

**MINUTES OF THE
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY–EAST
BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, MARCH 21, 2024**

The regular monthly Board Meeting of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (Authority or FPA) was held on March 21, 2024, 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. Arrigo called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and led the pledge of allegiance. Mr. Fierke called the roll and a quorum was present:

PRESENT:

Roy M. Arrigo, Vice President
Thomas G. Fierke, Secretary
William A. Settoon, Jr., Treasurer
Herbert I. Miller
K. Randall Noel
Derek N. Rabb

ABSENT:

Clay A. Cosse, President
Richard G. Duplantier, Jr.
Deborah M. Settoon

ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

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

RESOLUTION NO. 03-21-24-01 - APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 22, 2024

On the motion of Mr. Fierke,
Seconded by Mr. Noel, 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 February 22, 2024.

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

YEAS: Mr. Fierke, Mr. Miller, Mr. Noel, Mr. Rabb and Mr. Settoon

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Cosse, Mr. Duplantier and Ms. Settoon

SAFETY MINUTE:

Martin Eilers, Director of Risk and Project Management, updated the Board on the two vacancies in the Safety Office. Interviews were conducted to fill the positions. Employment offers were extended to two individuals and both were accepted. One individual has a background in emergency services as a firefighter and in inspections and safety protocols. The second individual, who had a position with a similar role, is transferring from another State agency. One individual will start work next week and the second will start in early April.

OPENING COMMENTS BY PRESIDENT AND COMMISSIONERS:

Mr. Arrigo advised that President Clay Cosse was unable to attend today's meeting as he was recovering from foot surgery. Mr. Arrigo commented regarding Committee meetings being held on different days. He asked that Committee Chairs coordinate meetings so that they occur on the same day or on the day of the Board meeting.

Mr. Fierke advised that he, Mr. Cosse and Mr. Rabb traveled to Washington, D.C., last week so that they, along with David Vitter and Lynell Ruckert, could meet with the Louisiana Congressional Delegation. They experienced warm welcomes, positive understanding and can do attitudes from the Delegation members. Discussions included the 200-year flood protection study and the anticipated potential increase in maintenance costs after the PCCP (Permanent Canal Closures and Pumps) pumps are repaired. At the end of each meeting, each member of the Congressional Delegation was asked his thoughts on the placement of the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) under the Department of Energy and Natural Resources (DENR). The Congressmen were very aware of the situation. Some had comments and others said that this was a State issue. Mr. Vitter's organization allowed all of the meetings to take place seamlessly and for the trip to be very productive.

Congress authorized the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to study 200-year flood protection; however, money must be earmarked by Congress to fund the study. A letter was provided to the USACE stating the FPA's intent to pay the local cost share for the study. Mr. Fierke advised that Mr. Vitter drafted a Delegation letter that was well received by all the members. Senator Kennedy will probably take the lead in getting the letter signed by all of the Louisiana Congressional Delegates. The letter will be sent to the USACE so that they can get started since there was money that can be used. Mr. Rabb added that the goal is basically to have the study placed in the USACE's work plan. Once the Delegation signs the letter and does the earmark, Mr. Vitter and his team can work towards finding the \$2 million that pushes the USACE to proactively get started. The 200-year study is anticipated to be completed in three years at a total cost of \$3 million (50 percent Federal cost and 50 percent local cost to be paid by FPA).

Mr. Miller commented that the USACE began studying both 200-year and 500-year flood protection and was stopped at some point because there was no authorization. Mr. Vitter's group was able to get Congress to pass a bill to allow the USACE to study

200-year flood protection for only the FPA-East. Mr. Arrigo advised that his interpretation from on-record discussions at CPRA meetings was that if the study is completed and the numbers are there, the USACE would automatically go forward with the design of 200-year flood protection.

