

**MINUTES OF
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON AUGUST 13, 2008**

PRESENT: Louis Wittie, Chair
Timothy Doody, Committee Member
Jerry Colletti, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
Larry Ardoin, LA DOTD
Robert Turner, SLFPAE Regional Director
Stevan Spencer, O.L.D. Executive Director
Jason McCrossen, LBBLD Executive Director

ABSENT: Larry McKee, Committee Member
David Barnes, Committee Member

The Operations Committee met on August 13, 2008 in the Second Floor Hall of the Lake Vista Community Center, 6500 Spanish Fort Blvd., New Orleans, LA. Chairman Wittie called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m.

Opening Comments:

Mr. Wittie commented on the recent decision to allow the payment of the local cost share for 100 year protection over a thirty year period.

Stevan Spencer, O.L.D. Executive Director, reported that he, Gerry Gillen, O.L.D. Chief Engineer, and Robert Turner, SLFAPE Regional Director, reviewed a list of recommended consultants for the independent review of the 17th Street Canal seepage issue. Two of the consultants were requested to review documents, visit the site and prepare a proposal. The designation of locations for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) installation of piezometers will be a part of the scope of work. The Sewerage & Water Board is also looking at the area to assure the problem is not a result of a broken water line. Mr. Turner added that a preliminary scope of work has been developed, the consultants have been introduced to their USACE contacts relative to this work and contracts with the consultants are anticipated to be signed shortly.

Mr. Turner reported that an upcoming meeting will be conducted concerning contractors' supplied borrow materials and that a meeting was recently held in Baton Rouge relative to potential borrow sites not yet investigated. Potential alternative plans in St. Bernard Parish and possibly New Orleans East are being considered that would reduce the amount of borrow material required for 100 year protection.

Adoption of Agenda: The agenda was adopted as presented.

Public Comments: None.

New Business:

A. Discussion of borrow pit turnover from U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to Orleans Levee District for completed projects.

Stevan Spencer advised five borrow pits currently in various statuses would eventually be turned over to the Orleans Levee District (O.L.D.). Due to the liabilities involved, he questioned whether the O.L.D. was required to accept these pits from the USACE after the borrow materials have been removed. It was suggested at a prior Committee meeting that Wildlife and Fisheries be contacted to determine whether it would accept the United Southern Securities (USS) borrow pit. Wildlife & Fisheries advised it could not use the USS site because it was not adjacent to Bayou Sauvage.

Betty Brogna, USACE Real Estate Division, explained the USACE is still in the process of acquiring the 33.5 acre USS borrow pit by purchase in fee. USS has requested that the O.L.D. accept by donation the three adjacent frontage parcels (2.02, 6.06 and 7.24 acres) since the company is in the process of being liquidated. The USACE cannot accept donation of the USS frontage parcels since those areas are not needed for borrow purposes. The USS pit and an adjacent pit owned by John Cummings (Little Pine Island) for which there is an easement that expires in February, 2009, were dug for emergency work under Task Force Guardian. The USACE is still determining whether additional materials can be obtained from the USS pit.

Marco Rosamano, USACE Office of Counsel, advised under the authorizing legislation for the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity Project the non-federal sponsor is required to acquire the lands for the project. The USACE agreed to do the acquisition work for the emergency work; however, this does not relieve the non-federal sponsor of being the party responsible for holding the property and the property has been acquired in the name of the Orleans Levee District. The properties acquired by the USACE in fee are already in the O.L.D.'s name.

Ms. Brogna further explained a total of five borrow pits are located in the New Orleans East area. Three pits have been acquired, in addition to the two pits dug under Task Force Guardian, from the following property owners: George Maynard (acquired in fee in O.L.D.'s name), Franklin Avenue Baptist Church (acquired in fee in O.L.D.'s name), and a second (Pine Island tract) from John Cummings (ten year easement acquired in O.L.D.'s name). The three additional pits have been designated for LPV 108 and 109.

