

**MINUTES OF  
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST  
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON FEBRUARY 18, 2016**

PRESENT: Stephen V. Estopinal, Chair  
Lambert J. Hassinger, Jr., President

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The Operations Committee of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (SLFPA-E or Authority) met on February 18, 2016, in the Orleans Levee District Franklin Avenue Administrative Complex - Meeting Room #201, 6920 Franklin Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana. Mr. Estopinal called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m.

**Opening Comments:** None.

**Adoption of Agenda:** The agenda was adopted by the Committee as presented.

**Approval of Minutes:** The Committee approved the minutes of the Operations Committee meeting held on June 4, 2015.

**Public Comments:** None.

**New Business:**

**A. Discussion of selection of an architectural/engineering firm to provide Professional Architectural and Engineering Services for the design of the proposed EJLD Safehouse and Consolidated Facilities based on the needs analysis.**

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Derek Boese, East Jefferson Levee District (EJLD) Executive Director, advised that based on the Board's guidance at the January Board meeting, interviews were conducted with short listed firms on February 4<sup>th</sup>. The offer for interview was extended to three firms. Two firms were interviewed and the third firm was unable to attend. The five selection team members met and based on the interview process unanimously recommended the selection of Sizeler Thompson Brown Architects.

The Committee approved forwarding the recommendation of the selection of Sizeler Thompson Brown Architects to the Board for approval.

**B. Discussion of an amendment to the Contract with Tetra Tech for Risk Assessment Engineering Services to perform Phase 2 of the Probabilistic Performance Analysis for the Lake Borgne Surge Barrier and Complex Structures, subject to the approval of funding from the Community Development Block Grant.**

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Robert Turner, SLFPA-E Regional Director, explained that the Probabilistic Performance Analysis is being funded by a Community Development Block Grant

(CDBG). Initial funding in the amount of \$240,000 was received for Phase 1. Verbal approval has been received for funding Phase 2 (\$260,000). Phase 1 consisted of a workshop to determine risks and probabilities of failure. Phase 2 will use the information gathered in Phase 1 to develop a risk analysis in order to determine the best use of monies to reduce risks on the complex structures. Nyka Scott, SLFPA-E Executive Counsel, commented that the SLFPA-E is awaiting the signed amendment to the Cooperative Endeavor Agreement. Mr. Estopinal asked would Phase 2 include a review of the Operations Manual. Mr. Turner replied, yes; however, the review would be geared towards operations and maintenance from cost and risk reduction perspectives.

Mr. Estopinal inquired about revisions to the Operations Manual for the Bayou Bienvenue Structure in order to utilize the Central Wetlands' additional storage capacity during storm events. Mr. Turner explained that he presented this concept to staff at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) headquarters in Washington, D.C. The consensus is that the concept bears some examination. The hydraulic study could be done by the SLFPA-E; however, he pointed out that the USACE would not give automatic approval of the operational modifications. The USACE will insist upon certain actions before modifying the operational parameters for the Bayou Bienvenue Structure. He pointed out that the concept is one of the recommendations included in the New Orleans East-Bank Hurricane Surge Residual Risk Reduction Report by Bob Jacobsen. Mr. Estopinal requested that this issue be pushed forward with vigor.

**C. Discussion of execution of Task Order No. 4 in the total amount of \$997,577.50 and an increase in the not-to-exceed contract fee limit for Design Engineering, Inc. from \$5,469,700.00 to \$5,768,962.26 for the Lake Pontchartrain Seawall Erosion Control Project. (O.L.D.)**

