

**MINUTES OF
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON JUNE 2, 2011**

PRESENT: Louis Wittie, Chair
David Barnes, Committee Member
Stephen Estopinal, Committee Member
George Losonsky, Commissioner

The Operations Committee of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (SLFPA-E or Authority) met on June 2, 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 9:35 a.m.

Opening Comments: None.

Adoption of Agenda: The agenda was amended to include Item VII.B. - discussion of the assignment of SLFPA-E ID-IQ contracts. The amended agenda was unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the May 4, 2011 Operations Committee meeting were approved.

Public Comments: None.

Old Business:

A. Report on the Mississippi River elevation and flood fight. (USACE)

Jerry Colletti with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) reported that record highs and flows have been experienced for the Mississippi River. River levels are dropping at a very slow rate. The USACE is tracking over 450 different sites (over 290 seepage sites and 142 sand boils at 21 different locations). Most of the tracked sites are at or above Baton Rouge and are historic areas for seepage and sand boils. The Mississippi River elevation at Cairo was 46.2-ft. on May 31st and is forecast to be 45.9-ft. on June 5th. The river gage at New Orleans was held in the 16.5-ft. range for some time and should gradually drop. The Bonnet Carre Spillway remains in operation with 330 bays currently open and approximately 266,000 cfs (cubic feet per second) of water flowing through the structure. The Morganza Floodway was opened for the first time since 1973. Fewer bays in the Morganza Control Structure were opened than expected and the amount of flooding due to the opening of the structure did not occur as forecasted. Nine bays of the Morganza Control Structure are currently open and the USACE anticipates closing about one bay per day. The Old River Control Structure has continued in operation. He briefly discussed the flooding that occurred mostly outside of the protection area in the vicinity of Morgan City and the USACE's flood fight efforts.

Mr. Colletti reported that the inspection efforts of the USACE, levee districts, Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration (OCPR) and Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) are going very well. Shrinkage cracks have been reported and are being monitored on the West Bank due to drought conditions. Other levee districts may potentially experience shrinkage cracks should drought conditions continue. He cautioned that historically bank failures generally occur two to four months after the water has receded. Therefore, vigilance must continue and the banks must be carefully monitored over the next several months. He stated that the levee districts are doing a good job patrolling on a regular basis and reporting seepage to the USACE.

Mr. Colletti explained that a question was asked about the timing for the resumption of work within 1,500-ft. of a levee. The USACE is not allowing any excavation work or pile driving within 1,500-ft. of the levee while the river stage is above elevation +15-ft. If no additional massive rainfalls occur, the river is expected to be at an elevation +15-ft. for about another month. Each site must be looked at individually since seepage has occurred throughout the district. Permits are required for any contemplated work. Many of the waivers granted prior to the river's rise may have only allowed work when the river elevation is below +13-ft. He stressed that requests to start or continue work will be addressed on a case-by-case basis. Work will not be allowed in a seepage area or if the levee is wet. He encouraged the levee district to have a list of permits and waivers. It was pointed out that individuals are supposed to have their permit and waiver on site when performing work. Mr. Turner advised that a map was recently developed for each of the levee districts showing the 1,500-ft. zone. The maps have been placed on the SLFPA-E web site. He also suggested that permits for ponds or swimming pools require permit holders to keep the pond or swimming pool full during high water.

Mr. Colletti pointed out that the USACE has been trying to operate the Bonnet Carre Spillway in accordance with the Water Control Manual in order to maintain flows. Requests are being received to keep the spillway open so that the river level will drop below +15-ft. sooner; however, environmental concerns about keeping the spillway open have been raised.

Robert Turner, SLFPA-E Regional Director, commented that generally levee slides that occur after the water recedes are associated with a bank failure because of channel erosion due to the velocity of the river. Mr. Colletti advised that the USACE completed bank surveys up and down the river prior to the flood situation and that factors of safety were recalculated. Areas with a factor of safety below 1.3 were identified.

Mr. Turner advised that the Authority and levee districts have continued participating in the daily 3 p.m. conference calls conducted by the USACE. He commended the USACE on its coordination and management of the flood fight. He added that the flood fight is being used as a teaching experience. Mr. Colletti noted that many of the sand boils that are being found are greater than a mile from the levee system.

Mr. Turner commented that the Bohemia Spillway levee was overtopped and the spillway has been operating as initially planned.

