

**MINUTES OF
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST
SPECIAL ISSUES COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON SEPTEMBER 3, 2009**

PRESENT: Thomas Jackson, Chair
Stradford Goins, Committee Member
George Losonsky, Commissioner

The Special Issues Committee met on September 3, 2009, in the in the Second Floor Hall, Lake Vista Community Center, 6500 Spanish Fort Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana. Chairman Jackson called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

Opening Comments: Mr. Jackson commented that the Special Issues Committee is attempting to keep up with issues that are outside of the Operations Committee. Much of the work had previously been done by Mr. Goins and Mr. Jackson ad hoc.

Adoption of Agenda: The agenda was adopted as presented.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the August 6, 2009 meeting were approved.

Public Comments: None.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Discussion of I-10 debris for Lake Pontchartrain/Catherine shore.

Mr. Jackson stated that this matter was discussed at the Committee's last meeting. Peter Hopkins with the Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration (OCPR) was requested at the August Committee meeting to set up a meeting concerning the land bridge—specifically, those strips of land between Lake Borgne and Lake Pontchartrain including the GIWW, Lake Catherine, Highway 90 and the railroad embankment. Mr. Hopkins subsequently advised Mr. Jackson that he spoke with OCPR staff and that the determination had been made of the locations where the I-10 debris could be used.

Mr. Jackson recommended that several SLFPA-E representatives meet with Garrett Graves, Chairman of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), and David Miller, OCPR Director of Implementation, to discuss protection for this strip of land, which, other than the restricted openings at Lake Catherine and the Rigolets, basically closes off Lake Pontchartrain to the Gulf of Mexico.

Mr. Losonsky asked whether a possible source of funding for the project has been determined. Robert Turner, SLFPA-E Regional Director, suggested that potential sources of funding could be through the CIAP Program or the State's future share of offshore royalties.

Mr. Turner pointed out the requirement that projects be included in the State's Master Plan and the Annual Plan in order to obtain State funding. The Authority would have to advise the CPRA concerning the need to include this project in the next Annual Plan.

The Committee concurred with Mr. Jackson's recommendation. Mr. Jackson stated that he would schedule a meeting with Mr. Graves and Mr. Miller concerning this issue.

B. District Reports on Safehouse development (Orleans, Jefferson, Lake Borgne)

Orleans Levee District (O.L.D.): Gerry Gillen, O.L.D. Executive Director, advised that the 70 percent drawings were received on Tuesday and that he had met with the mechanical and electrical engineers several weeks ago. Joey Murray with Murray Architects explained that several changes requested by the Committee have been incorporated in the plans, including the addition of bunk room partitions and a full kitchen with freezer and cooler. The second floor structure will be enhanced to withstand 180 mph winds and will include an enhanced roof system to withstand 180 mph winds. Mechanical and electrical upgrades and an emergency generator for the second floor have been included. Lighting and air conditioning will be extended to the first floor existing restroom and locker room. Mr. Gillen suggested that the Authority may wish to re-consider installing bunk room partitions for security reasons and in order for the area to be used for multiple purposes including meetings. Mr. Goins inquired about the wall anchor. Mr. Jackson requested that Stevan Spencer, SLFPA-E Regional Chief Engineer, review the plans. Mr. Gillen anticipated receiving 90 percent plans in the next two weeks and advertising the project by the end of the month.

East Jefferson Levee District (EJLD): Fran Campbell, EJLD Executive Director, reported that the contract with the Waggoner and Ball Architects was executed. A meeting will be held tomorrow with the consultant to review the first steps of the contract and to provide information on the EJLD's existing facilities, property and staff for an assessment.

Lake Borgne Basin Levee District (LBBLD): Tim Jarquin, LBBLD Executive Director, advised that Tom Hickey with Digital Engineering (Digital) was present to provide a report. Mr. Hickey explained that the scope of work is for a feasibility study, including a cost estimate, for the construction of three safe rooms. In order to reduce costs Digital was requested to look at the feasibility of putting the safe rooms in the existing pump station structures. Digital obtained as-built drawings and performed site visits at Pump Stations 1, 4, 6, 7 and 8. The design criteria includes a minimum footprint of 12-ft. x 18-ft. per safe room for the housing of a maximum of three workers. Digital has tried to set the criteria for the floor elevation at a minimum elevation of 26-ft. Mr. Hickey recommended that the safe rooms be designed for a lateral wind load pressure of 100 psf (195 mph winds). The pump stations were primarily designed for 110-120 mph winds. Digital determined from the site visits that there was not enough space for the construction of a safe room in Pump Stations 6, 7 and 8. There is an option to construct safe rooms in Pump Stations 1 and 4 above the control room structures.

Mr. Jackson commented that both the safety of employees and the continuing operation of the pump stations must be a consideration. He asked whether the scope of the study included the operation of the pump stations. Mr. Turner responded that the continuing

operation of the pump stations was not included in the scope of work; however, it could be included. He pointed out that Pump Stations 1 and 4 are in close proximity to the other pumping stations. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) had developed an extensive storm proofing plan for the pump stations, which included operations. There is a Federal authorization for the storm proofing; however, there is no Federal funding.

Mr. Hickey advised that sketches and cost estimated would be provided for retro-fitting Pump Stations 1 and 4 with a safe room and for an external stand alone safe room which could be located at any site. He estimated Digital's task to be 35 to 40 percent complete at this time and that it would be 90 percent by the end of the month.

C. 17th Street Canal Seepage Report.

Mr. Turner commented that the Authority may wish to determine whether it would like to have something put in place to collect the seepage and direct it to the drainage system. One of the reasons for the seepage is that granular material was used in back filling this area after the construction of the new T-wall, which makes this section of the levee unique. Mr. Jackson commented that the report concluded that the ground water elevation under certain conditions is higher than the land. The report also concluded that this is not a levee or floodwall stability issue, but an aesthetic issue.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Report on Reach 4 Seepage excavation—Lake Villa. (East Jefferson Levee District)

Mr. Turner reported that it was determined during the excavation that the seepage is occurring from fresh water in the levee system and not from the lake or the pond. Drain water is finding its way into the levee system, the area is becoming saturated and the water is then finding its way to the surface. The water appears to be collecting in various cracks in the levee, transported to one area and then comes out near the bottom of the levee following a line of demarcation between the two levee lifts. Mr. Losonsky recommended that a tracer dye test be performed.

Brett Herr with the USACE advised that the contract for Reach 4 was awarded today and that the notice to proceed will probably be issued in the next two weeks. The USACE geotech staff is attempting to bring ERDEC personnel and equipment to the site to identify the extent of the layer of high moisture content. The contract that was awarded today has a 400 foot no work area in this location. If the extent of the layer of high moisture content can be identified, the contract will be modified to have this layer removed and the levee rebuilt after the hurricane season.

Mr. Losonsky commented that this location would provide a good control for Dr. Lorenzo's seismic survey testing. Mr. Turner added that soil borings have been taken in this location and that piezometers have been installed. Mr. Losonsky pointed out that with a better understanding of how this type of situation occurs, the Authority will be better able to address this type of situation should it occur in the future.

There was no further business; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.