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Gerry Gillen, Orleans Levee District (O.L.D.) Executive Director, explained that Task Order No. 4 addresses three phases of the Lake Pontchartrain Seawall Erosion Control Project. Phase 3 Design and Engineering Services total \$717,492.07. Additional items to be addressed under Phase 3 include \$40,000 for drainage (\$10,000 for the runoff from the 13 acres adjacent to Phase 5B and \$30,000 for drainage improvements for Phase 1C and identification of drainage improvements in Reach 2A). Preliminary subcontract (survey and geotechnical) work is being authorized for Phase 4 (\$32,443.47). An additional task order will be issued for the design of Phase 4. Phase 1 is currently on-going. Several tasks were not addressed in the initial contract and approximately twelve claims must be addressed that were not a part of the original scope of work. Mr. Gillen advised that he met with Nyka Scott, SLFPA-E General Counsel, on this issue. The amount included for Phase 1 Additional Construction Phase Services (\$227,641.96) is a negotiated not-to-exceed fee. Design Engineering, Inc. will submit the actual billable hours for the additional Phase 1 services. Ms. Scott commented that additional negotiation will probably be required and reiterated that the amount indicated in the task order is a not-to-exceed amount.

Mr. Estopinal advised that the approval of Task Order No. 4 would be forwarded to the Board without recommendation since there was no quorum of Committee members to vote on this item.

**D. Discussion of Agreement with Port of New Orleans regarding IHNC East Levee Servitude. (O.L.D.)**

Mr. Gillen explained that the O.L.D. was heavily involved with the construction of the Industrial Canal due to Port of New Orleans (Port) funding problems. Under a fifty-year agreement, the USACE built, operated and maintained the levees (early 1920's to the early 1970's). The O.L.D. assumed the operation and maintenance of the levees after the agreement expired. The Port is attempting to divest itself of some of the properties that are no longer needed after the closure of the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (MRGO). The proposed agreement with the Port will establish, monument and record the O.L.D.'s right-of-way line.

The Committee approved forwarding the Agreement with the Port of New Orleans to the Board for approval.

**E. Discussion of award of a contract for Mississippi River East Bank Floodgates Repaint and Repair. (O.L.D.)**

Mr. Gillen advised that four bids were received for the Mississippi River East Bank Floodgates Repaint and Repair Project. The lowest responsive bidder was Kostmayer Construction, LLC. In the amount of \$2,582,827. He recommended award of the contract to Kostmayer Construction, LLC.

The Committee approved forwarding the recommendation to award the contract to Kostmayer Construction, LLC to the Board for approval.

**F. Discussion of an inventory of the total operation and maintenance costs of the Federal Levee System.**

Mr. Estopinal requested that the total cost for the operation and maintenance of the Hurricane and Storm Surge Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) and Mississippi River Levee (MRL) for all three levee districts be determined. He pointed out that the MRL will increasingly become a part of storm surge protection with additional coastal loss. Policy recommendations may be investigated after the cost is determined. A target of May was suggested for the presentation of the total cost.

**Levee District Reports:**

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

Mr. Turner reviewed the highlights of the HSDRRS Status Report.

- Seabrook Complex – The USACE agreed to remove and repaint the lift gates. The gates will be transported to a facility on the IHNC for the work and replaced on the structure prior to hurricane season.
- IHNC Surge Barrier – Issues related to the USACE's velocity meters continue. U.S. Geotechnical Survey performed velocity profiles and compared the profiles to data from the meters. Mr. Turner advised that he contacted Arcadis regarding the

development of rating curves based upon modeling and the validation of field measurements. Arcadis performed much of the initial hydraulic modeling for the structure. Measurements will be taken of the water surface elevation some distance away from the structure and the resulting data will be tied to the actual flow rates and velocities being observed at the Seabrook Complex and IHNC Surge Barrier Sector and Barge Gates. A curve can then be developed that will show a flow rate based upon differential head. After the curve is developed, additional measurements can be taken with the Barge Gate in the closed position.

- IHNC Barge Gate – The USACE has completed most of work necessary to resolve the problem with the fairleads. SLFPA-E personnel discovered significant corrosion inside the hydraulic oil tanks and brought this issue to the attention of the USACE. The USACE will replace the tanks and refurbish the windlasses.
- IHNC Sector Gate – The gate was struck earlier this month by a barge being pushed by a tug. There was no significant damage to the gate structure and the gate is fully operational. However, there was superficial damage to the composite beams (fender) protecting the structural components of the north gate leaf. A plan is being developed to repair the damage.