Wilma Heaton, Director of Governmental Affairs, advised that President Cosse was doing great and was watching the livestream of the meeting. He asked that his comments be read into the record:

“Last Tuesday and Wednesday, Mr. Fierke, Mr. Rabb and myself met with David Vitter and Lynell Ruckert of Mercury in Washington, D.C. Over the two-day period, we held meetings with our Congressional Delegates – Congressman Steve Scalise, Senator Bill Cassidy, Congressman Garret Graves and Congressman Troy Carter, as well as Senator Kennedy’s Chief Counsel and Projects Director Herman Gesser. The main focus was a letter that was sent by Senator Kennedy to the Corps of Engineers requesting an earmark of One Million Dollars for our 200-year flood protection program. There was no response to that letter. David Vitter is formulating a second letter to be signed by the entire Delegation and all seemed to be in agreement of signing.

“The next order of business was to bring to their attention two concerns involving our pump repairs: 1) maintenance costs for a Cathodic Protection System, and 2) the coating system to be used and future maintenance costs for the system. Both concerns do not qualify as regular maintenance for the 35-year design. Which raises the question. How will these additional costs be paid for? No action was requested at this time, but will be required as things develop.

“On behalf of the Board, I’d like to thank David Vitter and Lynell Ruckert for making all that happen in such a short period of time. All the meetings were very productive. Having Commissioners Fierke and Rabb at the table with their engineering expertise and professionalism was a huge benefit. My assurances to the entire Board that we were well prepared and represented.”

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Raleigh Bourg, representing the Roadway Owners Association, explained that he appeared before the Board several months ago and commented about boathouse lease renewal issues. The lessees own the boathouse improvements located along South Roadway and Breakwater Drive. He was contacted after the meeting by Wilma Heaton. Ms. Heaton helped the tenants work through the issues and obtain 30-year lease renewals. He thanked Ms. Heaton for her efforts and hoped that there would be more proactive interaction between the Lakefront Management Authority and its customers.

Ms. Heaton thanked Mr. Bourg for his leadership. She explained that Mr. Bourg was very frustrated, but was relentless and represented the tenants well. She added that

powerful things can happen when citizens communicate with the Board. Mr. Arrigo added that the Board does listen to citizens' concerns.

PRESENTATIONS: None

REPORT BY REGIONAL DIRECTOR:

Kelli Chandler, Regional Director, provided the following report:

- **Storm Season Preparation:**

All floodgates and valves are being exercised.

The Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) is being reviewed and updated by staff. The CEMP will be presented to the Board for approval in about sixty days.

Staff is participating in exercises with all stakeholders, including an April 17th statewide exercise through the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP).

- **IHNC Surge Barrier Barge Gate Challenge:**

The current issue with the IHNC Surge Barrier Barge Gate, which is located adjacent to the Sector Gate, was discussed. The Barge Gate is on a pendulum. In order to close the gate, the barge must be floated, swung into place and sunk. A windlass system, consisting of two windlasses and a chain, is used to open and close the gate. Recently, while the Barge Gate was being exercised, the chain locked and the gate was stuck at about the 80 percent open position. If the gate cannot be operated to the full open or closed position, USACE guidelines allow a tug boat to be used to complete the procedure. Emergency contracts are in place to provide assistance in this type of event. Boh Bros. Construction was called in, divers cut the chain, and the gate was pushed by a tug boat to the open position. An investigation of the root cause of the lockup, which partly involved the braking mechanism, is taking place. The windlasses were removed and worked on in the past. Debris was not involved in this situation. If repairs cannot be completed within two weeks, USACE guidelines allow a tug boat to be used to push the gate to the closed position. It would then remain closed for the storm season. Ms. Chandler advised that the emergency provisions worked flawlessly.

Due to the length of time it takes to close the Barge Gate and the specific conditions that must be present, the Barge Gate normally remains closed during storm season. Divers ensure that no debris is located on the receiving gate sill. Favorable tides must be present for the barge to be swung into place and sunk. The adjacent Sector Gate is normally used by maritime traffic. It was thought that the current through the Sector Gate would increase when the Barge Gate is closed. However, the FPA did not know of any issues with vessels going through the Sector Gate when the Barge Gate was closed.

Darren Austin, Director of Operations, provided additional information. The USACE issued a specific Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Manual for the Barge Gate. The windlass system is an anchor deploying system modified by the USACE to operate the Barge Gate. The chain is inspected and replaced as required. The hinge allows the gate to both pivot and float. Closing, ballasting and sinking the barge takes about a day.

