

**MINUTES OF THE  
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY–EAST  
BOARD MEETING  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2024**

The regular monthly Board Meeting of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (Authority or FPA) was held on December 12, 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. Carubba called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. and led the pledge of allegiance. Ms. Settoon called the roll and a quorum was present:

**PRESENT:**

Roy M. Carubba, P.E., President  
Thomas G. Fierke, Vice President  
Deborah M. Settoon, P.E., Secretary  
William A. Settoon, Jr., Treasurer  
Roy M. Arrigo  
Clay A. Cosse  
Richard G. Duplantier, Jr.  
K. Randall Noel  
Derek N. Rabb

**ABSENT:** None

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA:**

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

**RESOLUTION NO. 12-12-24-01 - APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING HELD ON NOVEMBER 21, 2024**

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On the motion of Mr. Fierke,  
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 November 21, 2024.

The foregoing was submitted to a vote; the vote thereon was as follows:  
YEAS: Mr. Arrigo, Mr. Carubba, Mr. Cosse, Mr. Duplantier, Mr. Fierke, Mr. Noel,  
Mr. Rabb, Ms. Settoon and Mr. Settoon  
NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None

## **OPENING COMMENTS BY PRESIDENT AND COMMISSIONERS:**

Ms. Settoon stated that she attended the Mississippi Valley Flood Control Association (MVFCA) Annual Meeting. At the MVFCA meeting she was advised by Colonel Cullen Jones that the East Jefferson Lakefront Levee Foreshore Protection Project is being worked. Colonel Jones further advised that he would have someone expedite the schedule for the project as soon as possible.

Mr. Carubba advised that Kelli Chandler, Regional Director, submitted her resignation. An individual within the organization with senior/chief engineer qualifications will be sought to act as Interim Regional Director while the Board embarks on a national search for a permanent Regional Director.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None

## **PRESENTATIONS:**

None

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Finance Committee:** Mr. Settoon advised that the Finance Committee did not meet in the month of December; however, the Regional Director of Finance assured him that the Authority's finances were in order.

**Operations Committee:** The Operations Committee did not meet in the month of December; therefore, no report.

**Legal Committee:** The Legal Committee did not meet in the month of December; therefore, no report.

**Special Issues Committee:** Ms. Settoon reported that the Special Issues Committee did not meet in the month of December. She explained that she planned to meet with Finance staff on January 9. The next Special Issues Committee meeting will be held either before or after the January 16 Board meeting.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

### **RESOLUTION NO. 12-12-24-02 - AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS**

A motion was offered by Mr. Fierke and seconded by Mr. Noel to table the motion to amend the Bylaws. A roll call vote was conducted with Mr. Arrigo, Mr. Fierke, Mr. Noel and Mr. Settoon voting yea and Mr. Carubba, Mr. Cosse, Mr. Duplantier, Mr. Rabb and Ms. Settoon voting nay. Therefore, the motion to table failed.

Mr. Fierke stated that the Board needed to comprehensively address all appointing authority issues. It also needs to do some benchmarking against other agencies that are considered outstanding (e.g., Audubon Zoo and City Park) on how they treat this issue. The Board should at least benchmark against FPA-West rather than change the Bylaws, which were just changed a couple of months ago.

Ms. Settoon stated that the FPA has had a lot of problems in the past with not following the Bylaws. Going forward the Board will be following the Bylaws. The FPA-West is not as extensive an organization as the FPA-East. The FPA-East is in a unique position; however, the Board can look at some things and better refine them in the future.

Mr. Fierke stated that the Board previously asked for a list of all unclassified employees. The Board also discussed the fact that the FPA has three different organization charts (one on the FPA website, one in the employee handbook and one on the State website). This is one of the comprehensive appointing authority issues.

Mr. Carubba advised that he would be happy to make Mr. Fierke's requests a priority; however, he was also happy to continue with the vote on the amendment.

