# MINUTES OF THE SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY – EAST BOARD MEETING THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 2010

The regular monthly Board Meeting of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority - East (Authority or SLFPA-E) was held on Thursday, August 19, 2010, in the New Orleans City Council Chamber, City Hall, 1300 Perdido Street, New Orleans, Louisiana, after due legal notice of the meeting was sent to each Board member and the news media and posted.

Mr. Doody called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. and led in the pledge of allegiance.

# PRESENT:

Timothy P. Doody, President John M. Barry, Vice President Louis E. Wittie, Secretary Stephen Estopinal, Treasurer David P. Barnes, Jr. Thomas L. Jackson Ricardo S. Pineda

# **ABSENT:**

Stradford A. Goins George Losonsky, PhD

#### **OPENING COMMENTS:**

Mr. Doody thanked the City of New Orleans for allowing the SLFPA-E to hold its meeting in the City Council Chamber. He called upon New Orleans City Council President Arnie Fielkow to provide opening comments.

City Council President Fielkow welcomed the SLFPA-E and stated that he looked forward to today's presentation. He commented that tremendous reforms have taken place over the past five years that will continue paying dividends for the community well into the future. One of the reforms was the creation of the SLFPA-E to ensure that the individuals responsible for the protection of citizens and for overseeing the comprehensive flood protection systems are no longer politicians, but are individuals with the expertise to truly, objectively and with best practices evaluate the work being done in the community. Mr. Fielkow stated that this Authority in particular has done this remarkably well and commended the Board on its focus on the importance of regionalization. He added that everyone clearly learned after Hurricane Katrina that waters do not discriminate between parishes. In order to find solutions to the issues that we face, one unified regional voice is needed in Washington where much of the money needs to come from for protection. He thanked the members of the Board for devoting their time and energy to this effort.

Mr. Doody thanked City Council President Fielkow for his remarks and for his leadership. Mr. Doody stated that as the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina approaches, we join our families, friends and colleagues to reflect on what happened on August 29, 2005—forever changing our lives. This is also a time to reflect on lessons learned and why the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority East was established. Mr. Doody thanked everyone for attending the meeting and reiterated his thanks to the City of New Orleans for the use of the City Council Chamber today. He also thanked the commissioners for taking on the tremendous responsibility of being a member of the Board and for meeting this responsibility with their dedicated time, effort and energy. He thanked New Orleans Public Access Television for the live broadcast of the meeting and for producing a video of the Authority's work in action that will be aired next week on NOATV.

# **PRESENTATIONS**:

1. A comprehensive review of the state of flood protection in southeast Louisiana - where we were five years ago, where we are today and where we need to be in the future.

To begin the presentation a two minute clip of the video was viewed.

Mr. Doody recognized the men and women who work at the levee districts and stated that they are the true heroes having worked before, during and after Hurricane Katrina.

Mr. Doody explained that the Authority felt that this was the appropriate time to bring together government and community stakeholders to examine the work that has been completed and to review what still needs to be accomplished. The biggest lesson learned from Hurricane Katrina is that water knows no boundaries and we must work together as a region to achieve a truly integrated system. The Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East was created to ensure that the physical and operational integrity of the regional flood risk management system will reduce the probability and risk of flooding for its citizens. The Authority's approach is singularly focused on regional flood protection and is committed to the safety of the people of southeast Louisiana.

# Where we were

- Pre Katrina Flood protection was fragmented. Although many wanted a regional integrated system, the governance and infrastructure simply were not there.
- Over four decades had passed since Hurricane Betsy and only a fraction of the projects had been funded by the Federal government. The system was not complete.
- \$400 million had been spent in the over 40 years since Betsy compared to where we are now.
- Today, over \$14 billion in flood protection projects are authorized and under construction.

# Where we are now

- After Katrina, there was unprecedented governmental reform and reorganization that impacted the design, construction, management, operation, maintenance and governance of levee districts in southeast Louisiana.
- The SLFPA-E is an apolitical, professional, regional governmental body a result of the government reforms – and oversees three active levee districts in St. Bernard, Orleans and East Jefferson Parishes and two levee districts that on the books, but not yet active, in St. Tammany and Tangipahoa Parishes.
- The SLFPA-E has a board and staff that are committed to working regionally with the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) and our partners; including, the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the parish governments of St. Bernard, Orleans (East Bank) and Jefferson (East Bank) Parishes, the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LA DOTD), the Sewerage and Water Board of New Orleans and the Coast Guard. The SLFPA-E establishes monthly meetings with the leaders of each of these groups to address issues before they become problems.
- Flood protection is a regional public safety issue, and through the collaborative efforts of citizens and government stakeholders, our hurricane and flood protection system is improved and strengthened.
- The SLFPA-E is engaged with its partners in reviewing the work for 100-year protection, providing feedback and input to the designs and processes.
- The plans and specifications of 100-year projects are reviewed for operation and maintenance features that will be the SLFPA-E's responsibility when construction is complete.
- The SFLPA-E has inspectors in the field reviewing the work being done.
- The SLFPA-E participates in design team meetings and provides input with the USACE, Louisiana Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration (OCPR) and LA DOTD.
- The SLFPA-E established a Coastal Advisory Committee that reviews and recommends priority coastal projects to secure the future of the Pontchartrain Basin, re-establishing self-sustaining habitats and enhanced storm protection. The coast is our first line of defense and the SLFPA-E will not wait until the completion of the perimeter protection system to focus on coastal restoration efforts—we can't afford that luxury of time.
- The erosion of Louisiana's coastal wetlands and marshes impacts the entire nation.
  It is important that we stay united and committed to providing our citizens with the
  highest level of protection from hurricanes and that we continue to inform Americans
  of the national economic implications of a disappearing coastline.

Mr. Doody stated that the job of the SLFPA-E is difficult and challenging, but it is making a difference. Today, more than one million citizens are better protected from hurricane-driven flooding. He reviewed some of the SLFPA-E's successes:

- Getting the USACE to agree to design and build the permanent pump stations with the major features included that will accommodate a future option 2.
- London Avenue Load Test The SLFPA-E partnered with the USACE to define the configuration and how to set up test collection data.
- Getting remedial work on the Outfall Canals floodwalls and the IHNC Canal floodwalls.
- The Mississippi River Gulf Outlet (MRGO) is closed in no small measure due to the SLFPA-E efforts to provide the USACE with the required real estate.
- The SLFPA-E is working with USACE to revise the External Peer Review Plan.
- The Inner Harbor Navigation Canal (IHNC) Surge Barrier, one of the largest civil
  works design-build construction projects in history, is approximately 75 percent
  complete and will provide hurricane and flood protection for Metro New Orleans, the
  Ninth Ward, New Orleans East and St. Bernard Parish. The SLFPA-E was engaged
  early and continued its efforts to get construction underway.
- The SLFPA-E has recommended specific coastal projects to protect Lake Pontchartrain from oil resulting from the oil spill.
- The SLFPA-E worked hard to obtain the thirty year pay back for the local cost share, meeting often with the Office of Gulf Coast Recovery and the members of the Louisiana Congressional delegation.
- The SLFPA-E continues to coordinate with local and State governments on necessary property acquisitions.
- Construction is underway in Orleans Parish on the first safe housing for essential levee district personnel. The SLFPA-E hopes to provide safe housing soon for levee district personnel in St. Bernard and Jefferson Parishes.

#### Where We Need to Be

- The first and most important thing needed to be understood is that 100-year protection is only the beginning. We deserve and are seeking a much higher level of protection, and we need the will and resources to be able to achieve that higher level.
- To achieve our goal, our laser focus is to educate those in Washington about the role Louisiana plays in the national economy. Enhancing our protection is and should be a national concern.
- WE CANNOT BECOME COMPLACENT!
- We must also understand and appreciate that levees, floodgates and floodwalls are important, but they are just the beginning. Without Coastal Protection and Restoration, we cannot build levees high enough or strong enough.
- The SLFPA-E's Coastal Advisory Committee, chaired by Carlton Dufrechou, works in partnership with local, state and federal agencies, coastal and regional organizations, and the private and non-profit sector, focusing on projects outside of

the levee system. This is a critical aspect of our flood protection system that we must give the appropriate attention.

In closing, Mr. Doody thanked everyone for their support and commitment to regional flood protection in southeast Louisiana. He stated that we are faced with many challenges and it is important that we continue to keep these important issues on the minds of our government and our citizens.