The first item in the FPA's system closure plan is the Barge Gate. The gate was being exercised prior to the USACE's annual inspection when the incident occurred. Maintenance was recently done on the gate's hydraulic units. The hoses, which are susceptible to UV rays, are periodically changed. The USACE was contacted regarding chain jams that occurred in the past, and permission was received for some alterations to be made to resolve this issue. There are no issues with the pumping system inside the barge. Therefore, the gate can be pushed into place by a tug boat and the barge can be sunk in place. The gate must physically hook to the wall in the closed position. A tide of plus 1 foot or better is critical for the barge to be over the hooks and lock into place. The Barge Gate has mooring bits to facilitate movement by a tug boat. Divers and a tug boat can be provided under the emergency contracts in place. The FPA is seeking to purchase an underwater sonar scanner for viewing gate sills and various parts of the gate. Any storm threat that enters the Gulf triggers closure of the Barge Gate. Once closed it is not normally reopened until after storm season. The timing of the Barge Gate's closure is sufficient to allow utilization of an emergency contract, if necessary.

- **PCCP Update:**

Coating was completed this week at the 17th Street PCCP and will begin next week at the London Avenue PCCP. Form Suction Intake (FSI) Adapters were done on most the pumps that were dewatered. Next week inspectors will begin looking at the FSIs (the location where water goes into the pump).

The Cathodic Protection (CP) System is in the preliminary stage. Some of the studs have been installed. However, discussions are taking place about placement of the studs, anodes and receptacles. The FPA is concerned about the level of O&M that will be required for the CP System. The CP System was not an original part of the design and is being retrofitted. The FPA advised through the CPRA that it wants the USACE and Joint Venture (JV) to continue to be involved in monitoring and adjusting the CP System.

Mr. Fierke commented that a CP System was included in the original design or earlier. He asked the reason it was deleted. Ms. Chandler replied that the initial system was limited to a very small portion of the pump. The proposed system is different and will go into other parts of the pump. Discussions are taking place to determine how the CP System, coatings and parts of the pump that are not visible can be monitored. This could be a substantial O&M cost.

Discharge coatings will begin next week.

The stainless steel parts ordered from Patterson Pump Company should begin arriving at the end of March. After the coatings are completed and the stainless steel parts arrive, the pumps will be reassembled (first or second week in April).

Basement crack repairs are almost complete.

Ongoing discussions are taking place regarding the climber screens.

Mr. Settoon asked how long did it take to dismantle a pump. Ms. Chandler replied that the time varies and can depend on which stoplogs are used. Dewatering takes three to four days; therefore, dismantling a pump can take several weeks. The average time to dismantle, repair and reassemble a pump is about seven weeks. Part of this equation includes the learning experience; therefore, this time can be improved subject to the type of repairs that are needed. The creation of a digital twin for the PCCP can decrease this time because it would allow staff to determine the most efficient way to dismantle a pump.

- **Buildout of Office Space in the Franklin Warehouse:**

An open house for the new buildout will be held on April 4th in conjunction with the FPA's Spring Safety Meeting. Ms. Chandler thanked the in-house tradespeople who through their efforts saved the FPA approximately \$150,000 on the project. FPA staff ran AV lines and conduit, hung TVs and monitors, and performed other services.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

FINANCE COMMITTEE: Mr. Settoon advised that the Finance Committee met prior to the Board meeting. The Committee recommended that the Board approve the proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Budgets for the FPA, East Jefferson Levee District (EJLD), Orleans Levee District (O.L.D.) and Lake Borgne Basin Levee District (LBBLD).

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE: Mr. Fierke advised that the Operations Committee met on March 20th. The Committee recommended that the Board approve the proposed sale of the former EJLD Administrative Building and the advertisement of Requests for Qualifications for Debris Management and Disposal Services and for Debris Disposal Monitoring Services. The Committee discussed the proposed Lakeshore Drive Reconfiguration Project, but did not recommend approval of the project. The Committee suggested that the FPA contact the Lakefront Management Authority and that a public meeting be held for all stakeholders, including the four lakefront subdivisions and bicyclist groups. After the public meeting is held, the item will be brought back to the Operations Committee. The Committee also received a presentation on the proposed IHNC Surge Barrier Multi Use Complex.

