

**MINUTES OF
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON MAY 7, 2012**

PRESENT: Louis Wittie, Chair
Dave 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 May 7, 2012, in Meeting Room 221, Orleans Levee District Franklin Administrative Complex, 6920 Franklin Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana. Mr. Wittie called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Opening Comments: None

Adoption of Agenda: The agenda was adopted as presented.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the April 5, 2012 Operations Committee meeting were approved.

Public Comments: None.

New Business:

A. Discussion of GEC scope of work for an Operations and Maintenance Plan for the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) Storm Surge Barriers and associated closure structures and navigation gates.

A copy of the GEC Scope of Work was provided to the Committee members. It was pointed out that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is still in the process of developing a number of the operations and procedures (O&M) manuals. GEC representatives met with Robert Turner, SLFPA-E Regional Director, and Stevan Spencer, SLFPA-E Regional Chief Engineer, about a month ago on the development of the scope of work. Dennis Vecker with GEC advised that he had received no further comments from Mr. Turner or Mr. Spencer on the scope of work. He explained that the O&M manuals will not be completed for several months; however, some of the preliminary (60% complete) O&M manuals were received. Mr. Doody pointed out that a regional approach should be taken in the O&M of these structures and that these needs should be addressed regionally as opposed to separate levee districts to avoid duplication and maximize efficiency. Mr. Vecker advised that this approach was discussed and that everyone was in agreement.

Mr. Doody explained that the USACE will operate the subject structures during the 2012 hurricane season. The USACE will not provide the Notice of Construction Complete (NCC), which turns over the ownership of a project over to the local sponsor (the State

of Louisiana), until after the upcoming hurricane season. The USACE suggested that the levee districts participate in the O&M of these structures during the 2012 hurricane season in order to gain experience.

B. Review of EJLD, LBBLD & O.L.D Emergency Operations Procedures Manuals.

Gerry Gillen, Orleans Levee District (O.L.D.) Executive Director, advised that a copy of the O.L.D. Emergency Operations Procedures (EOP) Manual, which is about 95 percent complete, had been e-mailed to Committee members. Hard copies of the manual will be provided at the May 17th Board meeting. Revisions to the manual, primarily consisting of contact information updates, are outlined on an errata sheet.

Nick Nazarko with the Lake Borgne Basin Levee District (LBBLD) advised that an errata sheet will be provided to list the LBBLD EOP manual revisions. He explained that he held a planning session with the LBBLD staff in order to ensure that any information not already in the manual on operations performed in the past is included in the various alert levels. The hurricane alert section of the manual was completely rewritten relative to the timeline in order to provide hourly sequencing for the various levels of alerts in lieu of using a distance from the coast approach. The hourly sequencing is the type of timeline used by the USACE and some of this information had been taken almost verbatim from the Mississippi Valley Division All Hazards Operations Plan and is consistent with the method used by FEMA's National Response Operations. The manual was also revised to include updates on terminology and contact information.

Mr. Estopinal suggested that since there will be no land access to the floodgates located between Bayou Dupre and Bayou Bienvenue during the 2012 hurricane season that the floodgates along this reach be closed on June 1st due to the logistical problems. Currently, the only access to the floodgates is by flatboat. Mr. Nazarko explained that the USACE is working with the Louisiana National Guard regarding the possibility of a temporary bridge. The Committee discussed the question of whether a policy should be drafted on the closure of the floodgates between Bayou Dupre and Bayou Bienvenue during the upcoming hurricane season. Mr. Doody recommended that Mr. Nazarko work through the issues with the USACE and report to the Committee as soon as a determination is made on whether land access can be achieved. He pointed out that the USACE has not yet turned over these floodgates to the local sponsor and is therefore responsible for their operation. Mr. Estopinal suggested that the SLFPA-E put on record with the USACE its preference that the floodgates be closed on June 1st. Mr. Nazarko noted that the LBBLD has not yet received a copy of the USACE's hurricane plan for St. Bernard Parish, which should include its plan for the floodgates. Mr. Gillen pointed out that he has a similar problem relative to several floodgates in Orleans Parish that have not been turned over to the local sponsor and that he would be meeting with the USACE to coordinate their closure. Mr. Nazarko added that the USACE's hurricane plan will be made an addendum to the LBBLD's EOP Manual.

