

**MINUTES OF THE
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY–EAST
BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2022**

The regular monthly Board Meeting of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (Authority or FPA) was held on September 15, 2022, in the Franklin Avenue Administrative Complex Meeting Room 201, 6920 Franklin Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana, after due legal notice of the meeting was sent to each Board member and the news media and posted.

Mr. Noel called the meeting to order at 11:00 a.m. and led in the pledge of allegiance. Mr. Cosse called the roll and a quorum was present:

PRESENT:

K. Randall Noel, President
Roy M. Arrigo, Vice President
Clay A. Cosse, Secretary
Richard G. Duplantier, Jr.
Thomas G. Fierke
Herbert I. Miller

ABSENT:

Jason P. Latiolais, Treasurer

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

A motion was offered by Mr. Fierke, seconded by Mr. Miller, and unanimously adopted to adopt the agenda.

RESOLUTION NO. 09-15-22-01 - APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING HELD ON AUGUST 18, 2022

On the motion of Mr. Miller,
Seconded by Mr. Arrigo, 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 August 18, 2022.

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

YEAS: Mr. Arrigo, Mr. Cosse, Mr. Duplantier, Mr. Fierke and Mr. Miller

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Latiolais

EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION AND APPRECIATION:

Kelli Chandler, Regional Director, advised that based on the Legislative Auditor's recommendations for best practices, staff is revamping the employee recognition process. Human Resources (HR) will survey various agencies regarding their employee recognition programs and information will be communicated to the employees.

SAFETY MINUTE:

Julia Lloyd provided the Safety Minute. Ms. Lloyd has served with the Purchasing Team managing the Franklin Warehouse since January 2020. She provided information on how the Purchasing Team under the Finance umbrella supports safety within the FPA by providing the following services:

- Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) – Items are provided such as boots, snake gaiters, hard hats, rain hats, sun hats, easy reach grabbers for trash pick up to protect mowers and the environment, hand sanitizers, masks, gloves, wipes, and janitorial items to keep work areas clean and safe.
- Hydration – Water and, during extreme heat conditions typically June thru September, powdered electrolyte drink mixes and pre-mixed aids are provided.
- Storm Events - The Purchasing Team provides food, drinks and snacks for employees called into action to operate the Permanent Canal Closures and Pumps, complex structures and floodgates. During storm events the Mechanics serve as chefs and the Purchasing Team as sous-chefs.
- Food Protection – Food expiration dates and recalls are monitored and items are replaced as needed. The Purchasing Team does its best to provide healthy meals and snacks, as well as a few fun items, such as M&Ms, to keep up morale. MREs are stocked in case generators fail. Purchasing Team members act as cheerleaders boosting morale by encouraging and thanking the hard working operations and maintenance personnel.
- Mechanics Support – Common repair and replacement parts (e.g., tires, batteries, string guards, filters, fire extinguishers and safety triangles) needed to keep vehicles (e.g., cars, trucks and motorcycles) and equipment (e.g., tractors and weed eaters) serviced and in top working order are stocked and supplied.
- Construction and Maintenance Crew Support – Items are provided such as HVAC filters, road signs, signposts with breakaway hardware, access covers to reduce vandalism on electric street lights, traffic cones, paint in safety colors (red and yellow), batteries to illuminate road closure barriers, flashlights and radios, as well as specialty items such as rubber mats used to repair leaks near floodwalls. Items such as shovels and garden tools are stocked for use after storm events for cleanup and restoration.
- Police Support – Police personnel are provided riot gear and target practice equipment as requested by the leadership.

- Complex Structures – Employees and inspectors are provided safety vests for use when out on boats.

Ms. Lloyd explained that most recently under the direction of Purchasing Team leader Chris Lucas a change in uniform companies was coordinated. Levee Maintenance Crews that formerly had to wear safety vests on top of their clothing during times of excessive heat and humidity are now wearing high visibility yellow shirts with reflective tape.

Ms. Lloyd advised that since March 2021 she has been given the opportunity to serve on a team training and recertifying Class 4 and 5 forklift operators in order to maintain safety while operating 5-ton vehicles in the facilities.

Ms. Lloyd concluded by saying that the Purchasing Team is a hard working support group. Team members know that by doing their jobs well all other jobs will be a little easier and a lot safer. She expressed gratitude for the privilege of working for and with such a dedicated group of people and the opportunity to keep homes and lives a little safer every day.

Mr. Noel noted that the Safety Minute has benefited the FPA by reducing injuries. He thanked Ms. Lloyd for her presentation and for her service.

OPENING COMMENTS BY PRESIDENT AND COMMISSIONERS:

Mr. Noel advised that Mr. Cosse's mother recently passed away and requested the observance of a moment of silence.

Mr. Noel noted that Wilma Heaton, Director of Governmental Affairs, was in attendance and currently walking with crutches.