**Police Activities:** Robert Garner, SLFPA-E Police Superintendent, reported on police activities for the month of January, as follows: 8,000 hours logged in by officers; 500 hours of service provided by reserve officers, four misdemeanor arrests effected, 160+ tickets issued, 192 dispatch complaints generated, 221 in-house dispatches generated, 141 vehicle checks and 95 separate pedestrian checks. All unnecessary leave was cancelled during the Phase 2 Flood Fight. Police officers of all three levee districts have been custom outfitted and received bullet proof vests. Overhead lights have been installed on all police units with the exception of three vehicles equipped with luggage racks from the factory. LED lights were modified to compensate for the overhead lights and installed on the three vehicles. Full rank meetings were held in two levee districts. Capt. Yetta attended a search and rescue exercise for Region 1 relative to emergency response. Lt. Moscana attended a district attorneys' association meeting. A plan was put in place to eradicate nuisance hogs on levees, especially in the EJLD. The public was informed about the plan through the issuance of a press release.

### **Lake Borgne Basin Levee District (LBBLD):**

Nick Cali, LBBLD Executive Director, reviewed the highlights of the LBBLD Status Report and provided the following additional comments:

- MRL - LBBLD personnel will begin the assessment and removal of debris along the MRL as the river recedes.
- Pump Stations - A systemic problem was discovered at three pump stations (PS) with regards to the hydraulic system. The high carbon steel fittings used in the USACE's post-Katrina repairs were submerged in the intake basins and have begun to corrode. A crane has been mobilized and five of the pumps have been pulled thus far for visual inspection. Burk-Kleinpeter, Inc. has been tasked to assess the extent of the necessary repairs. The pump manufacturer has been engaged relative to testing procedures prior to replacing the pumps in service. A definitive schedule is being developed for the repairs.

### **Orleans Levee District (O.L.D.):**

Gerry Gillen, O.L.D. Executive Director, reviewed the highlights of the O.L.D. Status Report and provided the following additional comments:

- Inspections – The inspection of the St. Bernard Polder was conducted. All previously identified issues have been resolved. Several washout areas along the MRL have been brought to the USACE’s attention.
- IHNC Surge Barrier Barge Gate – OLD personnel have been assisting the USACE with the raising and sinking of the barge while repairs are being made to the fairleads.

Mr. Hassinger commented that he was very impressed when speaking with members of the O.L.D. Complex Structure Group when he recently visited the IHNC Surge Barrier. The Group consists of personnel specifically assigned to the operation and maintenance of the major complex structures. Mr. Gillen noted that the USACE has been pleased with the Group’s efforts. Sixty-five percent of the Group’s work on the IHNC Sector and Barge Gates is eligible for future credit in accordance with provisions in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA).

### **East Jefferson Levee District (EJLD):**

Derek Boese, EJLD Executive Director, reviewed the highlights of the EJLD Status Report and provided the following additional comments:

- Jefferson Heights MRL Levee Lift – The contractor has recommenced work. The project is being carefully monitored relative to quality control/quality assurance issues.
- West Return Floodwall Drainage System – The USACE’s contractor will begin driving vinyl sheetpile today in the area south of West Esplanade Avenue to the pump station. The work is scheduled to be completed in July. The EJLD is still awaiting the USACE’s plan for the area north of West Esplanade Avenue.
- Levee Lifts – Meetings have been held with Kenner and Jefferson Parish officials in preparation for the construction of the levee lift projects. Access and concerns are being addressed. Several public meetings are anticipated within the next two to three months to inform the public about the projects.

Mr. Hassinger pointed out the need for proactive communications to the public regarding major construction projects. Proactive communications can provide an opportunity to inform the public about the positive benefits that will result from a project, in addition to providing information about impacts due to construction activities.

There was no further business; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.