Fran Campbell, East Jefferson Levee District (EJLD) Executive Director, advised that the contact and gate information in the EJLD EOP manual has been updated. Interim protection measures have been included in the manual as required. The USACE's emergency plan for East Jefferson Parish has not yet been received; however, it will be

made an addendum to the manual upon receipt. An updated elevation map prepared by LA DOTD is also included in the manual.

Mr. Doody advised that the SLFPA-E will be participating in a joint media day on hurricane preparedness on June 1st with Federal and local governments and agencies, including the City of New Orleans, Jefferson and St. Bernard Parishes, the USACE, the U.S. Coast Guard and the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans.

C. Discussion of West End Parking Lot Proposals. (Orleans Levee District)

Mr. Gillen explained that the land expropriated from the West End Tennis Club in connection with the construction of the temporary pump station at this location was turned over to the O.L.D. The site consists of open land and a parking lot. There have been problems with individuals storing boats in the parking lot. Three proposals were received for use of the parking lot. Mariners Cove and Harborview Apartments are currently using the parking lot and submitted a proposal to clean the parking lot and maintain the adjacent grass in return for the ability to enforce parking through the use of signage in certain areas. The proposal was discussed with Robert Lacour, SLFPA-E General Counsel, and it was determined that a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement (CEA) could be developed for the use of the parking lot in exchange for the services discussed. The development of the CEA may take several weeks and the O.L.D. will have the ability to cancel the CEA should the need arise. An additional proposal was received from a small construction company which offered to plant several trees and maintain the grass in the open land area. After the insurance issues are resolved, this matter can be brought to the Board for action.

D. Discussion of Norfolk Southern Citrus Levee Drainage. (O.L.D.)

Mr. Gillen advised that the O.L.D. received a letter dated October 12, 2011, from the Norfolk Southern Railroad Company (the Railroad) concerning the maintenance of the pipes installed under the railroad tracks along the levee paralleling Hayne Boulevard. The USACE constructed an I-wall on the crown of the levee and slope paved the area between the tracks and the I-wall as part of the LPV 106 and 108 projects. The O.L.D. entered into an agreement with the Railroad to operate and maintain the drainage structures along the levee when the levee was improved in the 1970's. The structures drain the area between the railroad tracks and the levee toe. Water drains under the levee into Lake Pontchartrain. Railroad personnel noticed the condition of the drainage pipes while inspecting the LPV 106 and 108 projects. The drainage pipes are approximately forty years old and probably need replacement. The 30-inch casings spaced every 500 feet run under the railroad tracks. Twelve-inch corrugated pipes run through the casings and extend from the drop inlet into the lake. The corrugated pipes are in poor condition. The Railroad's letter only addresses the drainage structures from the Lakefront Airport to Paris Road; however, the drainage structures extend to South Point. Burk-Kleinpeter, Inc. (BKI) provided a conservative estimate to the O.L.D. of \$3 million for this repair work. Much of the repair must be accomplished by lake access. There is no danger of failure at this time. Inspection of the drainage structure must be accomplished through a joint effect with the Railroad since the ballasts must be removed in order to inspect the casings. In addition, during the USACE's foreshore

protection project rip-rap was placed at the location where the pipes discharge into the lake potentially damaging some of the pipes.

The Committee discussed the question of drainage needs in this area. Mr. Gillen advised that a meeting will be held with representatives of the Railroad on this matter. A status report will be brought to the Committee after the meeting with the Railroad.

Levee District Reports:

Lake Borgne Basin Levee District: Mr. Nazarko reviewed the highlights of the LBBLD monthly report (copy appended to minutes).

Orleans Levee District: Mr. Gillen reviewed the highlights of the O.L.D. monthly report (copy appended to minutes). He added that a public meeting was held as required by Sea Grant on the removal of the Bayou St. John Waterfall.

East Jefferson Levee District: Ms. Campbell reviewed the highlights of the EJLD monthly report (copy appended to minutes).

There was no further business; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 a.m.