Mr. Noel explained that he recently learned when speaking with Ruby Gethers, Paralegal and the FPA's Custodian of Records, about the importance of Commissioners using their FPA email accounts from the standpoint of the Louisiana's Public Information Act. He pointed out that penalties could be incurred for non-compliance with the Public Information Act. In addition, Commissioners who use their personal email accounts for FPA business are subject to their personal email accounts becoming subject to public records requests. Therefore, he requested that Commissioners use their FPA email accounts for FPA business and that Commissioners who have emails regarding FPA business in their personal accounts save those emails in a file so that they are available as public records. He also asked that Commissioners not put anything in a text or email that they would not want to read on the front page of a newspaper.

Mr. Noel advised that a productive meeting was held with Lakefront Management Authority (LMA) representatives regarding insurance issues. Both the FPA and LMA staffs are working on numbers in order to reconcile insurance payments by both

agencies. After the insurance issues have been resolved, work will begin on the Memorandum of Understanding between the FPA and LMA.

Mr. Noel explained that the Executive Session listed at the end of the Agenda involves an internet spike that is under investigation and that he wanted the Board to be aware of this issue.

Mr. Arrigo advised that he would be attending the Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association's Annual Fall Legislative Meetings (September 18-21, 2022) in Washington, DC. He stated that David Vitter with Mercury, the FPA's Federal legislative consultant, did an exemplary job setting up meetings with Congressmen Garrett Graves, Troy Carter and Steve Scalise, Senator Bill Cassidy, and a representative from the office of Mitch Landrieu, Senior Advisor and Infrastructure Coordinator. The two points to be covered in the meeting are the 200-year level of flood protection (specifically the House version of the WRDA bill) and flood protection for the New Orleans Lakefront Airport. Mr. Arrigo will provide a report on the meetings at the next Board meeting.

INTRODUCTION AND SWEARING IN OF NEW FPA POLICE SUPERINTENDENT:

Ms. Chandler introduced Thomas Harrington, the FPA's new Superintendent of Police. Superintendent Harrington received his Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice from Concordia University in Wisconsin and Master's Degree in Criminal Justice from Southern University in New Orleans. He was accepted into the PhD program in Urban Studies at the University of New Orleans where he obtained a Master's Degree in Urban Studies and PhD in 2017. He also attended the Federal Bureau of Investigation's National Academy Class of 233. Superintendent Harrington joined the New Orleans Police Department (NOPD) in 1981, serving in various units, and was the first accreditation manager to successfully navigate the NOPD to National accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies. He was promoted to Lieutenant and served as a Patrol Lieutenant. His final assignment was Assistant Commander of the NOPD Police Academy. In 2006, he was hired as the Chief of Police by the University of New Orleans and was tasked with rebuilding the Department after Hurricane Katrina. He remained with the University of New Orleans until this year when he retired and has now joined the FPA.

Mr. Noel administered the oath of office to Superintendent Harrington.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

PRESENTATIONS: None.

REPORT BY REGIONAL DIRECTOR:

Ms. Chandler provided the Regional Director's Report:

- Hurricane Season – Staff was monitoring Tropical Storm Fiona. Board members were advised that they would be informed should the tropical storm head towards New Orleans and about storm preparations.
- HR update – Currently, the following vacant FPA positions are being advertised: Laborer, Mechanical Equipment Operators 1, 2 and Light, and Mechanics. These positions are hard to fill and frequently turn over due to excessive heat and other working conditions. It is hoped that with increased inflation Civil Service will consider the requirements and importance of these positions and compensate employees accordingly. The FPA tries to use every means available under Civil Service to maximize salaries (e.g., compression pay, extra duty pay and details). Public Information Director Kimberly Curth's last day with the FPA is September 23rd. Ms. Curth is moving to a larger State agency with greater opportunity for growth. She will be sorely missed and was a great addition to the FPA team. Civil Service posted the position and Ms. Curth is reaching out to qualified colleagues in the industry. Since the FPA is in the midst of hurricane season, the position will be filled as soon as possible.

Mr. Noel requested an update on the Executive Counsel position vacancy. Mr. Duplantier reported that about 30 resumes were received and that he and Mr. Fierke, with the HR Director's assistance, reviewed the resumes and identified a number of candidates to be interviewed in the next two weeks. He hoped that one of the candidates stands out and that a recommendation can be made to the Board after the interviews are conducted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee: No meeting was held; therefore, no report.

Operations Committee: Mr. Cosse reported that the Operations Committee met prior to the Board meeting. Chris Humphreys, Director of Engineering, recommended Capital Outlay Program (COP) funding requests for the FPA and each of the levee districts. The Operations Committee recommended that the Board approve the COP funding requests as presented by Mr. Humphreys.

