MINUTES OF
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON MAY 13, 2010

PRESENT: Louis Wittie, Chair
David Barnes, Committee Member
Timothy Doody, Committee Member
Stephen Estopinal, Committee Member

The Operations Committee met on May 13, 2010 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 9:30 a.m.

Opening Comments: Mr. Doody noted that the manual operation of the Bohemia Spillway is being considered in connection with efforts to keep oil from the British Petroleum oil spill from coming into wetland areas. Gerry Gillen, Orleans Levee District (O.L.D.) Executive Director, advised that staff has been doing reconnaissance of the Bohemia Spillway to determine locations where cuts in the river berm could produce the most benefit. The cut in the berm would create a spillway effect and allow river water to flow through the wetlands in an effort to keep oil from coming into the coastal area. One or two locations have been identified where the berm could potentially be cut. The O.L.D. is working with the Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration and land owners for access. The O.L.D. is attempting to work out any legal issues in connection with this potential action. There is a short window of opportunity for this endeavor. In eight days the Mississippi River will reach its maximum height and will begin dropping.

Adoption of Agenda: The agenda was adopted as presented.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the April 1, 2010 Committee meeting were approved.

Public Comments: None.

New Business:

Presentation by RocTest on Levee Monitoring Technology.

Joe Church with RocTest advised that the State of Louisiana has awarded a project to RocTest for a "Smart Levee" system. RocTest has put together a monitoring system that is based on older technology, but with a newer application. RocTest uses several different technologies for monitoring different types of structure and infrastructure. The technology that is the subject of the presentation addresses the following failure modes: overtopping, jetting, internal piping and erosion, surface erosion, sliding, wave impact, structural impacts, liquefaction, piping of substratum, tree damage and slope failure. The proposed technology uses a single fiber optic cable up to 20 miles long which acts as a sensor and produces a readout. The application of strain or temperature change to

the cable can be detected at any point along the 20 mile stretch within one yard's accuracy. Differential settlement or any movement in the levee up to four millimeters can be determined within one yard's accuracy visually from the monitor. A baseline reading is taken when the system is activated. A readout device is connected to the cable and data can be transmitted via the internet. A laser is sent through the fiber optic cable and bounces back off of a mirror on the other end of the cable. Interrogation of a 20 mile segment of cable takes about ten minutes. The cable is robust and easy to install by trenching. The readout unit requires a climate controlled box or location. Presets can be set into the database. The system is effective as a warning system for locating potential problems and for use with current maintenance systems to identify areas with potential problems and to enhance current inspection regimens. The cost of the readout unit to service a 20 mile system is about $150,000. The cost of fiber optic cable varies from $2 to $4 per linear foot depending on cladding and installation by trenching can vary from $2 to $5 per linear foot. The monitoring system can integrate other types of modern instrumentation.

B. Discussion of Emergency Operations Procedures Manuals.

The levee districts have revised their Emergency Operations Procedures (EOP) Manuals, as needed and appropriate, to include revised and extended contact information, updated information on the hurricane protection system, updated procurement information, contractor emergency procedures for projects currently under construction and other necessary information. Draft copies of the Emergency Operations Manuals were provided to the Committee members.

Mr. Barnes commented on the improvements being made to the National Hurricane Center's (NHC) forecasts. The NHC will try to issue hurricane warnings as much as 36 hours in advance and hurricane watches within 48 hours of hurricane conditions. The outlook for this hurricane season varies depending on the forecaster. Dr. William Gray with Colorado State University indicates that there will be 11 to 16 names storms. The Department of Meteorology at Florida State University is indicating there may actually be fewer storms that normal. Mr. Turner pointed out that the EOP manuals may have to be revised to take into account any changes in the issuance of the NHC's hurricane warnings and watches.

C. Discussion of interior outfall canal erosion. (Orleans Levee District)

Mr. Gillen advised that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) has issued erosion findings on the interior sides of the outfall canals in its levee inspection report. The USACE has indicated that it has been determined that the slope stability does not impact the outfall canal wall's stability at this point and that the erosion remediation is an operations and maintenance function. The USACE will continue to use the most recent data for its outfall canal water remediation plan development. Suggested actions include obtaining recent surveys from the USACE to attempt to track the rate of erosion and the development of rough numbers (estimated at approximately $3 million for the east side of the 17th Street Canal) and a timeline for construction. The erosion is due to water velocity during pumping.

Jerry Colletti with the USACE commented that if an analysis has been done and the erosion does not jeopardize the integrity of the levee, then the statement in the inspection report on the visual observation of the erosion may need to be adjusted since the erosion is not critical. He added that he would contact the USACE Hurricane Protection Office concerning this matter.

Robert Turner, SLFPA-E Regional Director, added that a path forward should be developed jointly between the SLFPA-E, O.L.D. and USACE. Mr. Gillen pointed out that the Sewerage & Water Board of New Orleans (S&WB) should also be included since the S&WB's responsibility is from the water's edge on each side of the canal.

Levee District Reports: (copy appended to minutes)

East Jefferson Levee District (EJLD): Fran Campbell, EJLD Executive Director, reviewed the highlights of the EJLD monthly status report.

Orleans Levee District (O.L.D.): Gerry Gillen, O.L.D. Executive Director, reviewed the highlights of the O.L.D. monthly status report.

Lake Borgne Basin Levee District (LBBLD): Stuart Williamson, LBBLD Executive Director, reviewed the highlights of the LBBLD monthly status report.

Mr. Turner addressed several concerns relative to flood protection projects.

- The USACE has indicated that LPV 145 will include a permanent access bridge as a project feature. The USACE, however, has not added the bridge feature to the plans and specifications and said that it is waiting until the end of the project to add it.
- Basically, at this time the USACE is no longer coating the piles on HPO (Hurricane Protection Office) projects. The USACE is using less than 1/8-inch increased thickness for corrosion allowance on piles.
- The primary reason for the delay on LPV 146 deals with no work zone areas. The contract has been awarded and the contractor has begun work; however, the design is not yet completed. The issue of allowable pile loads has not yet been resolved.

Mr. Colletti advised that he would take these concerns back to the USACE HPO.

There was no further business; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.