LEGAL COMMITTEE: Mr. Rabb advised that the Legal Committee met on March 19th. Executive Counsel provided an update to the Committee on all open litigation cases. The Committee met in Executive Session to discuss three cases: Robert vs. State of Louisiana, et al, Jevin Williams vs. Daniel Biggs, and Deanna Thomas vs. Officer

Robert Tewis. The Committee discussed strategy and options. Mr. Fierke noted that the Committee suggested that staff revise and update the FPA’s settlement procedures. The Committee can then see the internal process and approval levels for settlements.

COASTAL AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE: The Coastal and Technical Committee did not meet during the month of March; therefore, there was no report.

NEW BUSINESS:

RESOLUTION NO. 03-21-24-02 - APPROVAL OF FY 2025 BUDGET FOR THE SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY – EAST

Mr. Settoon advised that the Finance Committee recommended that the Board approve the FY 2025 Budgets.

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

WHEREAS, the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East has reviewed financial projections for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025, including estimated operating revenues and expenditures; and

WHEREAS, funding in the following amounts is required as detailed by the line item budget for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025:

TWELVE MONTHS ENDING JUNE 30, 2025 BUDGETS

	GENERAL FUND	CAPITAL PROJECTS	TOTAL
REVENUES			
Intergovernmental	-	-	-
Rev From EJ	4,008,200	-	4,008,200
Rev from LBBLD	1,003,700	-	1,003,700
Rev from OLD	9,728,200	-	9,728,200
Interest Income	37,400	-	37,400
Misc Revenue	268,800	-	268,800
Total Revenues	15,046,300	-	15,046,300
EXPENSES			
Personnel Services	8,197,200	-	8,197,200
Training	218,300	-	218,300
Professional Services	150,000	-	150,000
Contractuals	3,769,300	-	3,769,300
Materials	328,500	-	328,500

Equipment	385,000	-	385,000
Other Charges	7,800	-	7,800
MMCI	-	1,685,000	1,685,000
Cost Sharing	-	-	-
Total Expenses	13,056,100	1,685,000	14,741,100
Net Changes in Fund Balance	1,990,200	(1,685,000)	305,200
Fund Balance, Beginning	3,957,961	-	3,957,961
Unassigned Fund Balance, Ending	5,948,161	(1,685,000)	4,263,161

WHEREAS, the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority - East is mandated to submit an approved budget by April 1, 2024, to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget and other various oversight authorities; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee at its meeting held on March 21, 2024, reviewed the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority East General Fund Budget for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East approves the General Fund Budget for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025.

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

YEAS: Mr. Fierke, Mr. Miller, Mr. Noel, Mr. Rabb and Mr. Settoon

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Cosse, Mr. Duplantier and Ms. Settoon

RESOLUTION NO. 03-21-24-03 - APPROVAL OF FY 2025 BUDGET FOR THE SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY – EAST ON BEHALF OF THE EAST JEFFERSON LEVEE DISTRICT

On the motion of Mr. Miller,

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

WHEREAS, the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East on behalf of the East Jefferson Levee District (EJLD) has reviewed financial projections for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025, including estimated operating revenues and expenditures; and

WHEREAS, funding in the following amounts is required as detailed by the line item budget for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025:

