

**MINUTES OF
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST
FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON AUGUST 4, 2011**

PRESENT: Stephen Estopinal, Chair
Timothy Doody, Committee Member

The Finance Committee of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (SLFPA-E or Authority) met on August 4, 2011, in Room 256 Lindy C. Boggs International Conference Center, University Of New Orleans, 2045 Lakeshore Drive, New Orleans, Louisiana. Mr. Estopinal called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

Opening Comments: None.

Adoption of Agenda: The Committee approved the agenda as submitted.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the July 7, 2011 Finance Committee meeting were approved.

Public Comments: None.

Old Business:

A. Discussion of proposed amendment of Article III, Section 8 of the Board's Bylaws relative to travel.

Mr. Doody cited excerpts from the recent Board and Finance Committee meetings during which travel reimbursement was previously discussed (copy appended to minutes). He offered a motion to resubmit to the Board the recommendation to amend Article III, Section 8 of the Bylaws as follows:

"F. Travel Expenses shall be paid in accordance with Louisiana Office of State Purchasing and Travel PPM 49 with the following exception, as modified by the Board from time to time.
1. When traveling for the purpose of conducting the business of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East, Commissioners shall be reimbursed for properly documented travel expenses and mileage to and from the Commissioner's home or to and from the Commissioner's place of business at the time of the meeting. The President may adopt reasonable rules and policies to implement the reimbursements."

Mr. Jackson commented on the opportunity for potential abuse that the proposed amendment would create and gave a hypothetical example of abuse relative to air travel for a meeting. He stressed that a clear policy is needed. He noted that PPM 49 includes a number of cost controls relative to lodging and other expenses and asked whether the Authority intends to abide by the letter of the policy.

Mr. Doody advised that the intention is to follow PPM 49 and cautioned that the Commissioners will need to pay attention to the restrictions imposed by the State Travel Policy. He noted that it would be difficult to include sufficient language in the Bylaws to

cover every situation that could occur and that the policies may need to be changed from time to time. The language relative to the ability of the President to adopt reasonable rules and policies would allow the flexibility that may be needed and following PPM 49 would require a more efficient use of tax dollars.

Mr. Jackson commented that Mr. Pineda's travel should be reimbursed since he was appointed to the Board with the knowledge that he resides in California. Other Board members may travel to other locations out of choice and may fly in for Board meetings.

Mr. Pineda pointed out that the lodging rate quoted in PPM 49 for the New Orleans area is not available at most times of the year. Mr. Doody commented that this demonstrates the need for flexibility.

Mr. Jackson stated that when he was President of the Board that he was advised that the Board had to authorize travel for Board members. He also questioned whether PPM 49 is the appropriate policy for the Board to follow.

Mr. Estopinal suggested that Mr. Jackson could craft a substitute motion that would satisfy his concerns and that would better fulfill the needs of the Board and offer the substitute motion at the Board meeting.

Mr. Doody clarified that the Bylaws currently require Board members to comply with PPM 49. PPM 49 allows for travel that originates from an entity's domain (Orleans Parish) and returns to that domain. Mr. Estopinal pointed out that PPM 49 was written for State employees. The Authority's intended policy is to reimburse the individuals who voluntarily serve on the Board for their travel expenses.

The Committee voted unanimously in favor of the motion to resubmit the amendment of the Bylaws as previously stated to the Board for approval.

There was no further business; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 a.m.