Superintendent of Police Joshua Rondeno stated that the list of 14 unclassified employees would be given to Commissioners before the end of the meeting. He explained that the accurate organization chart is in the Human Resources (HR) Department and that it is directly associated with hiring employees. The organization chart must be properly translated through the IT Department so that it is in an accurate, readable format.

On the motion of Mr. Rabb,

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

**WHEREAS**, at the Regular Board Meeting held on December 17, 2009, the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East adopted revised Bylaws; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the intent of the Board to amend the Bylaws as follows:

**Article VI – EMPLOYEES**

**§5. APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE STAFF**

Delete first paragraph – “The hiring, termination or change in compensation of any unclassified employee shall require the approval of a majority of the Board.”

Substitute the following paragraph:

“The President shall retain the authority to hire all unclassified employees without approval of the Board except for the Administrative Assistant, Executive Counsel, Director of Engineering and Regional Director. The Administrative Assistant, Executive Counsel, Director of Engineering and/or Regional Director can only be terminated with a majority vote of the Board. Salary adjustments for Executive

Counsel, Director of Engineering and/or Regional Director shall require Board approval.”

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East approves the aforementioned amendments to the Bylaws.

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

YEAS: Mr. Arrigo, Mr. Carubba, Mr. Cosse, Mr. Duplantier, Mr. Fierke, Mr. Noel, Mr. Rabb and Ms. Settoon

NAYS: None

ABSTAINED: Mr. Settoon

ABSENT: None

**RESOLUTION NO. 12-12-24-03 - APPROVAL OF ADVERTISEMENT OF REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS FOR LEGAL SERVICES**

Mr. Fierke asked the purpose for advertising a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for legal services. Mr. Rabb explained that the FPA had not issued an RFQ for legal services for some time. The RFQ would allow a new look at various law firms and a comparison with some of the firms currently retained. Mr. Fierke asked whether the FPA had the inclination to change counsel in the middle of the stream. Mr. Rabb responded, no. Mr. Carubba explained that the FPA would keep the continuity of counsel. The FPA had not advertised an RFQ for legal services in the past 15 years. He noted that it is good practice to issue an RFQ for legal services on a regular basis as is done with other consultants and vendors. All legal service contracts are subject to Attorney General (AG) approval. The AG will only approve contracts for a one-year period.

On the motion of Mr. Rabb,

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

**WHEREAS**, the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (FPA) is the governing authority over the East Jefferson Levee District (EJLD), Lake Borgne Basin Levee District (LBBLD) and Orleans Levee District (O.L.D.); and

**WHEREAS**, there is a need for qualified, professional legal services on an as-needed basis to supplement and support the Legal Department by handling legal issues or matters on behalf of the FPA, EJLD, LBBLD and O.L.D.; and

**WHEREAS**, contracts for legal services must comply with the Attorney General’s Hourly Fee Schedule.

**BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED**, that the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East approves the advertisement and issuance of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for professional legal services.

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

YEAS: Mr. Arrigo, Mr. Carubba, Mr. Cosse, Mr. Duplantier, Mr. Fierke, Mr. Noel, Mr. Rabb, Ms. Settoon and Mr. Settoon

NAYS: None  
ABSENT: None

Ms. Settoon distributed an “action item” list. The list tracks requests made by Commissioners in Board or Committee meetings. The list will be distributed about two weeks prior to regular monthly Board meetings and will be included as an item on future Board agendas.

Mr. Carubba requested that the Board take a five-minute recess. There was no objection.

The Board reconvened in regular session after the recess.

A motion was offered by Ms. Settoon, seconded by Mr. Rabb and unanimously adopted for the Board to convene in Executive Session to discuss a police matter in anticipation of litigation. The Board convened in Executive Session.

A motion was made by Ms. Settoon, seconded by Mr. Fierke and unanimously adopted to reconvene in regular session. Mr. Carubba advised that no action was taken in Executive Session.

The next regular monthly Board meeting will be held on Thursday, January 16, 2025.

There was no further business; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 10:40 a.m.