TWELVE MONTHS ENDING JUNE 30, 2025 BUDGETS

	GENERAL FUND	CAPITAL PROJECTS	TOTAL
REVENUES			
Tax Revenue	12,036,500	-	12,036,500
Intergovernmental	390,100	-	390,100
Rev from LBBLD	-		-
Interest Income	789,800	-	789,800
Misc Revenue	87,200	1,140,000	1,227,200
Total Revenues	13,303,600	1,140,000	14,443,600
EXPENSES			
Personnel Services	3,952,700	-	3,952,700
Training	19,500	-	19,500
Professional Services	125,000	-	125,000
Contractuals	1,194,700	-	1,194,700
Materials	712,700	-	712,700
Equipment	655,000	-	655,000
Other Charges	489,600	-	489,600
MMCI	-	8,647,000	8,647,000
Cost Sharing	4,008,200	-	4,008,200
Total Expenses	11,157,400	8,647,000	19,804,400
Net Changes in Fund Balance	2,146,200	(7,507,000)	(5,360,800)
Fund Balance, Beginning	37,639,690	-	37,639,690
Unassigned Fund Balance, Ending	39,785,890	(7,507,000)	32,278,890

WHEREAS, the East Jefferson Levee District is mandated to submit an approved budget by April 1, 2024, to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget and other various oversight authorities; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee at its meeting held on March 21, 2024, reviewed the East Jefferson Levee District General Fund Budget for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority - East approves the General Fund Budget of the East Jefferson Levee District for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025.

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

YEAS: Mr. Fierke, Mr. Miller, Mr. Noel, Mr. Rabb and Mr. Settoon

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Cosse, Mr. Duplantier and Ms. Settoon

RESOLUTION NO. 03-21-24-04 - APPROVAL OF FY 2025 BUDGET FOR THE SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY – EAST ON BEHALF OF THE ORLEANS LEVEE DISTRICT

Mr. Noel pointed out that the O.L.D. cost share for the pre-Katrina Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity Hurricane Protection Project was significantly reduced. Mr. Settoon explained that the reduction was due to the application of work in-kind credits. The initial estimated cost share of \$27 million was reduced to approximately \$9 million.

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

WHEREAS, the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East on behalf of the Orleans Levee District (OLD) has reviewed financial projections for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025, including estimated operating revenues and expenditures; and

WHEREAS, funding in the following amounts is required as detailed by the line item budget for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025:

TWELVE MONTHS ENDING JUNE 30, 2025 BUDGETS

	GENERAL FUND	SLIP FUND	TOTAL
REVENUES			
Tax Revenue	27,402,300	24,120,900	51,523,200
Grant Revenue	-	277,800	277,800
Intergovernmental	1,057,000	-	1,057,000
Rev from LBBLD	638,800	-	638,800
Rev from Nonflood	-	-	-
Mineral Revenue	-	-	-
Interest Income	964,300	2,132,100	3,096,400
Misc Revenue	4,455,100	-	4,455,100
Total Revenues	34,517,500	26,530,800	61,048,300
EXPENSES			
Personnel Services	13,906,300	-	13,906,300
Training	78,000	-	78,000
Professional Services	165,600	-	165,600
Contractuals	5,995,300	-	5,995,300
Materials	2,444,500	-	2,444,500
Equipment	2,722,000	-	2,722,000
Other Charges	1,103,700	969,100	2,072,800

MMCI	-	42,837,980	42,837,980
Cost Sharing	9,729,200	-	9,729,200
Total Expenses	36,144,600	43,807,080	79,951,680
Net Changes in Fund Balance	(1,627,100)	(17,276,280)	(18,903,380)
Fund Balance, Beginning	29,210,872	54,410,409	83,621,281
Unassigned Fund Balance, Ending	27,583,772	37,134,129	64,717,901

WHEREAS, the O.L.D. is mandated to submit an approved budget by April 1, 2024, to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget and other various oversight authorities; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee at its meeting held on March 21, 2024, reviewed the O.L.D. General Fund and SLIP Fund Budget for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East approves the General Fund and SLIP Fund Budget of the Orleans Levee District for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025.

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

YEAS: Mr. Fierke, Mr. Miller, Mr. Noel, Mr. Rabb and Mr. Settoon

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Cosse, Mr. Duplantier and Ms. Settoon

RESOLUTION NO. 03-21-24-05 - APPROVAL OF FY 2025 BUDGET FOR THE SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY – EAST ON BEHALF OF THE LAKE BORGNE BASIN LEVEE DISTRICT

Mr. Miller inquired about the LBBLD’s negative fund balance. Ms. Chandler explained that the fund balance does not necessarily equate to cash. The LBBLD budget is very closely monitored. The status (over or under budget) can depend on timing (e.g., receipt of equipment). As the year progresses, the Board will be kept updated on both the LBBLD’s cash situation and concerning the large project budgeted for the LBBLD. The timing of cash flows will be monitored and adjustments will be made accordingly.