Mr. Doody recognized some of the Board's distinguished guests, including Arnie Fielkow, President of the New Orleans City Council, Jackie Brechtel-Clarkson, Vice President of the New Orleans City Council, Craig Taffaro, St. Bernard Parish President, Carlton Dufrechou, Executive Director of the Greater New Orleans Expressway Commission and Chair of the SLFPA-E Coastal Advisory Committee, Mark Schexnayder, Coastal Advisory Committee member, Ruthie Frierson, Founder and Chair of Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans, Sandy Rosenthal, Founder and Director of Levees.org, Shawn Burk, representing Jefferson Parish Council Chairman John F. Young, Colonel Robert Sinkler, Commander of the USACE Hurricane Protection Office, and Karen Durham-Aguilera, Director of USACE Task Force Hope. He then recognized and thanked the members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers present for their efforts. He also recognized Stradford Goins and stated that Mr. Goins has been a strong leader on the Board for the past three years and has contributed greatly to the Authority. Mr. Doody then called on the Board's guests for comment.

Jackie Brechtel-Clarkson, Vice President of the New Orleans City Council, welcomed everyone and stated that it was an honor to have the SLFPA-E, President Taffaro and Shawn Burk, representing Council Chairman Young, in the City Council Chamber today. She stated that one silver lining of the recent disasters is that this region sticks together as a metropolitan area. Ms. Clarkson commented on the noticeable disappearance of the wetlands since the time that she was child and that the wetlands back when they were intact prevented hurricanes from reaching the level of Category 5. She noted that there have been many good authorities over the years telling everyone in every form of government of the need for coastal restoration. However, it took the leadership of the SLFPAE and the voice of grass roots groups and people, such as Tim Doody, Carlton Dufrechou, Sandy Rosenthal and Levees.org, and Ruthie Frierson and Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans, to make everyone aware that up front protection is needed. She commented that we would not be where we are today without an organization such as the SLFPA-E that expressed the need for coastal wetlands, the eastern and western tieins and the ability of the outfall canals to progressively move from Option 1 to Option 2 or 2a. She thanked the Board members for their efforts and for the opportunity to tell people to come home or to come to New Orleans for the first time. Council Vice President Clarkson commented on some the exciting things going on in New Orleans, such as the Master Plan, the private-public partnership of economic development and the new administration. She added that people will come to New Orleans because they will see the reduction in crime, the opportunity to invest where the rules don't change, and—most of all—flood protection.

Craig Taffaro, President of St. Bernard Parish, thanked and recognized the President and Vice President of the New Orleans City Council, the members of the Board, the

members of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the agencies and organizations that have been a part of this process. He stated that we have much work to do, in recognition of the work that has been done. President Taffaro commented that Ms. Clarkson reference to a metropolitan sums up much of what we have been engaged with—partnerships. There had never before been the types of partnerships that have taken place with grass roots level citizens, local and state governments, agency boards, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Federal delegation. There is an alignment that exists now that perhaps has never previously existed and the work that is being done is indicative of those partnerships. Reflected in those partnerships and what is happening is an awareness of just what is at stake—an entire cultural experience, not only to Louisiana, but to the world. The gateway that exists in this region of the country connects literally to the international scene on a daily basis, and the recent oil spill crisis has brought this back into focus. He applauded the Board for its continued work and its leadership for forging ahead and rising above political agendas. President Taffaro stated that he looked forward to continuing this partnership.

Carlton Dufrechou, Chairman of the SLFPA-E Coastal Advisory Committee, stated that he, Mark Schexnayder and Dr. John Lopez were very proud to be a part of the Coastal Advisory Committee. He commented that the Board is truly apolitical and making hard decisions based on the best available technical data. In addition, the Board is going beyond levees alone and looking outside to the coasts. Mr. Dufrechou commented on the monumental structural work that has been going on during the past four years from the western edges of East Jefferson Parish through Orleans Parish and into St. Bernard Parish. He expressed his confidence that there would be 100-year protection by next June, but pointed out that the coasts will always be the first line of defense. He stressed that re-establishing a self-sustaining coast is critical for the long term. Mr. Dufrechou complimented the SLFPA-E for helping to unify the region.

Sandy Rosenthal, Founder and Director of Levees.org, complimented New Orleans City Council Vice President Clarkson on her remarks observing the importance of grass roots groups and the voices of citizens in the recovery and rebuilding of the region. She congratulated the Board for embracing the work of citizens and grass roots groups in the rebuilding of the City and making it a safe place to work and live.

Ruthie Frierson, Founder and Chair of Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans, introduced Ann Rabin, Betty Hope, Barbara Bush and Minnie Smith, members of the organization's twelve member Executive Committee. On behalf of Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans, Ms. Frierson congratulated and thanked the members of the Board for making the reform and consolidation of levee boards in southeast Louisiana a succcessfull reality. She thanked the thousands of concerned citizens from across the region who volunteered and worked with Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans. She reflected on some of the past efforts of Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans, including the 53,000 signatures petitioning Governor Blanco to call a second special Legislative session to focus on levee board consolidation, the rally on the first day of the session that included 1,200 people from New Orleans, training 100 citizen volunteers who lobbied Baton Rouge for a two-and-a-half week period, getting a web site up and running in three days, and the 1,650,000 e-mails that were sent by citizens over a period of about a year in support of the two reforms supported by the organization dealing with levee boards

and assessors. Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans worked with the reform legislators, business and civic groups, churches and neighborhood groups across the community. Ms. Frierson thanked the Business Council for its strong suppport and Jay Lapayre for his leadership. She also thanked the members of the Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans Executive Committee, which was formed in November of 2005 and has worked tirelessly since that time. She stated that Citizens for 1 Greater New Orleans has supported the SFLPA-E in the legislature and stands ready to support the SLFPA-E's efforts in the future. Ms. Frierson thanked the members of the Board for their leadership, lazerlike focus on flood protection, persistence and expertise.

Shawn Burk, representing Jefferson Parish Council Chairman John Young, explained that Councilman Young was unable to attend this meeting due to another commitment. He stated that Councilman Young wanted to thank the Board for its efforts to help Jefferson Parish and to express his continued support. On behalf of Councilman Young he also thanked the City of New Orleans, the Sewerage & Water Board and St. Benard Parish for working together with Jefferson Parish to make this a better region.

Colonel Robert Sinkler, Commander of the USACE Hurricane Protection Office, stated that the Corps of Engineers is not only building the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System for the people of southeast Louisiana, but with the people of southeast Louisiana. He commented that the Corps of Engineers could not be where it is today and do what it needs to do without support from the SLFPA-E. Col. Sinkler expressed his appreciation for this partnership and teaming. He added that when the system is ready to handle a 100-year storm surge event next year, it will be because of this great partnership.

# **ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

A motion was offered by Mr. Jackson, seconded by Mr. Barry and unanimously approved, to adopt the agenda.

# RESOLUTION #08-19-10-01 – APPROVAL OF THE JULY 15, 2010 BOARD MEETING MINUTES

On the motion of Mr. Barnes.

Seconded by Mr. Estopinal, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East approves the minutes of the Board Meeting held on July 15, 2010.

The foregoing was submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Mr. Barnes, Mr. Barry, Mr. Estopinal, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Pineda

and Mr. Wittie

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Goins and Mr. Losonsky

# **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

<u>Finance Committee</u>: Chairman Stephen Estopinal reported that the Finance Committee met on August 5<sup>th</sup> and reviewed the Compliance Questionnaires that were completed by the SLFPA-E and levee districts.

<u>Operations Committee</u>: Chairman Louis Wittie reported that the Operations Committee met on August 5<sup>th</sup> and discussed the proposed peer review of the design of the remedial work along the outfall canals, the proposed increase in architectural fees for the Orleans Levee District safe house build out, and the receipt of bids by the East Jefferson Levee District on August 18<sup>th</sup> for the Lakefront Linear Park Project.

<u>Legal Committee</u>: Chairman John Barry reported that the Legal Committee met prior to the Board meeting today and approved legal invoices.