New Business:

A. Discussion of the Harahan Pump to the River Project. (Robert Lacour)

Robert Lacour, SLFPA-E General Counsel, informed the Committee that the Harahan Pump to the River Project is a SELA project being cost shared 65 percent by the USACE and 35 percent by Jefferson Parish. A section of Mississippi River levee in the vicinity of Powerline Drive will need to be set back closer to the river in order to accommodate some of the pipes for the project. The existing levee will probably not be removed and the new levee will be located between the existing levee and the river. Properties owned by two landowners will be required for the new levee. Mr. Lacour explained that required bature can be appropriated at no cost. The law defines bature as the land between the ordinary low water mark and the ordinary high water mark. Since the bature required for the project was voluntarily built up by the owners, there is a legal question about whether the owners must be paid. If possible, the Authority will appropriate the required bature. If the property cannot be appropriated, the Authority will do a quick take. Mr. Lacour advised that a suitable hold harmless for the Authority was discussed with Jefferson Parish. The situation is being discussed with the land owners. The project is in the planning stage at this time.

B. Discussion of the assignment of SLFPA-E ID-IQ contracts.

Mr. Lacour advised that the Authority has an Indefinite Delivery-Indefinite Quantity (ID-IQ) contract for surveying services with Krebs, LaSalle, Lemieux Consultants, Inc. (Krebs, LaSalle). Krebs, LaSalle has been acquired by G.E.C., Inc. The ID-IQ contract provides that the Authority must consent to any assignment of the contract. He explained the three ways that a company can be legally acquired and discussed some of the potential issues associated with the approval of a contract assignment. He stated that he will be drafting language for future ID-IQ contracts stating the Authority's right to cancel a contract should material personnel changes occur or a company's ownership changes. The one-year renewal option in the current ID-IQ contracts would be effective July 1, 2011. Mr. Lacour stated that he would like to bring this situation to the Board for it to consider how this matter should be handled.

The Committee discussed the problem of material staff changes in firms having ID-IQ contracts. Mr. Turner pointed out that in evaluating Statements of Qualification the evaluation committee considers the resumes of the personnel that would be assigned by a firm to do the vast majority of work at higher levels. Mr. Lacour suggested that the Authority could indicate the individuals considered important to fulfill the contract. Mr. Losonsky pointed out that the Authority should not have onerous control and that the ultimate decision on the assignment of work to personnel rests with the firm.

Mr. Turner informed the Committee that Robert Jacobsen advised that he would be leaving Taylor Engineering (Taylor). Taylor is considering ceasing its operations in Louisiana. Several options are being considered in order to keep Mr. Jacobsen involved in the on-going work in New Orleans. One option being considered is the assignment of the ID-IQ contract with Taylor to Mr. Jacobsen's company with Taylor working as a sub-contractor to Mr. Jacobsen.

Levee District Reports: (copy of monthly status reports appended to minutes)

East Jefferson Levee District (EJLD): Jonell Blowers, EJLD Administrative Assistant, reviewed the highlights of the monthly status report. Ms. Blowers reported on actions taken by the district in preparing for the upcoming hurricane season. The EJLD conducted an internal meeting on April 27th. EJLD representatives have met with representatives of Jefferson Parish and the Treasure Chest Casino. A joint agency meeting, which will include representatives from the City of Kenner, U.S. Coast Guard, Louisiana State Police, DOTD, Pontchartrain Levee District, St. Charles Parish, New Orleans International Airport, City of Harahan and Jefferson Parish, is scheduled for June 22nd. Emergency housing will be provided by Ochsner at its Jefferson Highway location for EJLD personnel. A meeting is scheduled with Ochsner on June 21st to review housing details. Preliminary hurricane plans have been received from contractors on the West Return Wall project. Floodgates have been cycled. Maintenance crews have refilled supersized sandbags to replace the stock provided to other areas during the recent flood fight. Re-entry placards have been obtained. Four EJLD police officers will remain in Jefferson Parish safe houses located along the lakefront and one officer will be assigned to the Jefferson Parish EOC.

Mr. Colletti commented that FEMA is directing the USACE on the removal of temporary facilities used in the flood fight in locations upriver. He encouraged the levee districts to properly document work involved in the flood fight, including the removal of debris, temporary measures and patrols. At this time there is no FEMA assignment in this area; however, the possibility of an assignment exists, especially for the removal of temporary measures. Stevan Spencer, SLFPA-E Regional Chief Engineer, advised that the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Prepared (GOHSEP) requested estimates from the levee districts on work connected with the flood fight.