Ms. Chandler advised that she attended a preliminary meeting with Wilma Heaton, Director of Governmental affairs, Kirk Ordoyne, Executive Counsel, and Denise Williams, Regional Finance Director, to discuss operating the regional system financially.

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

WHEREAS, the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East on behalf of the Lake Borgne Basin Levee District (LBBLD) has reviewed financial projections for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025, including estimated operating revenues and expenditures; and

WHEREAS, funding in the following amounts is required as detailed by the line item budget for Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025:

TWELVE MONTHS ENDING JUNE 30, 2025 BUDGETS

	GENERAL FUND	CAPITAL PROJECTS	TOTAL
REVENUES			
Tax Revenue	3,250,400	-	3,250,400
Intergovernmental	163,000	-	163,000
Interest Income	36,000	-	36,000
Misc Revenue	5,500	-	5,500
Total Revenues	3,454,900	-	3,454,900
EXPENSES			
Personnel Services	1,104,800	-	1,104,800
Training	-	-	-
Professional Services	30,000	-	30,000
Contractuals	204,700	-	204,700
Materials	126,900	-	126,900
Equipment	478,000	-	478,000
Other Charges	101,800	-	101,800
MMCI	-	8,043,700	8,043,700
Cost Sharing	1,642,500	-	1,642,500
Total Expenses	3,688,700	8,043,700	11,732,400
Net Changes in Fund Balance	(233,800)	(8,043,700)	(8,277,500)
Fund Balance, Beginning	225,661	-	225,661
Unassigned Fund Balance, Ending	(8,139)	(8,043,700)	(8,051,839)

WHEREAS, the LBBLD is mandated to submit an approved budget by April 1, 2024, to the Joint Legislative Committee on the Budget and other various oversight authorities; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee at its meeting held on March 21, 2024, reviewed the LBBLD General Fund Budget for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority - East approves the General Fund Budget of the Lake Borgne Basin Levee District for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2025.

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

YEAS: Mr. Fierke, Mr. Miller, Mr. Noel, Mr. Rabb and Mr. Settoon

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Cosse, Mr. Duplantier and Ms. Settoon

MOTION TO APPROVE THE PUBLIC SALE OF THE FORMER EJLD ADMINISTRATION BUILDING AND LAND BEARING MUNICIPAL ADDRESS 203 PLAUCHE COURT, JEFFERSON, LA, BY THE SHERIFF FOR JEFFERSON PARISH IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE APPROPRIATE STATUTES.

A motion was offered by Mr. Miller and seconded by Mr. Fierke to approve the public sale of the former EJLD Administration Building and land bearing municipal address 203 Plauche Court, Jefferson, LA, by the Sheriff for Jefferson Parish in accordance with the appropriate statutes.

Mr. Settoon advised that he received a text from Commissioner Deborah Settoon asking that the motion to sell the former EJLD Administration Building be deferred for one month. Ms. Settoon had explained that she was not anticipating any problem, but was trying to receive feedback on the proposed sale from Jefferson Parish President Cynthia Lee Sheng.

Mr. Miller offered a motion to defer the sale of the former EJLD Administration Building until the next Board meeting. The motion to defer was seconded by Mr. Settoon.

Mr. Noel asked was the Senate Finance Committee contacted regarding the sale of the property. Ms. Chandler responded that she discussed this issue with Ms. Heaton. Ms. Heaton will reach out to several people in the Louisiana State Senate to discuss Senate Resolution (SR) 172 of 2021. SR 172 states that any sale of movable or immovable property by the FPA would require approval by the Senate Finance Committee. The resolution, which is not legally binding, also states that the proceeds of a sale would go to the Division of Administration. The FPA will reach out to ensure there are no legal issues with the sale. Ms. Heaton explained that SR 172 was passed three years ago as the will of the Senate. Therefore, a meeting is needed so that the issues can be cleared up to the Senate's satisfaction. Mr. Ordoyne will work with the legal challenges (e.g., proceeds from the sale of property purchased with dedicated taxpayer money going to another agency).