<u>Special Issues Committee</u>: Chairman Thomas Jackson reported that the Special Issues Committee met on August 5<sup>th</sup> on the following items:

- Review of the SLFPA-E's draft comments on the USACE's Independent External
  Peer Review Policy -- The SLFPA-E's comments were primarily based on its
  interpretation that the policy addressed projects more than the system. The
  American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) prepared the initial legislation
  concerning peer review and got it through Congress in WRDA (Water Resources
  Development Act). A letter was received from Col. Sinkler that addressed a number
  of the comments and that agreed in general with the approach. The wording of
  WRDA is not clear on peer review with respect to projects versus system. The
  ASCE is preparing comments to the USACE through its technical committee on
  levees and will try to correct at the earliest opportunity any misconception of the
  intent.
- Corrosion protection for steel sheet piles and H-piles used to construct T-walls in St. Bernard Parish -- The Committee was joined by a representative from OCPR on the discussion of this issue. Several individuals and experts from the SLFPA-E and the USACE are scheduled to meet on August 31<sup>st</sup> to attempt to determine a path forward.
- Responsibility for the levees/floodwalls along the Orleans Parish outfall canals if and when they are removed from the Federal system – The SLFPA-E General Counsel was requested to review the legal responsibility as defined in State law on this issue.

<u>CPRA/Governmental Affairs</u>: John Barry thanked the City Council for the use of its facility for this meeting. He commented on the three components of flood protection: (1) coasts, (2) structures, such as levees, and (3) what happens inside the levees. The component dealing with what can be done inside the levee system is within the jurisdiction of the City of New Orleans. He commented on the potential for the City to demonstrate international leadership by addressing this issue directly and creatively. The kinds of problems that the City is currently facing will be seen all over the world with the rise of sea levels. He noted the example provided by the Dutch in dealing with this issue. Mr. Barry stated that he looked forward to the City getting much more involved in dealing with the issue of water inside the levees and the protection of citizens.

Mr. Barry advised that he recently had a lengthy meeting with Ray Mabus. He stated that he now has more guarded optimism than at any time since Katrina that coastal problems will be addressed. With the recent oil spill, billions of dollars will be available that would not have been available otherwise. These monies will flow much faster than the Congressional legislative process. He pointed out that the oil spill still remains a problem. It was reported today that as much as seven percent of all of the oil that escaped is actually moving through the Gulf in an underwater plume.

Mr. Barry reported that the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) discussed the peer review system and received a presentation on the development of the next draft of the State's Master Plan in its meeting yesterday. He advised that he would request that a presentation be provided at a future Board meeting on the draft Master Plan and, in particular, the prioritization tool. Many of the hard decisions will be driven by the prioritization tool developed by the Rand Corp; therefore, the proper weighting of scientific and political processes in the prioritization tool will be crucial.

Mr. Barnes commented that we are only about halfway thru this hurricane season. The 2010 hurricane season was predicted to be unusually active, but has not been very active thus far. He cautioned everyone that many times the seasons start late and become very active. Therefore, this season may become quite active and produce some major storms. He pointed out that the levee system built to keep out water from storm surges also holds water in with unusually heavy rain situations. He cited the example of a tropical storm that moved on shore in southeast Texas about 30 years ago that produced as much as 40 inches of rain in two days. He cautioned everyone to remain prepared and to remember that heavy rain is also a threat.

Mr. Pineda explained that he came on the Board in February of 2007 and that he has been impressed by the professional and technical skill sets possessed by the Board members. He commented that his impression is that FEMA and the USACE want to see regionalization of flood risk management and for communities to adopt the whole tool chest of flood risk reduction measures. The SLFPA-E and levee districts will do everything that it takes to operate the flood protection system; however, city and parish governments must be encouraged to advocate and implement important non-structural measures, such as flood insurance and elevating homes. He commented on the progress made by the Board in terms of governance, including strategic planning, short and long term finances and contracting. Mr. Pineda advised that he plans to begin working on obtaining FEMA grants in order to carry out some of the programs that are not normally in the USACE's tool box. He stressed that the Board will continue to work to try to reduce flood risk in every way possible.

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Mr. Roy Arrigo, representing the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Canal Coalition, explained that there were several issues that the Coalition would like to address with the Board; however, in light of this meeting recognizing the fifth anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, he would like to defer his comments until the next Board meeting.

Mr. Doody commented that the members of the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Canal Coalition have been engaged since the early stages of the Authority and expressed his appreciation for this engagement by the public.

# **REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Robert Turner, SLFPA-E Regional Director, reviewed the highlights of the report (copy of Regional Director's Report appended to minutes).

Mr. Jackson inquired about the gap in the IHNC surge barrier located between the barge gate and the shoreline. Col. Sinkler explained that the IHNC surge barrier is complete from the T-wall in St. Bernard Parish to the T-wall in Orleans Parish. The three openings in the surge barrier system are at the Bayou Bienvenue gate and the GIWW sector and barge gates. A cofferdam is in place at Bayou Bienvenue, which will provide interim protection at that location. The GIWW barge gate was re-opened to navigation traffic this week. Eighty ton maintenance bulkheads are located at the barge gate site for closing the gap if needed. The cofferdam is currently being constructed at the GIWW sector gate. He explained that the area mentioned by Mr. Jackson is where the USACE left out three monoliths in order to have construction access for the sector gate. The USACE will put some type of interim closure in place at that location if the cofferdam is in place at the GIWW before the next storm. Col. Sinkler advised that 90 percent of the IHNC surge barrier wall is in place.

Mr. Doody advised that Stradford Goins requested to speak from the podium.

Mr. Goins stated that he would like to bring to a close some of the things that he is working on. He first explained that the reason he decided not to serve another term is because in his opinion the Board's focus in the future will be on coastal and wetland restoration issues. He stated that he thought it would be more appropriate for the Board to have an individual with that type of background; therefore, he was stepping down in order to allow an opportunity to obtain someone with that type of expertise on the Board.

Mr. Goins advised that he had brought material for a Power Point presentation, but that the equipment needed to show the presentation was not available.

Mr. Goins stated that the Board was appointed in January of 2007 by Governor Blanco to provide guidance and oversight for the reconstruction of the flood control system for the metropolitan area. To that end there have been many theories and approaches on how to achieve that goal. He stated that his focus has been on one goal—saving lives and protecting property, and in doing so, to be truthful and forthright with the public. He stated that he did not accept the position of a commissioner to be a friend or a foe to the Corps of Engineers or any elected official, and, in fact, that he hated politics with a passion. He stated that he, like the other engineers on the Board, accepted the position to have input and review and to break down the technical issues associated with the flood protection system into language that laymen can understand. To provide some background information, he explained that when he walks into a building he looks at how it is structured and for the safety equipment or the lack of it. Mr. Goins also told a

story of the unpopular position he had taken against a proposed urea plant in Poplarville, Mississippi, which in the end turned out to be a scam. He explained that his intent at that time was to protect people from the harmful releases of chemicals that can occur with that type of facility. He explained that he took this spirit to his service on the Board and has always attempted to seek the truth.

Mr. Goins stated that the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) modeling is the model that the entire system is based on. If the model is right, we have a system that will protect us from the storms; if the model is wrong, we have a system that will not protect us from the storms. He stated that the Board's task is to seek the truth—are we protected? He stated that to his knowledge he was not sure if any Board member or staff person has ever reviewed in detail the HSDRRS model. Almost two years ago the Board fought hard to educate the public on the meaning of the 100-year storm. Many in the public thought that that title meant a storm occurring once in a century. He stated that the Board did the math and realized that there was a higher probability of having a 100-year flood than not having one in an individual's life time. The probability of seeing a 100-year event over a 100 year period is about 63 percent. He stated that the Board saw and understood how statistics can be misleading and can lead to poor decisions if the meaning behind the numbers is not known.

