

**MINUTES OF  
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST  
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON FEBRUARY 12, 2009**

PRESENT: Louis Wittie, Chair  
Timothy Doody, Committee Member  
Stephen Estopinal, Committee Member  
Stevan Spencer, Orleans Levee District  
Fran Campbell, East Jefferson Levee District  
Jerry Colletti, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

ABSENT: David Barnes, Committee Member

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The Operations Committee met on February 12, 2009 in the Second Floor Hall of the Lake Vista Community Center, 6500 Spanish Fort Blvd., New Orleans, LA. Chairman Wittie called the meeting to order at 1:28 p.m.

**Opening Comments:** None.

**Adoption of Agenda:** The agenda was adopted.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the January 7, 2009 Operations Committee meeting were approved.

**Public Comments:** None.

**New Business:**

**A. Discussion of results of Request for Qualifications for design of Lake Borgne Basin Levee District safe house.**

Robert Turner, SLFPA-E Regional Director, reported that 10 responses were received. Mr. Turner and Gerry Gillen, O.L.D. Chief Engineer, reviewed and graded the 10 responses and determined that three warranted further investigation. He suggested that a panel be established to interview the three finalists and recommend a selection.

Mr. Doody requested that Mr. Wittie and Mr. Jackson participate on the panel. The panel will do the interviews and try to present a recommendation at the next Board meeting.

**B. Discussion of procedure for purchase of approved budgeted equipment and vehicles from Louisiana State Contract.**

Mr. Turner advised that this is an effort to establish a procedure for the purchase of budgeted items from State contract. Mr. Doody requested that a full detailed report be provided on items that the levee districts plan to purchase at future budget meetings.

A draft resolution detailing the criteria under which purchases can be made without further Board action was presented for discussion. Committee members concurred that a condition for purchases would be the approval by the Regional Director, in addition to the following restrictions:

- Item must be listed in the approved Fiscal Year or amended Fiscal Year Budget.
- No substitutions of vehicles or equipment will be made without Board action.
- All equipment and vehicle purchases will be included in the Executive Directors' monthly status report to the Operations Committee.
- Capital purchases for the Authority shall be approved by the Board.

### **C Discussion of Orleans Levee District 2009 Budgeted Equipment Purchases.**

A memorandum was distributed listing the budgeted equipment for which the Orleans Levee District (O.L.D.) is requesting approval for purchase through State contract. The Committee reviewed the list.

### **D. Discussion of purchase of vehicles by the Lake Borgne Basin Levee District (reimbursable by FEMA).**

Mr. Turner advised that FEMA would reimburse the Lake Borgne Basin Levee District (LBBLD) for several trucks lost during Hurricane Katrina. Stevan Spencer, O.L.D. Executive Director, commented that the O.L.D. has also received reimbursement from FEMA for the replacement of several damaged vehicles.

### **E. Establishing procedure for initiating task orders for ID-IQ (Indefinite Delivery-Indefinite Quantity) contracts.**

Fran Campbell, East Jefferson Levee District (EJLD) Executive Director, stated that she needed to use the ID-IQ contract with GCR, but did not know the procedure.

Mr. Turner advised that a standard form would be needed. The O.L.D. currently has some forms which can be adapted for use. He explained the following items would be required: 1) a written scope, 2) a not to exceed cost, and 3) an estimate of man hours required. He explained that the tracking of task orders would need to be done at a centralized location; i.e., the SLFPAE office. In addition, this information would need to be submitted to the proper entities for credit. He stressed that it is imperative that reports be received from the consultants that will fulfill the requirements for obtaining credit for some of the work for the State.

The Committee discussed granting the Regional Director the authority to approve task orders. Mr. Doody suggested a not to exceed amount of \$50,000 for approval by the Regional Director.

## **Levee District Reports:**

### **East Jefferson Levee District:**

Fran Campbell reviewed the highlights of the EJLD Status Report. Mr. Wittie suggested use of Bahia grass to aid with levee stability . The difficulty of maintaining Bahia grass vs. its stabilizing quality was discussed.

Potential ideas for a EJLD safe house were discussed. Ms. Campbell advised that the Jefferson Parish office building in which the EJLD anticipated locating its safe housing would not be constructed in the next year or two. Therefore, the EJLD will proceed with advertising a Request for Qualifications as authorized under the resolution adopted by the Board in October, 2008.

### **Orleans Levee District:**

Stevan Spencer reviewed the O.L.D. Monthly Status of Activities and Status Report.

Mr. Spencer advised that the Seabrook Closure Structure will need to be monitored and operated frequently in order to control lake water from winter storms that enter the IHNC and exit the GIWW. This will be necessary to control and keep flow velocities at the GIWW sector and barge gate within acceptable ranges for navigational purposes.

Mr. Turner pointed out that the only reason that the structure will have to be opened and closed much more frequently than a normal control structure is to reduce velocities and control the flows at the GIWW gates in order to make navigation safe.

Mr. Doody commented that the Authority's position is that the Seabrook Closure Structure is a navigational structure and requested that a resolution be placed on the Board's agenda concerning its operation and maintenance.

The need for TRIC (Transportation Worker Identification Credential) ID cards for levee district personnel to access flood protection rights-of-ways in restricted locations was discussed. Jerry Colletti commented that from a levee district standpoint access along the levee system right-of-way should be open 24 hours/7 days per week without delay, particularly during flood fight scenarios. He suggested that the fencing crossing the levee may be looked upon as an encroachment and that perhaps it should be replaced with parallel fencing in order for the levee districts to gain unhindered access to flood protection. He recommended that this issue be addressed by the Louisiana Association of Levee Boards on the behalf of all of the levee districts. Mr. Doody asked that Mr. Turner submit this issue to the Association of Levee Boards for placement on its agenda.

Mr. Spencer reported that on the recently advertised Request for Qualifications for ID-IQ contracts, responses were received as follows:

- 14 submittals for Coastal Engineering Services
- 10 submittals for Geotechnical Engineering Services
- 13 submittals for Hydraulic Engineering Services

Mr. Spencer advised that the USACE has completed the survey of the levee toe plus 6-ft. along France Road. Thirty-eight properties with fences and trees will be impacted. The USACE will request right-of-entry to perform the relocations in March.

### **Lake Borgne Basin Levee District**

Mr. Turner reviewed the LBBLD Monthly Status Report. He advised that it appears the selected alternative for LPV 149 (Caernarvon Floodwall) will be a realignment requiring the levee alignment to cross the Caernarvon Canal and the construction of a sector gate structure. Although the levee section is in Plaquemines Parish, the levee ownership, operation and maintenance will remain with the LBBLD since it is a Lake Pontchartrain & Vicinity project and a part of the LBBLD levee system.

Relative to land issues Mr. Turner advised that he reviewed Board resolutions adopted in the 1960's and 1970's which appropriated properties for the construction of levees. The recordation of these resolutions and maps are being researched in the Conveyance Office.

Discussions will take place between the O.L.D. and LBBLD relative to which side the controls will be located for the new Bayou Bienvenue Structure.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.