

**MINUTES OF
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST
OPERATIONS INFORMATIONAL MEETING
HELD ON AUGUST 8, 2024**

PRESENT: Thomas G. Fierke, Chair

ABSENT: Richard G. Duplantier, Committee Member
Derek N. Rabb, Committee Member

The Operations Committee of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (Authority or FPA) was scheduled to meet on August 8, 2024, in the Franklin Avenue Administrative Complex, Meeting Room 201, 6920 Franklin Avenue, New Orleans, La. At 10:03 a.m., Mr. Fierke announced that the Operations Committee did not have a quorum; therefore, an informational meeting would be held. No actions were taken at the informational meeting. Mr. Fierke noted that Commissioners Roy Arrigo and Bill Settoon were in attendance. He led in the pledge of allegiance.

Opening Comments: Mr. Fierke explained that he recently spent two weeks in Alaska and traveled to Point Barrow, which is the northernmost point of North America. The levees in Point Barrow are about 10 to 12 feet high and composed of peat gravel. The levees are highly permeable and wash out during every major Artic Ocean storm. There is no grass, sod or trees because the location is north of the timberline. Draglines are used to drag the peat gravel back out of the ocean and re-pile it. Concrete is not readily available because it must be flown in. Most houses are raised about four feet. Several years ago, large bags of different types had been filled with peat gravel in an attempt to contain the material; however, the bags ruptured. Pictures of the levees were shown.

Adoption of Agenda: Mr. Fierke advised that Agenda Items D and E would be tabled.

Approval of Minutes: The Minutes of the May 14, 2024, meeting were deferred.

Public Comments: None

Report of Director of Engineering:

Chris Humphreys, Director of Engineering, provided his report:

- Engineering staff continues monitoring the tropics.
- 17th Street Canal Erosion Mitigation Project – East Bank from Veterans to Old Hammond Highway – This project is the last phase of the 17th Street Canal Erosion Mitigation work. The project is going well and the contractor is ahead of schedule on the project. All sheet piles have been installed. Blue Iron (the subcontractor driving the sheet pile) has demobilized. Blue Iron had used a

barge-mounted excavator with a vibratory hammer for the work. In the event of an approaching hurricane, Blue Iron's demobilization cuts the time it would take to demobilize from the canal from about 26 hours to 16 hours. The contractor is anticipated to complete the project ahead of schedule. Mr. Humphreys recommended that the FPA property being used by the contractor for staging be retained for canal/floodwall maintenance. The crane located on the landside of the floodwall was approved by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The crane was used to lift sheet pile safely over the levee/floodwall.

- Lake Borgne Sheet Piling Rehabilitation – The project includes sandblasting and repainting the sheet pile. The contractor is excavating three feet below the top of the levee in order to paint more than just the exposed portion of the sheet pile. The project is going well.
- London Avenue Canal North-West Erosion Mitigation Project – The rock armoring project to mitigate erosion and rebuild the canal bank is in progress.
- West Return Wall Riprap Lift (in planning) – The proposed project is located at the St. Charles/Jefferson Parish line from the lakefront to the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport. The riprap on the flood side of the wall has settled about two feet. The trigger for rebuilding the riprap is 2.5 feet. The project is estimated to cost \$2.1 million and will be included in the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget.
- LPV 111 Levee Slide (2024) – The FPA is monitoring the surficial levee slide. At this time the slide is not a threat to the stability of the levee; however, it should be repaired. The FPA is in communications with the USACE regarding this issue. The plasticity (change in volume with moisture content variations) of the levee material is the reason for the slide. The material shrinks and cracks when it dries out. Last year after the long drought, the material shrunk and cracked to a great depth. When the rains came, the extra hydrostatic pressure and softening of the soils caused the failure. The levee had been raised in accordance with the USACE's specifications. However, it was the opinion of FPA staff that the material should not have been used on a levee as steep as LPV 111.
- Levee Slope Paving Project – The project includes nine sites along the outfall canals. It was completed in July 2024 (on time and on budget).
- Orleans Marina Parking Lot – The Notice to Proceed for the project will be issued to the contractor on August 26, 2024
- 2nd Quarter Inspections – The inspections have been completed and submitted to the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA).
- Non Federal Levee Inspection – The USACE scheduled the inspection of the Maxent and Forty Arpent Canal Levees on August 12 – 13, 2024. The USACE inspects the non-federal levees when funding is available.

- Facility Assessment/Drone Image Inspections – The GIS Department is using drones to assess the condition of FPA buildings, especially roofs.

A. Discussion of selection of architectural firm for the proposed International Center for Storm Surge Barrier Research, Public Education and Satellite Maintenance Facility and recommendation to the Board.

Mr. Humphreys advised that the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for the proposed International Center for Storm Surge Barrier Research, Public Education and Satellite Maintenance Facility was advertised and issued. Six submittals were received. The selection team is in the process of reviewing the submittals. Mr. Fierke asked was the Board provided a copy of the RFQ. Mr. Humphreys responded that the RFQ had been placed on the FPA website. He offered to provide a copy of the RFQ to the Board members. Wilma Heaton, Director of Governmental Affairs, advised that Commissioner Deborah Settoon was currently out of town and had asked to be present for the discussion of this item. Mr. Fierke also asked that Mr. Humphreys contact Ms. Settoon regarding her questions.

Mr. Settoon explained that the Congressional Delegation's staff recently toured the FPA facilities, including the Surge Barrier. He stressed the need for a visitor's center.

B. Discussion of the advertisement of Requests for Qualifications (RFQs) for professional Construction Materials Testing and Inspection Services for the purpose of entering into Indefinite Delivery-Indefinite Quantity (ID-IQ) contracts for services on an as needed basis and recommendation to the Board.

Mr. Humphreys explained that the current Indefinite Delivery-Indefinite Quantity (ID-IQ) Contracts for Construction Materials Testing and Inspection Services will expire in January 2025. Board approval is being requested at this time to advertise the RFQs in order to allow time for advertisement, review of submittals, and award and execution of new contracts. Mr. Fierke asked how many firms would be selected. Mr. Humphreys responded, probably two. Currently, there are three contracts, but based on expenditures, three may not have been needed.

C. Discussion of advertisement of RFQs for professional Support Services (Architectural / Mechanical / Electrical / and Other Facility Services) for the purpose of entering into ID-IQ contracts for services on an as needed basis.

Mr. Humphreys explained that the ID-IQ contracts for Support Services (Architectural / Mechanical / Electrical / and Other Facility Services) will also expire in January 2025. The current contracts are for a term of three years. Board approval will be requested to advertise the RFQ.

D. Discussion of proposed FPA Fleet Motor Vehicle Use Policy.

Mr. Fierke advised that Commissioner Derek Rabb, who was not able to attend the meeting, wanted to be a part of the discussion of the proposed Fleet Motor Vehicle Use Policy. He was unsure whether the item would be placed on the Operations or Legal Committee Agenda in September. The item was tabled.

E. Discussion of geographic area(s) of responsibility.

Mr. Fierke tabled Item E.

There were no further discussions; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.