Mr. Goins stated that he kept wondering and asking why was the USACE building the surge barrier to a lower elevation than the levees that it would tie into. He stated that he kept thinking in his mind that the water is just going to flow over the wall. Months passed and at the June meeting he heard for the first time that water was going to flow over the wall during a presentation by the USACE. He stated that prior to this presentation he only heard sound bites of commanders saying that the surge barrier would stop a Katrina-like surge. He stated that he believes that statements like these can be misleading to the public. He stated that he had to know how these water elevations for the IHNC were achieved, especially since the USACE wanted to leave the existing floodwalls along the Industrial Canal in place and had always said that those floodwalls would no longer be impacted by the storm surge. When overtopping of the surge barrier occurs, the IHNC floodwalls will see flood waters from the surge.—the question is how much. He stated that this is where his latest search for the truth has brought him. The surge barrier, like every part of the system, has been designed to the 100-year level of protection. The reality of statistics is that the numbers can be misleading. He stated that statistically he could give the same probability of occurrence of a 1,000-year event as a 100-year event to-date and do nothing to the system. He explained that this could be done statistically by doing nothing, if he changes the period. If he did nothing to the system, statistically he could give the same probability of a 1,000-year event occurring for a ten year period that is equal to the current level of the 100-year period for any given year. Each event just described has a one percent probability of occurrence for the specified period. He stated that he feels that this is a danger that we face if we let statistics guide engineering design. He stated that he was unable to attend the last meeting; however, he reviewed the Power Point presentation on the east levee embankment project and the storm surge presentation, and that several issues gave him great concern.

Mr. Goins explained that in the presentation given last month the modeling was given for the 100-year storm with the 152 storms that were run in the program. A printout was also given showing the 152 storms plotted against the total overtopping volume. On the bottom of the slide was the cut off point for the one-year event. He stated that there are approximately 15 storms in the graph that exceed that event. He explained that although these storms are above the one percent storm, which the USACE's authorization, if one was to hit the IHNC, the volume of water that would go into this corridor would catastrophically flood the eastern part of the city. He stated that perhaps additional Congressional authorization is needed and reiterated that he was trying to get this message across in an attempt to save lives and property.

Mr. Goins stated that he did some quick calculations assuming the constant volume in the corridor, and since the area is the same, the only change in the volume coming in would be depth. In the 100-year model the USACE only accounted for 1.5-feet of overtopping given the volume of some of the storms. He commented that storm 57 would put 7.5-feet, storm 140 would put 24-feet, and storm 87 would put 30.6-feet, and pointed out the level of devastation that this would cause. He reiterated that the model was driven by statistics and stated that statistics are only as good as the input. He stated that some engineering judgment was used; however, the assumptions need to be reviewed. The wind setup speeds were modeled between 77 and 88 miles per hour. He stated that he was not sure if that is adequate. The distances between storm tracks were approximately 40 miles. He stated that he did not think that this is adequate. He stated that the best that he could find was that there were 13 storm tracks that were modeled and not the 152 storms that we perhaps thought were modeled. The wave characteristics were determined in advance of the modeling. The standard deviation values of 10 percent of the average significant wave height and 20 percent of the peak period are used based on expert judgment of the current accuracy of the wave model. The storms were modeled on five parameters: central pressure, radius of maximum wind speed for the velocity of the storm, the angle of track relative to landfall, and the distance between the points of interest and the location of landfall. He stated that he thought that there were some oversights if the five criteria are left as the sole input factors for the model. He explained that, in his opinion, using only the radius of maximum wind does not account for the water moving into a confined area with the winds outside of that maximum radius approaching ahead of the storm. Therefore, if the wind is pushing the water into a confined area, it is building up already in advance of the surge from the radius in the maximum wind field.

Mr. Goins stated that the other presentation that he wished to comment on dealt with LPV 109 on the eastern edge of the system in Orleans Parish. This work includes wick drains, construction of a new levee and a tie into the existing levee. He explained that the first part of the work will be done completely on the protected side, which is not a problem. However, when the second lift is done, the portion of the floodside berm needing to be filled in was shown being done both when the landside berm is being constructed and when the floodside existing levee is being degraded. He pointed out that if trucks and dozers are driven across the existing levee, the grass cover will be damaged. Therefore, he was concerned about when this sequence of work will occur. If this occurs during hurricane season, then the levee will be exposed to the floodside. He stated that another concern is where the existing levee will be degraded to match

the slope projected by the new levee. He explained that some work was done after Katrina to put a new lift on areas that were damaged and that he was not sure what type of materials were involved. He stated that he had two concerns on this issue: first, that the material that will be cut and put on the new levee is compatible with the new standard, and second, that they may need to rework the exposed material of the old levee in order have robust clay on top once the existing levee is cut down. He stated that he did not know what the borings were because he could not find the drawings. He commented that the project will be done in two lifts to allow some settlement, which is the correct approach. However, he had a concern where the geo-textile fabric terminates relative to the existing levee. The geo-textile material will shift a little with the settlement of the new levee. Therefore, he wanted to make sure that this is taken into account so that there is no failure. He explained that when this levee was originally constructed, there was a deep shear failure and the levee sloughed off into the marsh.

Mr. Goins addressed the USACE representatives present and explained that it may have seemed that his time on the Board was adversarial, but that it was not, and that he recognized the sacrifices that they have made.

Mr. Doody stated that he believed that everyone understood the passion with which Mr. Goins approached the protection of the people and for that the Board was truly grateful. He requested that Mr. Goins provide a copy of his Power Point presentation to him and advised that he would request the Engineering Advisory Committee to look at this material and obtain presentations from the USACE on the issue of IHNC capacity. He added that the creation of the Engineering Advisory Committee was a way to keep Mr. Goins involved for the benefit of everyone concerned.

# **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

1. Update on East Jefferson Levee District Real Estate issue.

At 11:25 a.m. a motion was offered by Mr. Barnes, seconded by Mr. Wittie and unanimously adopted, for the Board to convene in Executive Session to consider the item listed on the Board Agenda.

At 12:30 p.m. a motion was offered by Mr. Wittie, seconded by Mr. Barry and unanimously adopted, for the Board to reconvene in regular session.

# RESOLUTION #08-19-10-02 - LOUISIANA COMPLIANCE QUESTIONNAIRES

Mr. Estopinal advised that the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaires completed by the SLFPA-E and the levee districts were reviewed by the Finance Committee. The Committee's comments were reviewed by the SLFPA-E Legal Counsel and the Questionnaires were appropriately revised.

On the motion of Mr. Barnes, Seconded by Mr. Wittie, the following resolution was offered: **WHEREAS**, Section 327.08 of the Louisiana Governmental Audit Guide (the Guide) specifies that the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire is a required part of any audit of Louisiana; and

**WHEREAS**, the Guide further specifies that the responses contained in the questionnaire should be reviewed by the governing body and approved in an open meeting.

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED,** that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East approves the representations made by management in the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaires for the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (SLFPAE), the Orleans Levee District, the East Jefferson Levee District and the Lake Borgne Basin Levee District.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the SLFPA-E President, SLFPA-E Secretary and SLFPA-E Treasurer are authorized to sign the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaires.

The foregoing was submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Mr. Barnes, Mr. Barry, Mr. Estopinal, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Pineda

and Mr. Wittie

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Goins and Mr. Losonsky

# RESOLUTION #08-19-10-03 - ID-IQ CONTRACT TASK ORDER - HALCROW, INC.

Members of the Board inquired about whether the USACE would pay the cost of this peer review and requested an explanation of the need for these services.

Mr. Doody explained that the services of Robert Bachus and Ray Martin were retained by the SLFPA-E to peer review the London Avenue Canal Load Test and that the USACE had paid the cost of these services. The USACE defined the current safe water elevations (SWE) for the three outfall canals (Orleans Avenue, London Avenue and 17<sup>th</sup> Street Canals). The SLFPA-E used Dr. Bachus and Dr. Martin to review this work and requested the USACE to pay this cost. Drs. Bachus and Martin were invited to some, but not all, of the discussions. He pointed out that it is difficult for the SLFPA-E to control the review services when they are paid for by the USACE. The USACE then decided to design remedial improvements along the three canals necessary for a SWE of +8-ft. for all three canals. The intention is for the SLFPA-E to engage a professional engineering consultant to review the USACE's engineering work and designs for the remedial improvements.