Mr. Settoon asked, in light of the restrictions imposed by SR 172, could the property be leased. Mr. Fierke commented that the building could not be leased because of its condition. Ms. Chandler and Mr. Eilers clarified the condition of the building. The former EJLD Administration facility is an older building with issues due to age. Roof leaks were repaired in 2019. Maintenance personnel check the building at least twice a

month. After EJLD staff relocated to the new Safehouse and Consolidated Facility, the building at 203 Plauche Court was no longer occupied and minor issues occurred that led to some damage. The cost of major repairs to bring the building to where it needs to be, as well as allocating resources to maintain it, would exceed the return on investment.

Mr. Rabb asked the date of the appraisal. Mr. Eilers replied that the appraisal was done in August, 2023. The sale should take place within 12 months of the appraisal.

The Board voted unanimously to defer the motion to sell the former EJLD Administration Building to the next Board meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. 03-21-24-06 - PAYMENT OF LOCAL COST SHARE OF \$9,008,630.45 BY THE ORLEANS LEVEE DISTRICT TO THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF THE ORIGINAL LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN AND VICINITY, LOUISIANA PROJECT PRIOR TO HURRICANE KATRINA ON AUGUST 23, 2005

Mr. Noel commented that \$12 million was budgeted for this cost; therefore, there will be a credit of about \$3 million.

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

WHEREAS, the agreement under which the Original Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity, Louisiana Project (Original Project) was implemented under Section 204 of the Flood Control Act of 1965, Public Law 89-298, as amended, provided that the Orleans Levee District be the local sponsor responsible for payment of the 30 percent local cost share for the portion of the project implemented and constructed within said Levee District; and

WHEREAS, subsequent to Hurricane Katrina which struck New Orleans on August 23, 2005, additional agreements were entered into between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority on behalf of the State of Louisiana and Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East on behalf of the levee districts within its jurisdiction, for the repair of the Original Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity, Louisiana Project and construction of the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System; however, a final determination of the local cost share for the Original Project constructed prior to Hurricane Katrina remained pending; and

WHEREAS, after submittal and consideration of credits for Work-In-Kind and LERRDs (Lands, Easements, Rights-of-Way, Relocations and Disposal), and review and negotiation of said costs and credits, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (FPA) agreed that the total cost share for the Original Project constructed within the Orleans Levee District prior to Hurricane Katrina is \$9,008,630.45.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East approves and authorizes the payment by the Orleans Levee District to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers of \$9,008,630.45 for the local cost share for the Original Lake Pontchartrain and Vicinity, Louisiana Project constructed prior to Hurricane Katrina on August 23, 2005.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the FPA Regional Director, or in his/her absence the Director of Engineering, is hereby authorized to execute and any and all documents necessary to accomplish the above.

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

YEAS: Mr. Fierke, Mr. Miller, Mr. Noel, Mr. Rabb and Mr. Settoon

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Cosse, Mr. Duplantier and Ms. Settoon

RESOLUTION NO. 03-21-24-07 - AUTHORIZE ADVERTISEMENT AND ISSUANCE OF REQUESTS FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR DISASTER DEBRIS MANAGEMENT AND DISPOSAL SERVICES AND MONITORING OF DISASTER DEBRIS DISPOSAL SERVICES IN ACCORDANCE WITH FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (“FEMA”) GUIDELINES

Mr. Fierke advised that the Operations Committee recommended that the Board approve the advertisement and issuance of the Requests for Qualifications for Debris Management and Disposal Services and for Debris Disposal Monitoring Services.

