

**MINUTES OF  
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST  
LEGAL COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON AUGUST 6, 2009**

PRESENT: Stradford Goins, Chairman  
George Losonsky, Committee Member  
Thomas Jackson, Committee Member

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The Legal Committee met on August 6, 2009, in the in the Second Floor Hall, Lake Vista Community Center, 6500 Spanish Fort Boulevard, New Orleans, Louisiana. Chairman Stradford Goins called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

**Opening Comments:** None.

**Adoption of Agenda:** The agenda was amended to include the discussion of the attempt by a property owner to disrupt grass maintenance on the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Canal levee, the need for additional counsel for the Authority, and the amendment of the Board's Bylaws relative to the transition between Board member appointments. The amended agenda was approved.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the July 9, 2009 meeting were approved.

**Public Comments:** None.

**New Business:**

**A. Approval of Legal Invoices (SLFPA-E, OLD, EJLD and LBBLD).**

Mr. Goins noted that some of the legal invoices were still not being submitted timely. He pointed out that the invoices submitted by one firm dated back several months.

Mr. Jackson commented on the lack of information provided to the Committee members on the status of litigation.

Mr. Goins pointed out that one of the invoices for the Godfrey Firm contained charges billed at the rate of \$500 per hour relative to bond calculations. He stated that an explanation should be requested from Mr. Godfrey concerning these charges.

The Committee discussed the importance of receiving a summary of each legal case. Mr. Goins suggested that the total expenditures for each case be provided with an estimate for settlement of the case. Recommendations should be provided as to whether cases should be continued or settled. This information would need to be reviewed in executive session.

The Committee approved all legal invoices listed on the spreadsheet dated August 6, 2009, with the exception of the Godfrey Firm Invoice No. 1757. The Committee approved the payment of the Godfrey Firm Invoice No. 1757 minus the charges billed at a rate of \$500 per hour. The Committee also approved the payment of the legal invoices for July, 2009, submitted by T. Robert Lacour.

**B. Discussion of need for additional counsel for the Authority.**

The Committee discussed the legal work load for the Authority and levee districts, which includes legal work and the management of litigation. The Committee also discussed whether the work load should be split due to the size of the current General Counsel's staff. Mr. Goins recommended that the Committee discuss the duties and responsibilities, which would include litigation management and reports to the Committee on a monthly basis, and the potential of retaining an additional firm to assist with these duties in Executive Session at the next meeting.

**C. Disruption of grass maintenance on 17<sup>th</sup> Street Canal levee.**

Gerry Gillen, Orleans Levee District (O.L.D.) Executive Director, explained that the owner of a home adjacent to the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Canal levee had placed a significant number of signs and had personally attempted to prevent the O.L.D.'s grass maintenance crew from cutting the grass in an area that he perceived to be his original property boundaries.

Mr. Gillen was directed to obtain legal advice from Thomas Anzelmo, O.L.D. legal counsel.

**D. Discussion of amendment of the Board's Bylaws.**

The Committee discussed the need for guidance relative to the transition between Board appointments and the period of limbo that sometimes takes place between appointments. Mr. Goins recommended that Board members declare their intent as to whether or not they wish to be reappointed before the end of his/her term in sufficient time for the nominating committee to make a timely selection and appointment. The Committee discussed the fact that the end of the Commissioners' terms coincide with the election of officers and during the hurricane season.

The Committee concurred that a resolution would be presented to the Board to provide that existing Board members provide a declaration of her/her intent to apply for an additional term two months prior to the expiration of his/her term.

There was no further business; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 11:17 a.m.