

**MINUTES OF  
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST  
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON FEBRUARY 3, 2011**

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

---

The Operations Committee of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (SLFPA-E or Authority) met on February 3, 2011 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 9:00 a.m.

**Opening Comments:** None.

**Adoption of Agenda:** The Agenda was amended to move Agenda Item A after the Levee District reports and to add Item E for the discussion of a temporary construction easement for the Violet Canal Maintenance Dredging Project. The amended agenda was adopted by a unanimous vote.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the January 6, 2011 Operations Committee meeting were approved.

**Public Comments:** None.

**New Business:**

**B. Discussion of contract for floodgate repairs. (O.L.D.)**

Gerry Gillen, Orleans Levee District (O.L.D.) Executive Director, explained that a construction contract is currently in progress to structurally repair two floodgates. Three bids were obtained for the repairs and a contract was awarded in an amount less than \$50,000. A problem was discovered with one of the hinges on floodgate S4 after the floodgate was structurally straightened. The damage to the hinge could have been caused by a barge hitting the structure. The estimated cost to repair the hinge is \$8,500. The SLFPA-E Regional Director approved the repair of the hinge due to the emergency nature of the repair. The Committee is being made aware of this matter since the additional repair cost brings the total cost of the contract over \$50,000.

Mr. Estopinal offered a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Barnes and unanimously adopted, to retroactively authorize the repair of the floodgate hinge.

### **C. Florida Avenue Sheetpile Rehabilitation Presentation by Burk-Kleinpeter.**

Mr. Gillen advised that the firm of Burk-Kleinpeter, Inc. (BKI) was tasked through an ID-IQ contract to develop an estimate for the rehabilitation of the Florida Avenue sheetpile floodwall in order to prolong the life of the sheetpile. Approximately 9,000 feet of steel sheetpile along the north side of the Ninth Ward of Orleans Parish is uncoated. After the construction of the Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity Project, this floodwall became secondary protection holding back water from a drainage basin used by the Lake Borgne Basin Levee District (LBBLD) and the Sewerage and Water Board. Some of the uncoated sheetpile has a stick up as high as ten feet.

Suresh Shah with BKI provided copies of the Project Summary and Construction Cost Report to the Committee. He explained that although the sheetpile is rusting, the structural integrity is still good. The basic steps to prolong the life of the sheetpile are cleaning, sand blasting and painting. This includes the removal of trees and shrubs, refilling the dirt to its original level, and then cleaning, sand blasting and painting the sheetpile. The placement of a concrete cap on top of the sheetpile wall is an additional option.

Mr. Shah was asked about the integrity of the sheetpile below the surface of the ground. He recommended that the contractor dig at least three feet deep on both sides of the sheetpile wall, check the condition of the sheetpile and then clean, sandblast and paint the sheetpile. If in digging three feet below the surface the sheetpile is found to be in bad condition, the O.L.D. will be advised. The sheetpile are about 40-feet in length.

Mr. Estopinal pointed out that the sheetpile wall extends into St. Bernard Parish. Mr. Shah stated that a task order was issued with a scope of work that included only the O.L.D. Mr. Estopinal recommended that the sheetpile wall in St. Bernard Parish under the jurisdiction of the LBBLD be included in this project. Mr. Gillen added that he was requesting authorization for the issuance of a task order for the preparation of plans, specifications and bid documents.

It was pointed out that the sheetpile could be experiencing different conditions below the ground surface in different areas. Mr. Shah commented that BKI will walk the entire length of the floodwall and take photographs of the damage while the bids documents are being prepared. Two coats of coal tar epoxy will be used for painting the sheetpile.

Mr. Estopinal offered a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Doody and unanimously adopted, to recommend that the Board approve task orders for the preparation of plans and specifications by BKI for the full length of the sheetpile floodwall (Orleans and St. Bernard Parishes).

