

**MINUTES OF
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON JUNE 4, 2009**

PRESENT: Louis Wittie, Chair
Timothy Doody, Committee Member
Stephen Estopinal, Committee Member
Tom Jackson, Commissioner

ABSENT: Dave Barnes, Committee Member

The Operations Committee met on June 4, 2009 in the Second Floor Hall of the Lake Vista Community Center, 6500 Spanish Fort Blvd., New Orleans, LA. Mr. Wittie called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

Opening Comments: None

Adoption of Agenda: The agenda was adopted as presented.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the May 14, 2009 Operations Committee meeting were approved.

Public Comments:

Victor A. Landry, Sr. informed the Committee that Colonel Robert Sinkler, the new Commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Hurricane Protection Office, will be introduced by Karen Durham-Aguilera, Director of Task Force Hope, at the next Board meeting. Colonel Sinkler and Ms. Aguilera will provide an update at the Board meeting on the IHNC Surge Barrier Project.

New Business:

A. Discussion of award of contracts for NRCS Canal Project and Drainage Pump Station Trash Screen Project. (Lake Borgne Basin Levee District)

Peggy Sembera, Administrative Assistant for the Lake Borgne Basin Levee District (LBBLD), advised that bids were received yesterday for the Trash Screen Repair Project for Pump Stations 2, 3 and 5. The bids are currently being tabulated by DOTD. Mr. Estopinal asked for a breakdown of the work that will be done on this project.

Bids are scheduled to be opened on June 9th for the NRCS Project for work on the Blue Bird and Artillery Canals. The bid tabulation will be done by DOTD. Ms. Sembera advised that access issues are being addressed.

Bids are guaranteed for a 30 day period. Mr. Estopinal requested that the bid tabulations be e-mailed to Committee members when completed. The award of the projects will be placed on the agenda for the next Board meeting

B. Discussion of Cooperative Endeavor Agreement between the Orleans Levee District and City of New Orleans for property for easements for the Lakefront hurricane protection projects.

Stevan Spencer, SLFPA-E Regional Chief Engineer, explained that the USACE is requesting right-of-entry on several major Lakefront projects; i.e., the replacement of the Orleans Marina Floodwall, the Lakefront ramp crossings and the replacement of I-walls with T-walls at Bayou St. John. Easements for pile tips extending under City streets will be required in connection with the floodwall replacements. Easements will also be required for the lakefront crossings at Franklin Avenue and Canal Blvd. because the embankment toes will extend into the City's right-of-way. At a recent meeting, Mr. Mazoue with the City's Property Department suggested that one Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) be executed for all the lakefront projects based on the USACE's right-of-entry requests. The USACE is preparing the CEA. Should the Board adopt a resolution at its next meeting, it will contain the caveat that approval must be obtained from the Board's counsel and the appropriate State entities. Approval has been received from the Army relative to the Camp Leroy Johnson levee crossing.

Levee District Reports: (copy appended to minutes)

East Jefferson Levee District (EJLD):

Fran Campbell, EJLD Executive Director, reviewed the EJLD Highlights and Monthly Status Report. She noted that Jefferson Parish has agreed to maintain the Bonnabel and Duncan Breakwaters. The scope of work is being developed for the safe house study and preliminary discussions have taken place.

The USACE Levee Revegetation and Erosion Control Workshop took place at the Bonnabel Boat Launch Site on May 20, 2009. Application of the spray material was demonstrated. Grass growth in problem areas along the Lakefront levee was discussed. The Committee asked that Brett Herr with the USACE be requested to provide a report at the next Board meeting on the levee condition at Reach 5.

Mr. Spencer advised that Plaquemines Parish is experiencing major grass growth problems. The USACE asked to take 55,000 cubic yards of soil from its stockpile at the staging area for the lakefront roadway crossings to bring to Plaquemines Parish. The USACE cannot obtain soil from the Bonnet Carre Spillway at this time. Mr. Spencer stated that he had no objection at the time the verbal request was made. The soil is not needed immediately for O.L.D. projects and will be replaced by the USACE.

Orleans Levee District (O.L.D.):

Gerry Gillen, O.L.D. Executive Director, reviewed the monthly status report.

Mr. Spencer advised that Robert Counce with the Bayou St. John Conservation Alliance has submitted a request to install tide gages in Bayou St. John.

Lake Borgne Basin Levee District (LBBLD):

Peggy Sembera reviewed the monthly status report.

Mr. Doody reported that the SLFPA-West Board did not approve participation in the study for seismic testing on the levees because it is fairly new technology and there is no standard against which to compare it. Mr. Wittie suggested proceeding with testing in the area of Reach 4 where there is a seepage problem.

Mr. Doody commented that the Authority needs to re-urge the Congressional delegation to make the shifting of the responsibility to the USACE for the operation and maintenance of the IHNC Surge Barrier navigation gates and potentially the floodwall a top priority. He explained that he met with Karen Durham-Aguilera after her trip to the Czech Republic . Ms. Durham-Aguilera advised that there is a worldwide group that operates and maintains flood control structures that had convinced her that the USACE should operate this structure.

There was no further business; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 2:45 p.m.