

**MINUTES OF THE SLFPA-EAST FINANCE COMMITTEE
MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 27, 2007
at East Jefferson Levee District
203 Plauche Court, Harahan, LA**

PRESENT: George Losonsky, Chairman
Timothy Doody, Committee Member

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order and a quorum was present.

Opening Comments: None.

Adoption of the Agenda

A. Discussion of ad valorem tax collection. (O.L.D.)

The Committee discussed the timing of receipt of the numbers required for the roll back/roll forward of ad valorem tax millage rates, which are not anticipated until possibly the day of the scheduled Public Hearing/Board Meeting (October 18th). It was pointed out that the O.L.D. should determine for that meeting the revenues required based on experience. Three resolutions are required for Board approval: (1) rolling back millage rates to yield the previous year's ad valorem tax revenues; (2) rolling forward millage rates as determined by the Board; and (3) certifying the millage rates levied to the City of New Orleans. Information that will be needed for discussion by the Board include operating expenses, the amounts of the normally scheduled debt retirement payments and assumptions for payments of judgments. The Assistant Attorney General will obtain information relative to a time extension for adoption of the resolutions should the required numbers not be received on October 18th.

B. Discussion of Third Party Administrator for General Liability Issues.

Clint Romig of Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services explained that the current General Liability Insurance Coverage provides that each levee district is responsible for the first \$25,000 of a claim and that a claims administrator will be needed. F.A. Richard & Associates was recommended by the insurance carrier (Ace) to handle third party administration. The cost of this service, which includes monitoring and preparing loss runs, is \$3,500 per year, with additional claims fees should any claims be filed.

The Committee recommended that this matter be submitted to the Board for approval.

C. Discussion of FY 2008-2009 Louisiana Capital Outlay Program funding requests.

Stevan Spencer, O.L.D. Executive Director, presented the Orleans Levee District (O.L.D.) projects for Capital Outlay funding requests:

- 1) Construction of a promenade behind the Lakefront seawall. This promenade would be similar to the one constructed by the Mardi Gras Fountain. The length

of Phase I is 2,340 feet and consists of reinforced concrete slab constructed on top of timber piles with vinyl sheet piling driven behind the seawall to prevent further erosion at an approximate cost of \$3.7 million. A design package had been prepared for Phase I with bids to have been received within a week of Hurricane Katrina; however, this did not take place. The total estimated cost of building Phase I is \$5 million. The design for Phase II is 90 percent complete and funding could be applied for next year.

- 2) Construction of a safe house/E.O.C./I.T. facility within the Franklin Warehouse at an approximate cost of \$2 million. The slab upon which the safe house would be constructed is at elevation 17-ft.

Robert Turner, LBBLD Executive Director, advised that the local legislators help to prioritize the Lake Borgne Levee District's (LBBLD) Capital Outlay requests. The LBBLD projects are:

- 1) Flooding and Drainage Improvements, Planning and Construction.
- 2) Drainage Improvements to (Complement) LA 46 Roadway and Drainage Improvement Project Between Paris Road and Webster Road, Planning and Construction. The Highway Department has done a portion of the work and LBBLD has requested funding for the past two years to improve the drainage to accommodate this work. This item must be LBBLD's priority one project since a line of credit was requested and approved last year for Priority 2 and Priority 5 monies, which can be followed up this year.
- 3) Bulkheading of Canals, Planning and Construction Phase I.
- 4) Drainage Pump Station and Channel Improvements. The Corps of Engineers has completed a reconnaissance study and a feasibility study is underway. After completion of the feasibility study, the project will move to the planning and specifications phase and then the construction phase, which will require a 30 to 35% local match. The Capital Outlay request is for the local match so that Federal monies can be accessed. The total estimated project cost is \$35 million.
- 5) Repair/Renovation of Taintor Gate Systems at Drainage Pump Stations Nos. 1 and 4, Planning and Construction. The preliminary estimate for is repair is \$2.3 million.

Fran Campbell, EJLD Executive Director, advised that the East Jefferson Levee District's (EJLD) Capital Outlay request is for the Lake Pontchartrain Foreshore Protection Bulkhead, which will be prioritized by reach.

The Capital Outlay process was discussed. A response is being awaited from the Division of Administration concerning whether the levee districts would file individual or a consolidation of their Capital Outlay Requests. At this time a Board resolution (one if the levee districts' requests are consolidated and three if the levee districts requests are not consolidate) naming projects in priority order would be required.

D. LBBLD Debris Pickup.

Robert Turner, LBBLD Executive Director, explained that the LBBLD has been experiencing difficulties concerning the pick up of debris. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) handled debris removal in most parishes. The St. Bernard Parish government elected to handle debris removal for St. Bernard Parish. Mr. Turner

advised he had been attempting for the past two years to have FEMA task the USACE with debris pick up for the LBBLD, however, it has refused so do so. The USACE's debris mission ends on September 30th. FEMA has agreed to write a project worksheet and allow the LBBLD to bid the work. The process for reimbursement will require that specifications be prepared for review by FEMA, the specifications advertised, a contract awarded to the low bidder and monitoring of the contract. He asked that proposals be requested from consultants to prepare the bid specifications for the debris removal.

Mr. Losonsky advised that President Doody and Interim Director Fran Campbell will initiate dialog with the proper FEMA and/or USACE officials regarding this matter. A resolution will be prepared for Board approval authorizing a request for proposals from consultants to prepare the documents necessary to obtain bids for the debris removal.

Public Comments: None

There was no further business, therefore, the meeting was adjourned.