Mr. Turner advised that he was informed yesterday that the USACE would be performing additional work and adding additional berm on the Jefferson Parish side of the 17th Street Canal in the vicinity of the Canal Street Pumping Station. He expected to receive the details on this work in the next several days. This work is in addition to the work originally planned and reviewed by the SLFAP-E's consultant, Halcrow. Based on Halcrow's calculations this particular section of levee/floodwall only met a safe water elevation (SWE) of +7.5-ft. With the additional work this section of levee/floodwall will meet the minimum required SWE of +8-ft. and possibly a SWE up to +10-ft.

Orleans Levee District (O.L.D.): Kevin Spruell, O.L.D. Engineer Manager, reviewed the highlights of the monthly status report. He advised that the USACE has achieved HYL A (Hundred Year Level Attained). All floodgates are in place and gate functioning operations are being fine tuned. Mr. Colletti advised that he was just informed that the USACE anticipates putting the IHNC surge barrier barge gate in place on June 22nd.

Lake Borgne Basin Levee District (LBBLD): Peggy Sembera, LBBLD Administrative Assistant, reviewed the highlights of the monthly status report. The USACE has achieved HYL A on most of the hurricane protection projects. Ms. Sembera reported on actions taken by the district in preparing for the upcoming hurricane season. The LBBLD conducted an in-house meeting and discussed various subjects, including inventories,

sandbags and potential suppliers. A new flood fight coordinator has been assigned. Stuart Williamson, LBBLD Executive Director, has been in contact with representatives of various entities, including Colonel Dysart, Director of Homeland Security for St. Bernard Parish, and representatives of Domino Sugar. Domino Sugar will provide safe housing for LBBLD employees for the upcoming hurricane season. The USACE provided flood fight plans for projects that have not reached HYLEA.

Mr. Wittie noted that the LBBLD status report indicates that the concrete testing for LPV 149 (Caernarvon Sector Gate and Floodwall Raise) revealed that 44 and 51 day breaks were above 7,000 psi. Mr. Turner explained that the concrete has been tested and the compression breaks have acquired strength over time. There were some areas of concern because of latents. The State tasked AECOM with inspecting the two or three lifts for which the special concrete mix was used. This special concrete mix is no longer being used by the USACE. AECOM found issues with some of the repair work that was done and recommended that the lifts in question be cored for testing. The State sent a letter to Colonel Sinkler requesting that the USACE perform the coring and advising that if the USACE does not core the lifts that the State would like to do so. It was pointed out at the meeting that the USACE may flood the structure before there is an opportunity to core the lifts. The Committee discussed the concrete mix design used for the project. An item will be placed on the agenda for the next Operations Committee meeting in order to obtain an explanation for what has taken place on this project relative to the special concrete mix. Back information on the mix and the compression tests was requested to be sent to the Committee members.

SLFPA-E – Briefing on tabletop hurricane exercise conducted by the USACE:

Mr. Turner advised that the USACE recently conducted a tabletop hurricane exercise. The exercise lasted about 2-1/2 hours and used a 96 hour timeline. Various scenarios were discussed. Most of the discussion revolved around what would happen with the gaps in the system, the gates that have not been turned over to the Authority and equipment located on the floodside of structures at various locations. It was realized that more work needs to be done in the form of finalizing plans for dealing with a hurricane as it comes ashore, particularly with regards to developing timelines for when certain important actions would occur. The responsibilities of the levee districts and the USACE's contractors, as well as the timelines for accomplishing those responsibilities must be clearly defined. The tabletop exercise ended with a series of do outs. One of the do outs is for the SLFPA-E to supply its plan for gate closures to the USACE's Emergency Operations Center (EOC). Major Carter commented that the USACE's biggest question concerns the gates that must be left open for evacuation routes. Mr. Turner explained that the National Weather Services' SLOSH model runs and actual observations made of various stages are used as a basis for decisions. The Authority will coordinate the closure of gates along evacuation routes with the Louisiana State Police, DOTD and the railroad (if the railroad is involved). Milestones are included in the Contraflow Plan and the Evacuation Plan. Emergency bypass ramps were constructed as part of the system at some of the major evacuation routes that are now gated.

There was no further business; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.