Mr. Spencer asked whether the O.L.D. should accept donation of the USS frontal parcels and the Committee members agreed those parcels should be accepted.

Mr. Doody pointed out these properties should be added to the schedule of insurance.

B. Discussion of status of encroachments on levees in East Jefferson Parish. (East Jefferson Levee District)

Jonell Blowers, representing the EJLD, explained Jim Baker performed a field audit on possible encroachments and this information will be compared with information provided by the USACE in order to document each encroachment. There is potentially about 70 Lakefront levee encroachments. The EJLD has not commenced this work on the Mississippi River levee, which will be coordinated with the USACE. Mr. Colletti advised the USACE's right of way verification is near completion on the 17th Street Canal levee (Jefferson Parish side). EJLD will draft a standardized letter, which will be approved by the USACE, to send out relative to the encroachments.

The Committee discussed installing right of way markers and using survey grade GPS for documentation. Mr. Ardoin advised that DOTD has GPS equipment available and would look into lending it to the Authority.

Mr. Turner briefly discussed encroachments along the drainage canals in St. Bernard Parish.

Mr. Spencer reported that the tree and fence removal along the 17th Street Canal (Orleans Parish side) is almost completed. The USACE at this time is removing tree stumps and backfilling holes and installing replacement chain link fences at pools. Some residents are still relocating existing foliage.

The Committee discussed the notification to property owners regarding structures located within the levee right of way and the handling of "after the fact" permit requests. It was pointed out that the issuance of permits is the responsibility of the levee districts; however, in order for a permit to be issued the permit request must be passed along by the levee district to the USACE and DOTD for their engineering and technical analysis.

Levee District Reports:

The levee districts' monthly status reports is appended hereto.

East Jefferson Levee District:

Jonell Blowers reviewed the highlights of the EJLD monthly status report.

The Committee discussed the receipt of piezometers readings from the USACE and the grass growth problems in certain levee reaches that have been either recently accepted or not yet accepted from the USACE.

Orleans Levee District:

Stevan Spencer reviewed highlights of the O.L.D. monthly activities and monthly status report.

The O.L.D. hurricane levee inspection scheduled for today will be rescheduled for next week due to rain. It was noted that this official inspection takes place over a two day

period; however, prior to the official inspection it takes O.L.D. personnel about six weeks to perform an inspection by walking the length of the floodwalls and driving along levees. Mr. Doody pointed out the need for a levee inspection team and Mr. Turner advised that process has begun.

Mr. Colletti cautioned the levee districts to exercise vigilance while the Mississippi River is dropping and, in addition to the levee, to take notice of any problems on the river bank and batture. Mr. Turner added that any problems noted should also be brought to the attention of the USACE and DOTD.

Lake Borgne Basin Levee District:

Jason McCrossen reviewed the LBBLD's monthly status report.

Mr. McCrossen advised that the LBBLD's annual Mississippi River inspection has been scheduled for November 21st. This inspection was pushed back due to the recent oil spill in the Mississippi River. There are no effects from the spill in the area from the parish line to Murphy Refinery and the levee district is presently concentrating on preparing this section for the inspection. However, the Coast Guard has anticipated that it will take six to eight weeks to complete the cleanup of Zone C (Murphy Refinery to EBI). About 200 people are currently involved in the clean up of this spill. In a recent meeting concerning the cleanup effort it was noted that the Coast Guard and DEQ agreed that debris, such as driftwood, that is not emitting residue would be considered safe by those entities and the debris left. A form for the submittal of insurance claims on damages to levees or rights of ways is being provided by the Coast Guard. Mr. McCrossen advised that he requested the Coast Guard to include the cleanup at the responsible party's expense of the Violet siphon, if necessary, in its cleanup contract. The Violet siphon was shut down, however, the pipe cannot be inspected for residue until the River reaches a stage of elevation 7-ft.

There was no further business, therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.