### **D. Discussion of selection of an architect for refurbishing the Franklin Avenue Office Complex. (O.L.D.)**

Mr. Gillen advised that a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) was issued for architectural services for refurbishing the Franklin Avenue Office Complex. The proposed work includes the walkway between the Administration Building and Safe House build out,

which will be used for future Board and public meetings, and additional work to HVAC system. Nine responses were received. A short list of four firms (Murray Architects, Burgess Rome, ECM Consultants and Richard C. Lambert) was developed. The four firms were interviewed and rated by Mr. Gillen, Stevan Spencer, SLFPA-E Regional Chief Engineer, and Kevin Spruell, O.L.D. Engineer Manager. The selection committee recommended the selection of Richard C. Lambert, Architects, to develop the plans and specifications for this project.

Mr. Estopinal offered a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Barnes and unanimously adopted, to forward the recommendation of the selection of Richard C. Lambert, Architects, to the Board for approval.

### **Levee District Reports:**

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

Mr. Doody requested that the EJLD and O.L.D. police chiefs coordinate on issues such as patrols in construction areas and preparation of reports to provide consistency. He recommended that monthly meetings be held.

The Committee discussed grass/turf issues relative to the levees under construction and grass maintenance by the levee districts.

**Orleans Levee District (O.L.D.):** Gerry Gillen, O.L.D. Executive Director, reviewed the highlights of the monthly status report (copy appended to minutes). He noted that the O.L.D. Police Department through the City of New Orleans received a grant of about \$200,000 from Homeland Security for the placement of about 14 security cameras.

**Lake Borgne Basin Levee District (LBBLD):** Stuart Williamson, LBBLD Executive Director, reviewed the highlights of the month status report (copy appended to minutes).

### **A. Status of disposition of existing Bayou Dupre Control Structure.**

Angela Desoto Duncan with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) advised that she met with Robert Turner, SLFPA-E Regional Director, Bill Fogel and Major Carter yesterday and discussed the disposition of the existing Bayou Dupre Control Structure. Once construction of the new Bayou Dupre Control Structure is completed, the existing structure will no longer be necessary to provide hurricane risk reduction. The individuals who met yesterday are working together to document a solution that will be equitable to both the USACE and the SLFPA-E. The course of action that is being pursued includes the requirement for long term operation and maintenance (O&M) of only the guide wall system, including the rub strips on the structure, in order to keep boat traffic safe, and allowing the remaining structure to stay in place. The USACE's Office of Counsel is assisting with the development of the documentation that both organizations can use long term to defend the solution. The proposed solution would not require maintenance dewatering of the structure and would not require that the

existing structure remain operable. She advised that a status of this issue can be provided next month through Mr. Turner.

Ms. Duncan pointed out that should the current course of action be authorized and St. Bernard Parish chooses to keep the existing structure operational and pay the O&M costs, that discussion would take place between the SLFPA-E and the Parish. The USACE would then simply require that the LBBLD maintain the guide walls and the Parish would have to incur whatever costs are necessary to operate the structure in the manner that they intend. Mr. Turner advised that the SLFPA-E has not yet reached out to the current St. Bernard Parish administration regarding this issue. Pursuing the current path would allow the option of leaving part of the structure in place for operation or dismantling it.

Ms. Duncan explained that discussions had taken place with different Parish entities during the planning phase for the new structure and the USACE was requested to align the structures in such a manner so as to allow the existing structure to remain operable if chosen. There had been discussions at that point in time that the Parish may wish to use the two structures in tandem to lock vessels through during high water non-tropical events. The new structure was located in order to allow this procedure.

**E. Discussion of a temporary construction easement for the Violet Canal Maintenance Dredging Project.**

Mr. Williamson requested that the Committee forward to the Board a recommendation to approve the execution of a Supplemental and Inclusive Temporary Construction Easement, Hold Harmless and Indemnity Agreement between the LBBLD and the Meraux Foundation. The temporary construction easement is required for the Violet Canal Phase II Dredging Project.

Mr. Estopinal offered a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Barnes and unanimously adopted, to forward the draft resolution that was presented concerning the temporary construction easement to the Board for approval.

Mr. Barnes distributed copies of an article that appeared in the Slidell St. Tammany News on January 30, 2011, entitled "Concept for preventing surge proposed" for the Eden Isles area. He advised a meeting will take place with State Senator A.G. Crowe concerning this concept.

There was no further business; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.