Mr. Turner further explained that the USACE has now set the maximum SWE in the canals at 8-ft. and will design the improvements necessary to ensure that this elevation can be met. He stated that his understanding is that the USACE coordinated with the Sewerage & Water Board (S&WB) to determine the maximum SWE needed for the S&WB's current pumping capacities and future plans. A kick off meeting was held in June, 2010, which was attended by SLFPA-E representatives, a representative from Halcrow, Dan Bradley and other members of the USACE project team. The USACE

representatives committed at that meeting to partner with the SLFPA-E and allow full access to information and meetings. Copies of the completed SWE Reports were provided to the SLFPA-E. Much of the work that will be done relies on data and information contained in the SWE Reports, which are not user friendly. Mr. Turner pointed out that it will be tremendous chore to dig through the reports and locate the pertinent information. The USACE's project is progressing very rapidly and the peer review work will be very intense for the next couple of months; therefore, the SLFPA-E would not be able to solicit assistance from other entities to perform this peer review at a lesser cost, nor does it have the staff to do the peer review. The SLFPA-E must be able to make the appropriate comments and have those comments addressed by the USACE timely; therefore, a professional engineering firm is needed with the appropriate expertise and the staff available to meet the demands of the time schedule. The maintenance of the outfall canal I-walls may remain with the SLFPA-E for some time to come. He pointed out that I-walls inherently have problems and that the existing structures do not currently meet HSDRRS guidelines. A rigorous scope of work is associated with this task order. He added that the money that will be spent for these services is a matter of necessity to address this critical issue and will insure that the proper attention is focused on the outfall canal floodwalls.

Mr. Jackson commented on the importance of this issue and on the tremendous number of hours spent on the outfall canals and their ability to retain water even as a secondary channel within the Federal hurricane protection system. He requested that the consultant be requested to look at each of the canals in terms of the hydraulics of the canal and the cross sections necessary to convey the hydraulics to ensure that the walls are stable enough to withstand the cleaning out of the canals.

On the motion of Mr. Barry, Seconded by Mr. Wittie, the following resolution was offered:

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is designing remedial work on the levees and floodwalls along the Orleans Avenue, London Avenue and 17<sup>th</sup> Street Outfall Canals; and

**WHEREAS**, the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (SLFPA-E) currently has an Indefinite Delivery-Indefinite Quantity (ID-IQ) Contract with Halcrow, Inc., which can be utilized to peer review of aforementioned design work; and

**WHEREAS**, in accordance with Resolution No. 06-17-10-06, adopted by the Board on June 17, 2010, Task Order No. 02-01-002 was issued to Halcrow, Inc., for preparatory work and to develop a detailed scope and fee for a full peer review; and

**WHEREAS,** Halcrow, Inc. has submitted a detailed scope of work and not to exceed fee of \$309,060 for the full peer review; and

**WHEREAS**, five-sixths of the costs of the peer review will be allocated to the Orleans Levee District and one-sixth of the cost will be allocated to the East Jefferson Levee District.

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED,** that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East approves the aforementioned task order with Halcrow, Inc., at a not to exceed cost of \$309,060 for a full peer review of the design by the USACE of the remedial work on the levees and floodwalls along the outfall canals, and authorizes the SLFPA-E Regional Director to execute said task order.

The foregoing was submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Mr. Barnes, Mr. Barry, Mr. Estopinal, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Pineda

and Mr. Wittie

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Goins and Mr. Losonsky

# RESOLUTION #08-19-10-04 - ID-IQ CONTRACT TASK ORDER - AECOM, INC.

Mr. Doody explained that the SLFPA-E and the levee districts will be tasked with operating and maintaining a much larger, more expensive flood protection system. Factual data is needed on the costs to operate and maintain the system in order to determine whether the levee districts can bear these costs or will need to request an increase in millage rates. Mr. Turner added that the study will include future anticipated operations and maintenance costs for the entire system, excluding the lakefront pump stations, which the levee districts are not anticipated to be responsible for operating and maintaining.

Mr. Jackson advised that he retired from AECOM, Inc. and that he would abstain from voting on this resolution.

On the motion of Mr. Wittie,

Seconded by Mr. Barnes, the following resolution was offered:

**WHEREAS**, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is currently constructing substantial improvements to the Greater New Orleans Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned improvement projects, which are being constructed to provide 100-year protection, will be extremely costly to operate and maintain; and

**WHEREAS**, upon completion of construction the aforementioned projects will be turned over to the local levee districts to operate and maintain; and

**WHEREAS**, the costs to operate and maintain these significant flood protection improvements could exceed currently projected levee district revenues; and

**WHEREAS**, a detailed study is required in order to have reliable substantiated operations and maintenance costs so that future revenue needs for each levee district can be anticipated and the appropriate actions can be taken; and

**WHEREAS**, details proposals were received from AECOM, Inc. for Operations and Maintenance Cost Studies with not-to-exceed costs, as follows:

East Jefferson Levee District - \$109,835.90

Lake Borgne Basin Levee District - \$139,431.60

Orleans Levee District - \$119,528.20

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED,** that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East approves the issuance of task orders to AECOM, Inc. for an Operations and Maintenance Cost Study for the EJLD, LBBLD and O.L.D., at the aforementioned not-to-exceed costs, and authorizes the SLFPA-E Regional Director to execute said task orders.

The foregoing was submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows: YEAS: Mr. Barnes, Mr. Barry, Mr. Estopinal, Mr. Pineda and Mr. Wittie

NAYS: None

ABSTAINED: Mr. Jackson

ABSENT: Mr. Goins and Mr. Losonsky

# RESOLUTION #08-19-10-05 – ESTABLISHMENT OF ENGINEERING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Mr. Barry asked that the resolution clarify that the service of individuals outside of the SLFPA-E called upon by the Chairman and the Vice Chairman of the Engineering Advisory Committee (EAC) is on a voluntary basis. Mr. Doody advised that the intention was not for the EAC to hire individuals, but that it could call upon experts as-needed on a voluntary basis. There was no objection to clarifying this intent in the resolution.

Mr. Barry suggested that individuals who voluntarily serve on the EAC and are designated by the Chair or Vice Chair be allowed to list their membership on their CV. It was pointed out that should the Chair determine that there is a need to compensate individuals outside of Board members for their service on the EAC, a resolution would be required. Mr. Jackson explained that at this time the only regular member of the EAC anticipated outside of the SLFPA-E would be from the Office of Coastal Protection and Restoration. Other individuals would be invited to participate, depending on the issue being addressed. Mr. Doody requested that Mr. Lacour investigate whether the Chair or Vice Chair can name an individual to serve on the EAC and allow that individual to list this membership on his C.V. Mr. Lacour commented that an individual who may serve once on the committee could list himself as a consultant to the EAC.

Mr. Doody advised that the EAC is being created through a resolution of the Board, instead of through an amendment to the Board's Bylaws, in order to active the committee more quickly. With the creation of the EAC, he did not foresee a need for the Special Issues Committee to meet.

On the motion of Mr. Barry, Seconded by Mr. Estopinal, the following resolution was offered:

**WHEREAS**, the Board wishes to establish an Engineering Advisory Committee composed of individuals having the engineering and technical expertise needed to review issues requiring such expertise; and

**WHEREAS**, the Board is composed of a number of members with professional engineering and technical expertise that could serve on the Engineering Advisory Committee and provide the expertise and experience needed in the review of issues as they arise; and

**WHEREAS**, the membership of the Engineering Advisory Committee shall consist of the following:

All members of the Board possessing professional engineering or technical expertise, however, the Chairman and the Vice Chairman of the Engineering Advisory Committee shall select no more than four members of the Board to meet on any one issue.

The staff of the SLFPA-E and levee districts at the leadership level (i.e., Regional Director, Regional Chief Engineer and Executive Directors) with professional engineering or technical expertise.

**WHEREAS**, the Chairman and the Vice Chairman of the Engineering Advisory Committee, at their discretion, may call upon individuals from other governmental or outside entities possessing the professional engineering or technical expertise needed to review certain issues to serve on the Engineering Advisory Committee on a voluntary basis.

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED,** that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East establishes the Engineering Advisory Committee with membership as stated above.

The foregoing was submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Mr. Barnes, Mr. Barry, Mr. Estopinal, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Pineda

and Mr. Wittie

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Goins and Mr. Losonsky

# RESOLUTION #08-19-10-06 – LAKESHORE LINEAR PARK EROSION PROTECTION

Fran Campbell, East Jefferson Levee District (EJLD) Executive Director, advised that the lowest bidder on the Lakeshore Linear Park Erosion Protection Project was Hill Brothers Construction Company, Inc., with a bid of \$11,322,107.50. Mr. Jackson noted that this project is for the replacement of rock along the shoreline and will provide shoreline protection. Ms. Campbell added that the rock replacement will also protect the linear path and park. Due to the category designation, the project will be funded 100 percent by FEMA. The project consultant, Burk-Kleinpeter, Inc., has been in contact with FEMA and the contract will not be signed until the EJLD is assured by FEMA that it will be fully reimbursed for the project cost. Mr. Doody pointed out that the EJLD will need to work with the contractor and FEMA on cash flow for the project. He recommended that the contract be signed by the SLFPA-E Regional Director and the EJLD Executive Director.