Coastal and Technical Committee: No meeting was held; therefore, no report.

Legal Committee: No meeting was held; therefore, no report.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION NO. 09-15-22-02 - SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST CAPITAL OUTLAY PROGRAM FUNDING REQUEST

Mr. Humphreys explained that the proposed International Center for Storm Surge Barrier Research, Public Education and Satellite Maintenance Facility, estimated at \$8,712,000, would be located on the protected side near the IHNC-Lake Borgne Surge Barrier. The 18,000 square foot complex includes facilities for tours, research, classroom education and offices, as well as storage space for items needed to maintain

the Surge Barrier. Currently, tours are conducted by FPA staff that include distinguished visitors; however, there are no visitors' facilities at the site. Ms. Chandler noted that the Netherlands has similar facilities for its surge barriers that include an educational component.

On the motion of Mr. Miller,
Seconded by Mr. Fierke the following resolution was offered:

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana Capital Outlay Program (COP) funding applications are required to be submitted by November 1, 2022, with a Resolution requesting sponsor funding; and

WHEREAS, the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (FPA) has projects that require funding from the COP in order to initiate design and/or construction phases of said projects.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the FPA by this Resolution formally requests the State of Louisiana COP to fund the following FPA project for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 in the amounts shown:

**INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR STORM SURGE BARRIER RESEARCH,
PUBLIC EDUCATION AND SATELLITE MAINTENANCE FACILITY - \$8,712,000**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the FPA does hereby certify, in accordance with the State Capital Outlay Act, the following:

1. There is no bond funding, other than State general obligation bond funding, sufficient to fund the above Capital Outlay request.
2. All local options for funding for this Capital Outlay request through taxation, special assessments, loans, bonds, or other resources have been considered and rejected as not being feasible or readily acceptable at this time.
3. There is no revenue source for these non-recurring project appropriations.
4. No surplus and/or unobligated funds are available.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the FPA is committed to providing a local project match to the extent it is economically able to for the amounts required/recommended and necessary by the State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the FPA Regional Director or Director of Engineering be authorized to sign any and all documents necessary to accomplish the above.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the FPA Regional Director or Director of Engineering is hereby authorized and designated to act on behalf of FPA in all matters pertaining to the aforementioned project for which Capital Outlay funds are being requested including requests for State disbursements.

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

YEAS: Mr. Arrigo, Mr. Cosse, Mr. Duplantier, Mr. Fierke and Mr. Miller

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Latiolais

RESOLUTION NO. 09-15-22-03 - EAST JEFFERSON LEVEE DISTRICT- CAPITAL OUTLAY PROGRAM FUNDING REQUEST

Mr. Humphreys advised that the proposed Jefferson Parish Lakefront Erosion Repairs – Reach 1 project, estimated at \$10,500,000, would take place along the foreshore of Reach 1 (West Return Wall to Duncan Canal) of the East Jefferson Lakefront Levee.

On the motion of Mr. Fierke,
Seconded by Mr. Arrigo, the following resolution was offered:

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana Capital Outlay Program (COP) funding applications are required to be submitted by November 1, 2022, with a Resolution requesting sponsor funding; and

WHEREAS, the East Jefferson Levee District (EJLD) has projects that require funding from the COP in order to initiate planning, design, land acquisition and construction phases of said projects.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (FPA) on behalf of the EJLD by this Resolution formally requests the State of Louisiana COP to fund the following EJLD project for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 in the amounts shown:

JEFFERSON PARISH LAKEFRONT EROSION REPAIRS – REACH 1 - \$10,500,000

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the EJLD does hereby certify, in accordance with the State Capital Outlay Act, the following:

1. There is no bond funding, other than State general obligation bond funding, sufficient to fund the above Capital Outlay request.
2. All local options for funding for this Capital Outlay request through taxation, special assessments, loans, bonds, or other resources have been considered and rejected as not being feasible or readily acceptable at this time.
3. There is no revenue source for these non-recurring project appropriations.
4. No surplus and/or unobligated funds are available.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the EJLD is committed to providing a local project match to the extent it is economically able for the amounts required/ recommended and necessary by the State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (FPA) Regional Director or Director of Engineering be authorized to sign any and all documents necessary to accomplish the above.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the FPA Regional Director or Director of Engineering is hereby authorized and designated to act on behalf of EJLD in all

matters pertaining to the aforementioned Project for which Capital Outlay funds are being requested including requests for State disbursements.

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

YEAS: Mr. Arrigo, Mr. Cosse, Mr. Duplantier, Mr. Fierke and Mr. Miller

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Latiolais

RESOLUTION NO. 09-15-22-04 - LAKE BORGNE BASIN LEVEE DISTRICT CAPITAL OUTLAY PROGRAM FUNDING REQUEST

Mr. Humphreys explained that the proposed Lake Borgne Basin Levee District (LBBLB) Safe House, estimated at \$4,200,000, is needed to house LBBLD employees during a storm event. The LBBLD does not currently have a hurricane rated safe house for staff during a storm event. The proposed safe house facility would be 3,000 square feet.