On the motion of Mr. Miller,

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

WHEREAS, the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority–East (FPA) wishes to pre-qualify contractors for future competitive bidding after a storm or other qualifying event that requires subsequent debris management and disposal services, and subsequent monitoring of debris management and disposal services.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority–East authorizes the advertisement and issuance of a Request for Qualifications for Debris Management and Disposal Services, and a Request for Qualifications for the Monitoring of Debris Management and Disposal Services, in order to pre-qualify contractors for future competitive bidding to provide said services after a storm or other qualifying event in accordance with FEMA Guidelines.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the FPA Regional Director, or in his/her absence the Director of Engineering, is hereby authorized to execute any and all documents necessary to carry out the above.

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

YEAS: Mr. Fierke, Mr. Miller, Mr. Noel, Mr. Rabb and Mr. Settoon

NAYS: None

ABSENT: Mr. Cosse, Mr. Duplantier and Ms. Settoon

DISCUSSION OF PROPOSED INSTALLATION OF 24-INCH FORCED MAIN SEWERAGE LINE TO CONNECT WITH CENTRALIZED MUNSTER SEWER TREATMENT PLANT UNDER THE VIOLET CANAL AND ADJACENT LEVEE.

Chris Humphreys, Director of Engineering, advised that the proposed project would effect at-least a third of the residents of St. Bernard Parish. President Cosse had been receiving calls due to the importance of the project. Mr. Humphreys explained that FPA engineering staff initially had concerns about the project. A meeting took place that included representatives of St. Bernard Parish Government (SBPG), USACE, CPRA, and SBPG's consultant for the project. The 24-inch forced main sewerage line will cross under the Violet Canal. The Violet Canal is a USACE regulated channel; therefore, certain engineering protocols must be met. The protocols were brought to the attention of the SBPG representatives and the consultant for the project. The consultant seemed confident that the protocols can be met and that they can alleviate the FPA's concerns. Therefore, the project is moving forward. St. Bernard Parish President Louis Pomes participated in the recent telephone call that was arranged by FPA staff for the various parties.

Mr. Humphreys further explained that the USACE requires a minimum depth for the pipeline installation under the channel. The pipeline will be installed utilizing the jack and bore method deep under the canal.

Mr. Miller noted that the item was on the Board's agenda for discussion only and that the USACE and FPA Engineering staff will be responsible for final approval of the project. Ms. Heaton advised that President Cosse asked that the item be placed on the agenda in order to keep the Board apprised of the progress of the project.

Mr. Fierke asked was a trade study done to take the pipeline over the levee. Mr. Humphreys explained that SBPG had always planned for the pipeline to be installed under the levee. FPA staff was concerned about a forced main line being installed under the levee. However, due to the mandated depth and other requirements, going over the levee would not be possible geometrically.

MOTION TO ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE AND APPROVE THE PROJECT SCOPE FOR THE PROPOSED IHNC SURGE BARRIER MULTI USE COMPLEX (INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR STORM SURGE BARRIER RESEARCH, PUBLIC EDUCATION AND SATELLITE MAINTENANCE FACILITY).

Mr. Miller advised that the project scope for the proposed IHNC Surge Barrier Multi Use Complex was not approved by the Operations Committee. The Committee deferred the item in order to obtain additional information (i.e., a better breakdown of costs and project staging). Mr. Fierke pointed out that the requested matrix with potential grants to fund the project was not received by the Operations Committee. Mr. Humphreys

recommended that the Board defer the agenda item so that additional information can be provided to the Operations Committee. He noted that staff received good feedback from Operations Committee members at the March 20th meeting.

Mr. Fierke offered a motion to defer the approval of the project scope for the proposed IHNC Surge Barrier Multi Use Complex. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rabb and unanimously adopted.

Mr. Settoon pointed out that the observation deck, which would facilitate educational outreach, is a key ingredient.

Mr. Fierke distributed a chart that included the square footage for each potential facility component in the event Commissioners wished to provide input for next month's meeting. The chart indicated an estimated construction cost of \$625 per square foot for some aspects of the project (\$300 per square foot for equipment and parts storage areas). He pointed out that the matrix on grants will be very helpful.

The next regular monthly meeting of the Board will be held on Thursday, April 18, 2024.

There was no further business; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m.