On the motion of Mr. Wittie,

Seconded by Mr. Estopinal, the following resolution was offered:

WHEREAS, the East Jefferson Levee District (EJLD) advertised and received bids on August 18, 2010 for the Lakeshore Linear Park Erosion Protection Project; and

**WHEREAS,** four bids were received and reviewed, and the lowest responsive and responsible bid pursuant to Louisiana law was submitted by Hill Brothers Construction Company, Inc., in the amount of \$11,322,107.50; and

**WHEREAS,** the award and execution of a contract for the construction of the Lakeshore Linear Park Erosion Protection Project is subject to the receipt of assurance from FEMA of full reimbursement of the project's cost.

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED,** that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East authorizes the award of the contract to Hill Brothers Construction Company, Inc., in the amount of \$11,322,107.50 for the Lakeshore Linear Park Erosion Protection Project, and further authorizes the SLFPA-E Regional Director and EJLD Executive Director to execute said contract.

The foregoing was submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Mr. Barnes, Mr. Barry, Mr. Estopinal, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Pineda

and Mr. Wittie

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Goins and Mr. Losonsky

Discussion of motion to authorize the amended scope design and construction administration fee increase in the amount of \$168,764.27 for the Franklin Facility Warehouse Safe House/ IT/EOC Build-out and to authorize the O.L.D. Executive Director to execute a Supplemental Agreement with Murray Architects, Inc. to accomplish the above.

Gerry Gillen, Orleans Levee District (O.L.D.) Executive Director, explained that the architect based his initial fee on the initial estimate for the safe house project of \$923,000. After a series of committee meetings and a visit to the West Jefferson Levee District safe house, a number of additional scope of work items were included in the final project design. The additional work included the re-configuration of the Emergency Operations Center and the elimination of several rooms, the addition of a full service kitchen with walk-in cooler and freezer, an exterior elevator, a platform and an additional back-up generator, additional HVAC for the first floor area including a chilled water air conditioning system to replace the non-functioning system on the first floor. Murray Architects, Inc. is requesting compensation for the additional design work and resulting construction administration. The architect's initial and revised fees are based on the State of Louisiana Facility Planning and Control formula. The resolution presented to the Board would provide for the additional design and the construction administration that has not yet been awarded. Mr. Doody commented that this matter was reviewed and recommended by the Operations Committee.

Mr. Gillen advised that the initial charge to the architect was to develop and provide recommendations on the size of a facility to house 100 people during a hurricane. The

O.L.D. did not foresee the inclusion of the additional items, such as a full service kitchen. Mr. Jackson questioned the architect's initial recommendations for a safe house facility and the request for additional compensation. He stated that the architect should have had a better understanding of the type of facility that was needed and recommended that the motion be tabled until the next meeting so that representatives from Murray Architects, Inc. could respond to questions from the Board. Mr. Turner asked that Mr. Lacour review the contractual requirements before the next meeting. Mr. Doody asked that the Board's action today not delay the project construction.

Mr. Jackson offered a motion to table the motion to authorize the amended scope design and construction administration fee increase until the next meeting, which was seconded by Mr. Estopinal and unanimously adopted by the Board.

# **RESOLUTION #08-19-10-07 - ASSIGNMENT OF ENERGYQUEST II LEASE**

On the motion of Mr. Wittie, Seconded by Mr. Barnes, the following resolution was offered:

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East authorizes the Executive Director of the Orleans Levee District to execute any and all necessary documents regarding EnergyQuest II, LLC's request for Consent to Assign that certain Lease for Oil and Gas and Other Liquids or Gaseous Minerals dated February 5, 2002, between the Board of Commissioners of the Orleans Levee District, as Lessor, and Core Energy Group, Inc, as Lessee, recorded in COB 1022, at Folio 496, Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana to Texas Petroleum Investment Company, effective July 1, 2010.

The foregoing was submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Mr. Barnes, Mr. Barry, Mr. Estopinal, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Pineda

and Mr. Wittie

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Goins and Mr. Losonsky

# RESOLUTION #08-19-10-08 - LBBLD - SELECTION OF WALDEMAR S. NELSON AND COMPANY, INC. FOR THE PREPARATION OF PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR A SYSTEM TO REMOTELY CONTROL PUMP STATIONS NOS. 2 AND 3

Stuart Williamson, Lake Borgne Basin Levee District (LBBLD) Executive Director, explained that the LBBLD has eight pump stations, many of which are manned asneeded when rainfall occurs. Pump Stations Nos. 6 and 7 are manned on a 24 hour basis and Pump Stations Nos. 2 and 3 are manned asneeded. The LBBLD would like the ability to operate Pump Stations No. 2 and 3 remotely from Pump Stations Nos. 6 and 7. The selection committee has recommended the firm of Waldemar S. Nelson and Company, Inc. to prepare plans and specifications for the remote systems. Preliminary discussions have taken place with Waldemar S. Nelson.

Mr. Turner was requested to provide the status of safe houses for LBBLD employees. He explained that a LBBLD study recommended safe houses in three locations: (1) in

the area of Pump Stations Nos. 1 and 6, (2) near pump Station No. 7 and (3) at Pump Station No. 8. The SLFPA-E has requested that the USACE look for money to fund this project.

On the motion of Mr. Barry, Seconded by Mr. Estopinal, the following resolution was offered:

**WHEREAS**, the Lake Borgne Basin Levee District (LBBLD) issued a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for engineering consulting services for the preparation of plans and specifications for a system to remotely control Pump Station No. 2 from the existing control house at Pump Station No. 6; and

**WHEREAS**, the responses to the RFQ were reviewed by a selection committee and the firm Waldemar S. Nelson and Company, Inc. is recommended to provide the aforementioned engineering consulting services; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the LBBLD's intent to also have the ability to remotely operate Pump Station No. 3 from the existing control house at Pump Station No. 7; and

**WHEREAS**, it would be more economical to provide systems for the remote operation of Pump Stations Nos. 2 and 3 at the same time.

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED,** that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East approves the selection of Waldemar S. Nelson and Company, Inc. to provide engineering consulting services to prepare plans and specifications for a system to remotely control Pump Station No. 2 and Pump Station No. 3 as stated above.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED,** that the LBBLD Executive Director is authorized to enter into a contract with Waldemar S. Nelson and Company, Inc. for consulting engineering services for the preparation of plans and specifications for a system to remotely control Pump Station No. 2 from the existing control house at Pump Station No. 6 and to remotely control Pump Station No. 3 from the existing control house at Pump Station No. 7 at a negotiated price not to exceed \$180,000.

The foregoing was submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Mr. Barnes, Mr. Barry, Mr. Estopinal, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Pineda

and Mr. Wittie

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Goins and Mr. Losonsky

# RESOLUTION #08-19-10-09 - RECOGNITION OF THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Mr. Doody commented that the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LA DOTD) has done a tremendous amount of work post-Katrina. Mr. Williamson commended the LA DOTD for their work on the pump station elevation certificates. Ms. Campbell requested that the resolution include the thanks and appreciation of the EJLD and O.L.D. for the services and assistance provided by LA DOTD to those districts.

On the motion of Mr. Barnes, Seconded by Mr. Jackson, the following resolution was offered:

**WHEREAS**, surveys and elevation certificates were required in order to obtain flood insurance coverage for the eight Lake Borgne Basin Levee District (LBBLD) pump stations; and

**WHEREAS**, the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LA DOTD) provided the aforementioned surveys and elevation certificates for these pump stations at no cost; and

**WHEREAS**, the services provided by the LADOTD were instrumental in obtaining flood insurance coverage for the pump stations at an affordable cost, benefitting the LBBLD and the citizens of St. Bernard Parish; and

**WHEREAS**, the LADOTD has consistently provided engineering services and assistance to the Lake Borgne Basin Levee District, East Jefferson Levee District and Orleans Levee District over the years.

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East, Lake Borgne Basin Levee District, East Jefferson Levee District and the Orleans Levee District express their gratitude and appreciation to the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development for its service and assistance to the levee districts and the citizens of St. Bernard, Jefferson and Orleans Parishes.