On the motion of Mr. Cosse,

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

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana Capital Outlay Project (COP) funding applications are required to be submitted by November 1, 2022, with a Resolution requesting sponsor funding; and

WHEREAS, the Lake Borgne Basin Levee District (LBBLD) has projects that require funding from the COP in order to initiate planning, design, land acquisition and construction phases of said projects.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East on behalf of the LBBLD by this Resolution formally requests the State of Louisiana COP to fund the following LBBLD project for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 in the amounts shown:

LAKE BORGNE BASIN LEVEE DISTRICT SAFE HOUSE - \$4,200,000

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the LBBLD does hereby certify, in accordance with the State Capital Outlay Act, the following:

1. There is no bond funding, other than State general obligation bond funding, sufficient to fund the above Capital Outlay request.
2. All local options for funding for this Capital Outlay request through taxation, special assessments, loans, bonds, or other resources have been considered and rejected as not being feasible or readily acceptable at this time.
3. There is no revenue source for these non-recurring project appropriations.
4. No surplus and/or unobligated funds are available.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the LBBLD is committed to providing a local project match to the extent it is economically able for the amounts required/ recommended and necessary by the State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (FPA) Regional Director or Director of Engineering be authorized to sign any and all documents necessary to accomplish the above.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the FPA Regional Director or Director of Engineering is hereby authorized and designated to act on behalf of LBBLD in all matters pertaining to the aforementioned Project for which Capital Outlay funds are being requested including requests for State disbursements.

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

YEAS: Mr. Arrigo, Mr. Cosse, Mr. Duplantier, Mr. Fierke and Mr. Miller

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Latiolais

RESOLUTION NO. 09-15-22-05 - ORLEANS LEVEE DISTRICT CAPITAL OUTLAY PROGRAM FUNDING REQUEST

Mr. Humphreys advised that the proposed Bayou Bienvenue Sector Gate Security and Operation Facility, estimated at \$2,750,000, is a new funding request. The facility would be located at Bayou Bienvenue at the opposite end of the Surge Barrier from the proposed research center. The facility would be used to house FPA employees who operate the sector gate during frequent high tide events and storms.

On the motion of Mr. Duplantier,
Seconded by Mr. Fierke, the following resolution was offered:

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana Capital Outlay Program (COP) funding applications are required to be submitted by November 1, 2022, with a Resolution requesting sponsor funding; and

WHEREAS, the Orleans Levee District (O.L.D.) has projects that require funding from the COP in order to initiate design and/or construction phases of said projects.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East on behalf of the O.L.D. by this Resolution formally requests the State of Louisiana COP to fund the following O.L.D. project for Fiscal Year 2023-2024 in the amounts shown:

BAYOU BIENVENUE SECTOR GATE SECURITY AND OPERATION FACILITY - \$2,750,000

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the O.L.D. does hereby certify, in accordance with the State Capital Outlay Act, the following:

1. There is no bond funding, other than State general obligation bond funding, sufficient to fund the above Capital Outlay request.
2. All local options for funding for this Capital Outlay request through taxation, special assessments, loans, bonds, or other resources have been considered and rejected as not being feasible or readily acceptable at this time.

3. There is no revenue source for these non-recurring project appropriations.
4. No surplus and/or unobligated funds are available.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the O.L.D. is committed to providing a local project match to the extent it is economically able to for the amounts required/ recommended and necessary by the State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (FPA) Regional Director or Director of Engineering be authorized to sign any and all documents necessary to accomplish the above.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the FPA Regional Director or Director of Engineering is hereby authorized and designated to act on behalf of O.L.D. in all matters pertaining to the aforementioned Project for which Capital Outlay funds are being requested including requests for State disbursements.

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

YEAS: Mr. Arrigo, Mr. Cosse, Mr. Duplantier, Mr. Fierke and Mr. Miller

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Latiolais

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

1. Report on Misconduct Investigation

A motion was offered by Mr. Duplantier, seconded by Mr. Arrigo, and unanimously adopted for the Board to convene in Executive Session regarding the item listed on the Agenda. The Board convened in Executive Session at 11: 35 a.m.

The Board reconvened in regular session at 11:45 a.m.

Ms. Chandler commended the Engineering staff for doing a fantastic job on the Board Room, Emergency Operation Center and Communications Room renovations. She advised that she would taking off time in order to assist her daughter after the birth of her second grandchild; however, she would be available through email.

The next regular monthly meeting of the Board will be held on October 20, 2022.

There was no further business; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.