

Mr. Humphreys explained that every floodgate is exercised annually, and valves are exercised quarterly. Pump runs are conducted every month. The USACE is currently rehabilitating all 17 PCCP pumps because problems were identified by FPA staff during a monthly pump run. The pump issues were reported through the chain to the FPA's partners, and the repairs are being made. The FPA issues permits for any work within 300-feet of the HSDRRS and 1,500 feet of the Mississippi River Levee. Permitted work must be approved by the FPA and its partners to ensure there will be no impact on the flood protection system. He thanked the members of the public who call the FPA to report issues. Staff react to public input and correct issues brought to the FPA's attention.

Mr. Humphreys stressed the commitment of FPA employees: Serving Southeast Louisiana is not just a duty — it's our home.

Ryan Foster, Interim Director of Engineering, provided the Engineering Report:

- Mississippi River – At the time of the report the river was at high-river stage. It had been above flood-stage for 22 days and inspections were conducted twice a week along with the USACE. Inspectors look for seepage, unpermitted work, and other issues. Permitted work without a waiver is immediately shut down. Low river issues were experienced in the past several years.
- Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan – Updating the plan is especially important this year due to the number of personnel changes. An initial meeting was held with the Directors. Engineering staff will meet individually with each department to review essential personnel and points of contact. Engineering and Maintenance staff will review emergency materials, stockpiles and equipment inventory.
- Hurricane season is June 1 through November 30; however, storm events can take place outside of this time period. Weather events are continuously monitored year-round by FPA staff. Easterly wind events can cause high tides that require closure of marine and land-based gates.

Ms. Settoon asked about safe housing for employees. Mr. Foster explained that safe housing is incorporated in the East Jefferson Consolidated Facility and the Franklin Warehouse Facility. PCCP pump stations are rated to withstand a Category Five Hurricane and tornados. The FPA requested Capital Outlay Program (COP) Funding to construct a dedicated safehouse for Lake Borgne Basin Levee District employees who remain on-duty. The COP request went through the first round of review and is going to the Legislature for approval. The FPA is in the process of executing a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with St. Bernard Parish Government (SBPG) for safe housing LBBLD employees during a Category Three or higher event. Since Hurricane Katrina the FPA and SBPG have had an understanding regarding safe housing LBBLD employees.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **RESOLUTION NO. 03-20-25-09 - APPROVAL TO ADVERTISE AND ISSUE RFQs FOR ID-IQ CONTRACTS FOR CIVIL ENGINEERING AND SURVEYING SERVICES**

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

**WHEREAS**, the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (FPA) and levee districts under its jurisdiction are in need of Indefinite Delivery-Indefinite Quantity (ID-IQ) contracts for professional Civil Engineering Services and Surveying Services on an as needed basis; and

**WHEREAS**, the FPA's current ID-IQ contracts for said services will expire on August 18, 2025; and

**WHEREAS**, the ID-IQ contracts will be utilized on an as needed basis with no guarantee of work to the consultants; and

**WHEREAS**, the selection process for the ID-IQ contracts will be governed by the FPA's Purchasing Policy adopted on February 16, 2023.

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East authorizes the advertisement and issuance of Requests for Qualifications for professional Civil Engineering Services and Surveying Services for the purpose of entering into ID-IQ contracts for services on an as needed basis.

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

YEAS: Mr. Carubba, Mr. Cosse, Mr. Duplantier, Mr. Noel, and Ms. Settoon

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Rabb

Ms. Settoon asked about the process to fill the vacancies on the Board. Mr. Carrubba explained that a notice was sent to the Nominating Committee informing them of the resignation of Roy Arrigo, Thomas Fierke and William Settoon. A notice will be sent to the Nominating Committee regarding Mr. Rabb's resignation from the Board. The procedures to fill the vacancies outlined in the Revised Statutes will be followed.

#### **ACTION ITEM LIST:**

Ms. Settoon requested that two items be added to the Action Item List:

- Cleanup of several stray piling near the foreshore of the Elmwood Canal.
- Process for filling the vacancies on the Board.

Mr. Carubba advised that he will circulate an email from Nominating Committee member Clare Falcon to the Board that included an excerpt of the statute with the process. Ms. Boudreaux will send the Board copies of the notices to the Nominating Committee about the vacancies.

The next regular monthly meeting will be held on April 17, 2025, at the St. Bernard Parish Council Chambers, St. Bernard Parish Government Complex, 8201 West Judge Perez Drive, Chalmette, LA.

There was no further business; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 10:57 a.m.