The foregoing was submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Mr. Barnes, Mr. Barry, Mr. Estopinal, Mr. Jackson, Mr. Pineda

and Mr. Wittie

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Goins and Mr. Losonsky

Mr. Doody announced that the next regular monthly Board meeting will be held on September 16, 2010 and hosted by the LBBLD,

There was no further business; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

#### SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY - EAST

#### REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S REPORT

August 19, 2010

#### 100 Year Level of Protection

#### **Inner Harbor Navigation Canal Hurricane Storm Surge Barrier:**

Construction is progressing well. Overall, the Project is approximately 74% complete. Our emphasis continues to be Operation & Maintenance considerations and the necessity to "design in" reasonable O&M features early in the process.

All of the 66" diameter concrete piles and closure piles have been driven. All of the batter piles (645) have been driven with no major difficulties. All precast caps (337) have been set and 97% of the parapet wall has been erected. (336 of 340) Cast in place "gaps" have also been completed.

All castings (26) on the north T-wall have been completed and 22 of 24 castings of the south T-wall are complete.

The Barge Gate area has been flooded and all navigation traffic is being routed through the Barge Gate Structure (as of August 16. 2010).

The Bayou Bienvenue cofferdam has been dewatered and the contractor has completed the leveling course slab. The first of the sill castings is scheduled for later this month.

All 478 piles have been driven at the sector gate location. The Contractor has begun installation of the king posts and walers required for the Sector Gate cofferdam. Sheet piles for the cofferdam should begin arriving on site this week.

The RTCV meter has been repaired and is now working.

Bayou Bienvenue will remain closed to all navigation at the Project site due to lift gate construction.

#### **East Jefferson Levee District:**

#### Reach 1:

The Work is approximately 95% complete. The Contractor is re-seeding and fertilizing areas with poor grass growth. Work on this Reach has been impacted by rain. The Project is scheduled for completion in September 2010.

#### Reach 2:

The Work is approximately 80% complete. The entire Reach is back up to elevation of 15.5'. The Contractor is seeding and fertilizing the first 4000' section. Rain has impacted Work on this Reach. The Project is scheduled for completion in November 2010.

# Reach 3:

The project is approximately 95% complete. The Contractor is working on the all weather access road. Seeding and fertilizing is nearly complete. This Reach is scheduled for completion in August 2010.

#### Reach 4:

The project is approximately 94% complete. Embankment work is complete with the exception of the flood side area near Causeway. Areas with ruts and rills need to be reworked. This Reach has been impacted by rain. The Project is scheduled to be completed in August 2010.

#### Reach 5:

The Project is approximately 92% complete. Work continues on the ramps at Ridgelake and at the Coast Guard Station. Areas with ruts and rills need to be reworked Scheduled completion is set for August, 2010. Utility relocations at the Coast Guard Station will be completed by the USACE hired labor crews by December 2010.

#### Bonnabel Breakwater Project:

Work is substantially complete.

#### **Duncan Breakwater Project:**

The Project is substantially complete and awaiting final inspection. The pre-final inspection was held on July 16, 2010. Scheduled Project completion is August 2010.

#### Williams Blvd. Floodwall and Gate:

The Project is approximately 90% complete. All major concrete work is complete. The gate has been hung. The gate's locking bar was damaged during the operational demonstration and must be repaired by the Contractor. Work continues on the ramp approach slabs. Levee tie-in embankment work will likely be completed by the Reach 2 Contractor. The work should be complete by August 2010.

#### Bonnabel Floodwall and Gate:

The Project is 75% complete. The gate has been hung and the approach ramps are nearly complete. Anticipated completion is August 2010.

#### Pump Station Fronting Protection:

The Contractor has begun dredging operations. Demolition of the Elmwood Bridge will begin this week. New HS20 bridges will be built at both the Elmwood and Suburban pump stations.

# LPV 017.2 (Causeway Crossing):

Construction Bids are in and under evaluation by the USACE. The scheduled Contract Award date is August 31, 2010.

#### West Return Levee/Floodwall - North:

The Construction Contract was awarded on July 15, 2010

#### West Return Levee/Floodwall - South:

The Construction Contract was awarded on July 29, 2010

#### Foreshore Protection:

100% P&S have been completed for Reaches 3 and 4, and Reaches 1 and 2 should be completed this month. The Corps has developed plans for all marine access for all Reaches.

#### West Return Levee (Airport Runway):

100% Plans are pending. The Corps will issue a Contract for the levee construction and the Airport will contract for relocation of the landing lights at the end of the runway. Proposals for the Project were due on August 16, 2010.

#### **Orleans Levee District:**

# LPV 101.02 (17<sup>th</sup> St. Canal to Topaz Street):

Work includes demolition of the existing floodwall and replacement with a new concrete T-Wall with a top elevation of +16.0 (NAVD88.2004.65). Construction is approximately 55% complete and the Project is scheduled for completion before June 2011. The aesthetic quality of the wall finish has been poor and we have requested the USACE to require the Contractor to make the appropriate repairs.

#### LPV 102.01, 103.01, and 104.01

Projects are 100% complete.

#### LPV 103.01 A1 (Bayou St. John):

Construction is now about 83% complete.

#### LPV 103.01 A2 (Rail Street and Lake Terrace Flood Gate):

The Construction Contract has been awarded.

#### LPV 104.01 A (Ramp Crossings – Lakeshore Dr.):

The Contractor is working all sites. Construction is approximately 50% complete.

#### LPV 104.02 (Seabrook West Side IHNC):

This project includes the construction of a new T-Wall. Construction is approximately 14% complete.

#### LPV 104.02A (Retrofit of Wall and Floodgate South of W-40):

100% Plans and Specs were due in mid June 2010. There are still some outstanding issues with the railroad.

#### LPV 105.01 (Lakefront Airport T-Wall West):

The Construction Contract was awarded on April 9, 2010. Construction is approximately 6% complete.

#### LPV 105.02 (Lakefront Airport T-Wall East):

The Construction Contract has been awarded. Construction is approximately 1% complete.

#### LPV 106 (Citrus Lakefront Levee):

The Construction Contract has been awarded and construction is approximately 5% complete.

#### LPV 107 (Lincoln Beach Floodgate):

The Construction Contract has been awarded. Construction is approximately 2% complete.

#### LPV 108 (New Orleans East Lakefront Levee):

The Project is substantially complete. This Project brings the elevation of the levee to pre-Katrina authorized elevation, which is higher than the new required 100 year elevation. Final punch list items have not yet been addressed.

#### LPV 109.02a (South Point to CSX Railroad – Levee Embankment):

Construction of the Project has been combined with LPV 109.02c (HWY 90 and HWY 11 floodgates). Construction is about 11% complete.

#### LPV 109.02a1 (South Point to CSX Railroad - Wick Drain Test Section):

Construction is 100% complete.

# LPV 109.02a2 (South Point to CSX Railroad – Drainage Blanket):

Work is 100% complete.

# LPV 109.02b (South Point to CSX Railroad - I-10 Crossing):

Construction is approximately 13% complete.

#### LPV 109.02c (South Point to CSX Railroad – Hwy 90 and Hwy 11 Floodgates):

Construction will be done under LPV 109.02a.

#### LPV 110 (CSX Railroad Crossing):

The Construction Contract has been awarded. No work has been done. A change in construction sequencing is anticipated.

#### LPV 111.01 (North Side GIWW):

The contract includes construction of levee sections using deep soil mixing, and a T-wall from the end of the earthen levee to the Inner Harbor Navigation Canal tie-in. Deep soil mixing operations are underway. Work is approximately 33% complete.

#### LPV 111.02 Pump Station 15 Fronting Wall:

Work is continuing on this project. Work on all new walls has been completed.

#### LPV 111.03 Tie-in to IHNC:

The Project consists of about 1000' of new T-Wall. Work is in progress. Modified designs are underway to make adjustments to tie into the IHNC T-Walls. The two projects produced wall sections with different geometry and base slab elevation.

#### LPV 113 (NASA):

Construction is approximately 90% complete. The Project is scheduled for completion before the end of summer 2010.

#### Seabrook Structure:

95% P&S are out for review.

#### Outfall Canal Remediation to Raise SWE to +8.0:

100% Plans are under review for portions of the London Ave and Orleans Ave Canals.

