

**MINUTES OF
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON DECEMBER 11, 2014**

PRESENT: Louis Wittie, Chair
Stephen Estopinal, Committee Member
Paul Tilly, Committee Member

The Operations Committee of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (SLFPA-E or Authority) met on December 11, 2014, in Meeting Room 201, Orleans Levee District Franklin Administrative Complex, 6920 Franklin Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana. Mr. Wittie called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

Opening Comments: None.

Adoption of Agenda: The agenda was amended to add two additional items under New Business: (1) discussion of a proposal by the U.S. Geological Survey to operate and maintain five gaging stations, and (2) discussion of the issuance of a task order to Evans Graves Engineers, Inc. for Program and Project Management for levee lifts in Orleans and Jefferson Parishes. The amended agenda was approved by the Committee.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the November 6, 2014 Operations Committee meeting were approved.

Public Comments:

Carol Byram, a resident along the 17th Street Canal, commented on the removal of fences and trees along the 17th Street Canal by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). She explained that levee district maintenance staff recently cut low lying limbs along some properties, including her property, but not other properties. She asked that nothing be done on her property in the future until the issues under litigation are settled. Gerry Gillen, Orleans Levee District Executive Director, advised that maintenance personnel had been cutting back branches that interfered with maintenance operations.

New Business:

A. Discussion of letter from the Jefferson Parish Council dated November 24, 2014 regarding the 17th Street Canal bottom contours and slopes.

Stevan Spencer, SLFPA-E Regional Chief Engineer, explained that a letter was received from several Jefferson Parish Councilmembers regarding a recent story aired by WWL-TV that discussed the possible effects that the dredging on the 17th Street

Canal may have had on the failed flood wall during Hurricane Katrina. The letter was addressed to Col. Richard Hansen, USACE, and Robert Turner, SLFPA-E Regional Director. The USACE is preparing a response that is currently being internally routed and is anticipated to be issued soon. He briefly discussed several past and on-going efforts along the outfall canals.

Mr. Estopinal commented that he would like to revisit the safe water elevation (SWE) so that it more closely reflects the hydraulic needs. He questioned whether through coordinated efforts the SWE could be potentially be reduced with a corresponding reduction of the flood protection footprint.

B. Discussion of execution of a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with St. Bernard Parish for the construction of a bike path on the Mississippi River Levee. (LBBLD)

Nick Cali, Lake Borgne Basin Levee District (LBBLD) Executive Director, advised that St. Bernard Parish is proposing to build Phase I of a bike path along the Mississippi River Levee. The attorneys have not yet finalized the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement; however, he anticipated that this may be accomplished prior to the December Board meeting. One of the conditions in the CEA is that the LBBLD will not be responsible for rebuilding the bike path should the levee be raised in the future. The bike path will be maintained by St. Bernard Parish. St. Bernard Parish must also obtain the appropriate permits to construct the project.

C. Discussion of extension of the Intergovernmental Agreement between the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority and LBBLD concerning the operation and maintenance of the Hopedale Water Control Structure.

Mr. Cali explained that the Intergovernmental Agreement is a continuation of a previous agreement with the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to operate and maintain the Hopedale Water Control Structure. The agreement is now with the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) and the CPRA Board. The LBBLD will be reimbursed by the CPRA for all operation and maintenance costs.

The Committee concurred that the Intergovernmental Agreement be forwarded to the Board for approval.

D. Discussion of award of contract to Cycle Construction, LLC for roadway repairs at Floodgates W-30 and W-31. (O.L.D.)

Mr. Gillen advised that bids were requested from six contractors for the roadway repairs at Floodgates W-30 and W-31. The only bid received was from Cycle Construction, LLC. Felton Suthon, O.L.D. Engineer, added that the O.L.D. is working with the Port of New Orleans concerning a cost share arrangement and that the Port may provide flagging services.

The Committee concurred that the Board be requested to approve the award of the contract to Cycle Construction, LLC.

E. Discussion of a proposal by the U.S. Geological Survey to operate and maintain five gaging stations.

Mr. Spencer explained that a proposal was received from U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to operate and maintain five gaging stations (Bayou St. John Sector Gate, GIWW East Closure Sector Gate, Bayou Bienvenue Sector Gate, Bayou Dupre Sector Gate and Caernarvon Sector Gate). The USGS is currently maintaining the tide gage and current meters at the Seabrook Complex Structure. The proposed cost to operate and maintain each of the five gaging sites is \$7,200 per annum for a total not to exceed amount of \$36,000 per annum. Two of the five gages have been turned over by the USACE and the other three gages are anticipated to be turned over soon. He noted that the USACE will continue to operate and maintain the velocity gages at the IHNC.

The Committee concurred that the proposed agreement with USGS be forwarded to the Board for approval.

F. Discussion of the issuance of a task order to Evans Graves Engineers, Inc. for Program and Project Management for levee lifts in Orleans and Jefferson Parishes.

Mr. Spencer explained that the SLFPA-E is planning to raise approximately 23 miles of levee (10 miles in Jefferson Parish and 13 miles in New Orleans East) prior to the USACE's armoring of the levees. The SLFPA-E does not have sufficient engineering staff to provide program and project management for the levee lifts. The scope of work was reviewed with two Indefinite Delivery-Indefinite Quantity (ID-IQ) consultants. Staff recommended that a task order be issued to Evans-Graves Engineers, Inc. for a not to exceed cost of approximately \$500,000. In addition, the not to exceed contract value of the Evans-Graves ID-IQ contract will need to be raised.

The Committee concurred that the Board be requested to approve the issuance of the task order to Evans-Graves Engineers, Inc. for the program and project management services.

Levee District Reports (copy of report appended to minutes):

Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) Status Report:

Mr. Spencer reviewed the highlights of the HSDRRS status report.

Police Activities: Robert Garner, SLFPA-E Police Superintendent, provide a report on police activities over the past month: officers worked over 6,000 hours, handled 54 arrests, issued 118 tickets, reported 81 levee conditions, handled 145 dispatched complaints and 116 proactive complaints, performed 114 vehicle checks and 111 pedestrian checks.

Lake Borgne Basin Levee District (LBBLD): Mr. Cali reviewed the highlights of the LBBLD status report.

Orleans Levee District (O.L.D.): Mr. Gillen reviewed the highlights of the O.L.D. status report.

East Jefferson Levee District (EJLD): Jonell Cangelosi, EJLD Administrative Assistant, reviewed the highlights of the EJLD status report.

There was no further business; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.