

7/11/2007 ROUTINE & EMERGENCY OPERATIONS MEETING

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 by Chair McKee.

Attending: Larry McKee, Dave Barnes, Tim Doody, Louis Wittie

Also attending: Fran Campbell, Stevan Spencer, Bob Turner, Larry Ardoin, Jim Baker, Rocky Daigle, Ron Ziblich, Cornelia Ullmann, Sheila Grissett

Chair McKee discussed agenda.

Item III-A – Mr. McKee does not anticipate a precise policy will be developed today. His intent is to allow the executive directors to discuss their take home vehicle policies. Mr. McKee asked Louis Wittie to oversee the creation of a take home vehicle policy with information obtained from this meeting. The intent of the policy is to have uniformity among the districts.

Item III-B – Moved to executive session. The location of safe houses should not be discussed publicly.

Item III-C – This item deleted from the agenda. Tim Doody offered motion, Louis Wittie seconded.

Mr. McKee introduced members of the committee.

III-A

EJLD – Executive Director and police have take home vehicles. Police officers are assessed a monthly charge for use of vehicles - \$75.00 in parish and \$125.00 outside of Jefferson Parish. The Executive Director does not pay for use of her vehicle.

Lake Borgne – Executive Director, the police officer and Superintendents of pump stations and levees take vehicles home. The superintendents and police officer are on 24 hour call. LBBLD owns 9 vehicles; 4 are take home. The Executive Director does not pay for use of his vehicle.

OLD – Executive Director, Chief Engineer and half of the 32 officers take vehicles home. The police officers now pay \$125.00 per month. Steve and Gerry Gillen are assessed \$3.00 per day for the use of their vehicles. Steve agrees it is not necessary for all department heads to take vehicles home but he would like to allow take home vehicles for the operations maintenance director, operations maintenance coordinator, emergency operations manager and head electrician.

Dave Barnes asked if policy uniformity would affect salary. The \$3/day assessment is actually shown as a benefit at the end of the year. Tim Doody would like consistency per

the IRS guidelines. There is no policy against employees taking their personal vehicle directly to an emergency site. Larry McKee would like to see a written policy at the next Routine & Emergency Operations meeting for review and approval. The policy will then be brought to the board for final approval. For the time being, the districts will operate as they have been.

III-D

Fran Campbell stated she wanted the board members and public to be aware of what is done when there are significant findings needing to be addressed by more than the levee district. The levee district, Corps and DOTD will work together to analyze and resolve issues.

Jim Baker addressed several issues that have come up in the East Jefferson area. The gasket material placed at wall joints is torn in some spots and is generally deteriorating. He will check all joints and if necessary, they will be repaired. Bob Turner said Lake Borgne had a similar problem and the DOTD assisted in their repairs. Two plywood panels were installed as a temporary fix and worked well during Hurricane Katrina. The DOTD has agreed to help Bob with a permanent solution. Stevan Spencer has also had separation issues and has interim fixes. Larry McKee asked what the procedure was for handling potential issues. Jim Baker advised both the Corps and DOTD were notified, a meeting was held and it was decided that the width of the gasket material would be changed. Sheila Grissett inquired if this solution would be adequate and Jim Baker indicated it would be.

17th Street Canal Erosion – Jim Baker stated during a quarterly inspection six months ago caving in of the embankment was noted. The area was not big enough for concern but since, the length of the erosion has increased. Initial notification was to Mervin Morehiser of the Corps and John Ashley. John Ashley felt this was a maintenance issue and an e-mail was then sent to Col. Bedey requesting analysis. A meeting should take place this week with the Corps for further discussion. Discussion ensued on water elevations in the canal for testing purposes. The OLD side of the 17th St. Canal does not have an earthen embankment and there does not appear to be a change on that side. Tim Doody asked Stevan Spencer if he had noted changes in any of the Orleans canals. Steve is not aware of any issues. Bob Turner suggested obtaining water elevations from the N.O. Sewerage & Water Board prior to and post Katrina. Mr. McKee indicated these problems could not be resolved in committee and that it is important for the public to be aware of issues. Maintenance operations and inspections generate essential information and identify potential problems before they become large. Mr. McKee asked the Interim Executive Director to look for a procedure that follows up after inspection to include resolution and reporting process to all agencies and the public.

Stevan Spencer advised he has grass growth issues which are resulting in minor erosion. Fran Campbell stated the Corps has a grass contractor that will test soils; Stevan can insist the Corps hire the contractor if growth problems persist (absence of grass).

Rills are a problem for all levee districts. The rills damage mowing equipment.

Larry Ardoin (DOTD) was in attendance and advised that the DOTD wants to be informed and involved at the state and local levels and they want to be a part of solutions. The DOTD is requesting quarterly inspection reports for pump stations, canals and levees. Their reports list deficiencies and a course of action for deficiencies. Mr. Ardoin says it is the intent of the DOTD to have an engineer on every inspection. The chore of documentation required for public consumption is becoming larger. The DOTD feels there will eventually be a need for a separate group whose main responsibility will be inspection and documentation. The question arose if it would be better to have one inspector for the Authority. Mr. Ardoin feels this should be left to the individual districts and that one person inspecting is better because one person can note changes. Bob Turner feels he will need to add one person to document inspections and Stevan Spencer has advertised for a resident engineer for this purpose.

Mr. McKee stated the committee heard the problem but not a solution. This committee will be looking at issues with an eye on solutions and when solved everybody will know.

Mr. Barnes asked if Stevan Spencer had adequate staff to maintain levees. OLD is sending a policy to civil service to raise hourly rates. Stevan will bring to the board once approved by Civil Service. Tim Doody stressed the need for consistency.

Ron Ziblich introduced himself as a member of the Jefferson Parish Advisory Committee and offered his assistance.

John Whitey introduced himself as a representative of several of the Lakeview property associations. He offered his assistance and will make as many meetings as possible. Mr. McKee extended an open invitation to Mr. Whitey to attend all meetings.

The meeting was adjourned on motion by Mr. Doody and seconded by Mr. Wittie.