#### **Lake Borgne Basin Levee District:**

## LPV 144 (Bayou Dupre Control Structure):

This project will replace the existing Bayou Dupre Control Structure (sector gate) with a new sector gate. Overall, the Project is approximately 5% complete. Work continues on the cofferdam. Construction is about 9% behind schedule. Bayou Dupre will be closed to navigation at the existing Control Structure until April 2011.

#### LPV 145 (Bayou Bienvenue to Bayou Dupre):

The project includes approximately 6 miles of new T-Wall atop the existing earthen levee. The USACE has instructed the Contractor to use uncoated steel sheet piles and H-piles on this project in order to meet schedule demands. Construction is approximately 35% complete and production rates are good.

Proposed modifications have been submitted by the Contractor to make adjustments to tie into the IHNC T-Walls. The two projects produced wall sections with different geometry and base slab elevation.

#### LPV 146 (Bayou Dupre to Verret):

The project includes approximately 8 miles of new T-Wall atop the existing earthen levee. The Contractor is falling behind schedule due to problems with pile driving and welding operations. Additional equipment and manpower has been mobilized on site to address this issue. The USACE has instructed the Contractor to use uncoated steel sheet piles and H-piles on this project in order to meet schedule demands. The Project is approximately 20% complete.

The emergency by-pass ramp for LA HWY 46 will now be constructed under the LPV 146 Contract.

# LPV 147 (LA Hwy 46 Flood Gate):

The project includes a new set of floodgates at LA Hwy 46 and the replacement of the existing floodgate at LA Hwy 300. The Project is approximately 5% complete.

The LA Hwy 300 Flood Gate will be constructed under the LPV 148.02 Project.

#### LPV 148.02 (Verret to Caernaryon):

The Project includes approximately 8 miles of new T-Wall atop the existing earthen levee. The Contractor is driving sheet piles. The Contractor has requested a permit from LBBLD to use the bridge at Pump Station No. 8 (St. Mary Pump Station). Constructability and O&M issues at Pump Station No. 8 are being discussed with the Corps. The USACE has instructed the Contractor to use uncoated steel sheet piles and H-piles on this project in order to meet schedule demands. Construction is approximately 3% complete.

# <u>LPV 149 (Caernarvon Floodwall – Lake Borgne Basin Levee District):</u>

The project design requires a realignment of the Caernarvon levee/floodwall to a location east of the Caernarvon Canal. The new alignment necessitates the construction of a new Control Structure (sector gate) in the Caernarvon Canal.

Final plans include a sector gate at the Caernarvon Canal. The Construction Contract was awarded on June 29, 2010. The pre-construction meeting was held last week.

#### **Permanent Pump Stations and Outfall Canals:**

According to the USACE, they are authorized and funded to design/construct perimeter protection only (Option 1). They are authorized but not funded to do an engineering study, which would include modifying the outfall canals to allow for gravity flow to the new pump stations at the lake and removing the existing upstream pump stations (Option 2/2a). This study would include a risk assessment of Option 1. Funding for the study would probably have to be included in the Corps' Federal Works Appropriations Budget.

According to USACE, design and construction Option 2/2a is neither authorized nor funded. All agree, however, that Option 2/2a is technically superior to Option 1 alone. In any case, it is imperative that the new pump stations be designed and constructed with the features necessary to accommodate construction of Option 2/2a. Failure to do at least this would make conversion of the outfall canals to gravity flow low level interior drainage channels impracticable.

The Amendment to the LPV PPA for the permanent pump stations has been signed.

The "short list" of the Consultants who submitted on the Phase I RFP has been finalized.

Development of the Phase II RFP for design/build of the Permanent Pump Stations is continuing with input from stakeholders. An amendment has been issued on the Phase II Proposal Request on August 16, 2010. Phase II RFP submittals are due from proposers in mid November 2010. Award of the Design-Build Contract is scheduled for late April 2011.

All three Pump Stations will undergo Independent External Peer Review.

#### Elevation Map:

The USACE has published a map showing the 100 year level of protection elevations for the hurricane protection levee system in the metro New Orleans area. The elevations depicted are current as of June 2010. The map can be found at the following web address:

http://www.mvn.usace.army.mil/hps2/pdf/riskstatusmap.pdf

#### **Coastal Protection and Restoration**

#### Lake Borgne Basin Levee District:

The Violet Freshwater Diversion siphon is operating at full capacity.

# **Flood Fight**

The Mississippi River is below 7' at the Carrollton Gage and is predicted to continue to fall slowly.

#### **Design and Construction**

#### East Jefferson Levee District:

Work is continuing on the EJLD Safe House. The Architect has submitted a draft of the "Existing Conditions Assessment". EJLD meets with the A/E about twice a month

#### Orleans Levee District:

Construction of the OLD Safe House Project began in January 11, 2010. The Project is approximately 15% complete and the Contractor has fallen behind schedule. Progress has shown improvement during the last 30 days.

Bayou St. John Sector Gate Maintenance Cycle Contract has been completed.

ID/IQ Contract Task Order #1 with AECOM has been authorized in the amount of 39,579 for design and construction management required for the Citrus Airport Levee Sewer Line Replacement. Design is 90% complete.

The Bayou St. John Tide Gage System has been installed. The Final Capital Outlay Agreement for the Bayou St. John Water Management Study has been approved by the State of Louisiana Facility Planning and Control. This Project will be funded thru State Capital Outlay.

Dr. Lorenzo continued field tests in July and is analyzing the collected data.

#### Lake Borgne Basin Levee District:

A Contract will be awarded this week to temporarily address the seepage issue at Pump Station No. 3. Plans are to isolate two of the discharge tubes using sheet piles to address the emergency situation and allow time for preparation of plans and specifications for a permanent repair.

The Construction Contract for the Violet Canal Closure Structure Improvement Project has been awarded to Barrier Construction.

LBBLD is negotiating with Waldemar Nelson for the preparations of plans and specs for a remote control system to operate the pumps at Pump Station 2 from Pump Station 6, and Pump Station 3 from Pump Station 7. LBBLD will request Board approval to award a Contract to Nelson based on the agreed upon Scope of Work and fees.

Burk-Kleinpeter has been selected as the A/E for the Engine Replacement Project at Pump Station 1 or 4. Scope of Work and fee negotiation is underway.

#### **Internal Affairs**

The USACE has issued final "Safe Water Elevation Reports for the 17<sup>th</sup> St. Canal, Orleans Ave Canal and London Ave Canal.

The USACE intends to make modifications to the existing canal floodwalls to achieve a minimum safe water elevation of 8' in all three canals. We issued a Task Order to Halcrow (\$41,160 for Phase I only) to provide initial Technical Review of the USACE's analysis and design of the proposed wall modifications. A more comprehensive Task Order is being negotiated to complete all phases of the Technical Review.

We now have four inspectors working with us provided by OCPR. We have developed a management plan to establish procedures for interaction between the USACE, OCPR and SLFPAE during project construction. We are still awaiting USACE concurrence. We have been getting addition technical assistance from OCPR staff, LDOTD staff, and PBS&J (through an ID/IQ contract with OCPR.

#### **New Contracts:**

**LBBLD - PBS&J** (Post, Buckley, Schuh & Jernigan, Inc.) - Professional engineering and construction management services not to exceed **\$49,781** for period 7/19/10-12/31/11

**SLFPAE - Haskoning, Inc.** - Levee Information Management System Emergency Management Module - Floodgates (7/14/10) - **\$49,000** 

# **Hurricane Preparedness**

Preparation for the 2010 Hurricane Season began in earnest in April 2010. The Emergency Manuals for all Districts were updated and forwarded to all appropriate parties and the following tasks were completed:

- Inventory of emergency supplies has been completed
- Orders for required durable goods have been placed and plans have been made for the acquisition of perishables as needed
- Vendor contact information has been updated
- The annual Hurricane Preparedness Staff Meeting has been held at each District
- The Heavy Equipment Inventory has been updated and forwarded to OCPR as part of the interagency cooperative resource sharing plan

We are conducting radio checks of our emergency radio system and monitoring weather conditions in the tropics.

We are monitoring the Construction Projects throughout the LPV System and the USACE/Contractor's emergency closure plans that must be executed in case of an approaching storm.

We continue to inspect our levees and immediately correct any deficiencies.

TS Bonnie and TD #5 were used to test our emergency procedures, coordination and communications.