

**MINUTES OF
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON AUGUST 2, 2012**

PRESENT: Louis Wittie, Chair
Dave Barnes, Committee Member
Timothy P. Doody, Committee Member
Stephen Estopinal, Committee Member

The Operations Committee of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (SLFPA-E or Authority) met on August 2, 2012, in Meeting Room 221, Orleans Levee District Franklin Administrative Complex, 6920 Franklin Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana. Mr. Wittie called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

Opening Comments: Mr. Barnes provided an update on Tropical Storm (TS) Ernesto currently located in the Caribbean. He commented that any development of TS Ernesto would be very slow.

Adoption of Agenda: The agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the June 7, 2012 Operations Committee meeting were approved.

Public Comments:

Craig Berthold commented that the Tensas Levee Board voiced objection to the levee toe plus 15-ft. zone requirement. He requested that an open discussion of this subject take place at the next Board meeting. Mr. Doody explained that an open discussion would not further inform the issue. The SLFPA-E has asked the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for an exemption along the three outfall canals.

New Business:

A. Presentation on LIMS Strategic Implementation Plan – Atkins.

Roger Colwell, SLFPA-E Information Technology Geographic Project Supervisor, provided introductory comments for the Levee Information Management System (LIMS) Strategic Implementation Plan presentation. He commented on the efforts of the SLFPA-E Regional Director to initiate the development of the tools needed to assist the wide variety of management decisions and the gathering of information in a single location. A solicitation and review of qualifications lead to the selection of Atkins North America, Inc. (Atkins) for the development of the LIMS Strategic Implementation Plan (Plan). Atkins was asked to interview SLFPA-E and levee district staff, analyze capabilities and possibilities, develop a plan, and provide recommendations. The input and update of information in the various LIMS modules will be a continuous process. A recent addition to the proposed Map Viewer is the National Flood Insurance (NFIP)

layers. He noted that the SLFPA-E is currently working with the New Orleans Tax Assessor to develop a method to share information and identify levee district owned properties, rights-of-ways and easements.

Tim Ledet, Atkins Project Manager, proceeded with the presentation. An overview of the draft Plan was provided to the Operations Committee at its April 5th meeting. The final Plan was completed and delivered on May 15th. Recommendations were broken into two categories — what to do now and what to wait on.

Mr. Ledet reviewed the recommendations for what should be done now and discussed the various options and approaches:

- SLFPA-E implement the LIMS -- A system should be put in place to allow individuals to access, process and produce reports on the information and data available at the Authority and levee district levels.
- Implement the LIMS within the Authority's purview, but within the Orleans Levee District's (O.L.D.) IT infrastructure. Several options were considered for hosting the system (SLFPA-E purchase of equipment, request the State to host the system and use of a private host company for the short term). The O.L.D. has a robust infrastructure system that can support additional equipment and has some licensed software that could be used by the LIMS. Additional purchases of equipment and software licenses will be required.
- Begin building a GIS (Geographic Information System) using the National Levee Database schema.
- Begin building a GIS Web Viewer.
- Begin building a Document Management Module and cataloging documents in a digital library.

Mr. Ledet pointed out that recommendations were provided in the report on the prioritization of the modules; however, Atkins did not delve into the prioritization of the layers of the GIS. He explained that much of the data exists and that it is a matter of bringing the data into one format at one particular location.

Mr. Ledet discussed three particular modules that should wait because of on-going activities at the State and Federal levels and/or the need for further definition as to what should be included in the modules:

- Permits Module – The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) is sponsoring the SONRISE environment and actively building a permit application tracking module. The SLFPA-E should determine whether the State's system can be utilized to import, enhance and analyze data.
- Inspections Module – The capture and reporting of information by each levee district is slightly different. Uniformity is needed before a system can be designed. In addition, the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) built a very good inspection application that touches on asset management of levees and is completely hosted within the State's system. The intended audience for the

application is the levee districts and the SLFPA-E could become a client. The levee districts would need to purchase GPS units for inspections. Atkins recommended that the SLFPA-E look closely at the DOTD application and determine whether the DOTD system fits its needs and permissions can be obtained to extract data.

- Operations and Maintenance (O&M) Module – The SLFPA-E must consider the complexity of the new infrastructure and other O&M needs and determine the scope for a module. Consistency and commonality is needed among the levee districts prior to defining a business process and building an Authority-wide O&M application.

Mr. Ledet discussed funding opportunities. Existing and future grant opportunities were reviewed. Additional research would be needed to determine whether Hazard Mitigation and Buffer Zone Protection Program Grant funding is still available seven years after Hurricane Katrina. The National Preparedness and National Levee Safety Grant Programs are wrapped around homeland security and the focus has been on critical infrastructure.

Robert Turner, SLFPA-E Regional Director, discussed the task order issued to GCR & Associates for documenting known rights-of-ways. GCR's work is currently being hosted on its server.

Mr. Turner advised that stakeholder meetings were conducted at the beginning of the LIMS process that included CPRA, DODT, USACE and other levee districts in order to provide information to those entities and receive input and guidance. Mr. Doody pointed out the importance of using industry standard software. Mr. Turner explained that the SLFPA-E currently has a GIS license for a single computer, which has all of the information produced by the Dutch for the SLFPA-E. The digital information (O&M manuals, plans and specifications, etc.) being submitted by the USACE is currently being stored at the individual levee districts. The SLFPA-E recently purchased additional IT infrastructure to expand storage capabilities and anticipates building a file hierarchy to file this information at the Authority-level. He discussed the use of Share Point in this process. Mr. Turner further explained that the USACE has all of this information digitally stored behind a firewall that does not allow SLFPA-E access. The SLFPA-E has been working with the USACE to try to determine a way to allow SLFPA-E access to their document management system. If access is not possible, the USACE has been requested to allow the SLFPA-E to copy their work in order to create a system for the Authority.

B. Presentation on Study to determine future Operations and Maintenance Costs for the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System - AECOM.

Jerry Preau with AECOM explained that his firm was tasked by the SLFPA-E to perform a study and provide an estimate of the increased O&M costs resulting from the improvements constructed by the USACE. The study used Pre and Post Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) costs:

- Pre-HSDRRS costs are what the levee districts would pay in 2011 dollars to maintain the levee system that existed before the HSDRRS projects began.

Essentially, the pre-HSDRRS costs are equal to the Pre-Katrina O&M Costs expressed in 2011 Dollars. AECOM evaluated five years of Pre-Katrina O&M financial reports (2001 thru 2005) from Legislative Auditor's Reports. Future Worth Calculations were used to adjust 2001 – 2005 budgets to 2011 dollars.

- Post-HSDRRS Costs are what the levee districts will pay in 2011 dollars to maintain the levee system once all HSDRRS projects are completed and turned over to local levee districts for operation and maintenance.

Mr. Preau discussed the approach used in the study:

- Develop a list of O&M activities required of each levee district.
- Develop unit cost of activity.
- Use those unit costs to extrapolate O&M budgets required to operate and maintain Post-HSDRRS structures.
- Verify O&M unit costs by comparing to Pre-HSDRRS O&M budgets expressed in 2011 Dollars.
- Inventory Existing Facilities through review of drawings, site visits and staff interviews.
- Condition Survey of existing facilities through site visits and staff interviews.
- Develop Maintenance Cost Budgets.
- Review new facilities and O&M requirements for improvements designed by the USACE.
- Report findings.

Mr. Preau noted the difficulty in extrapolating the flood protection O&M costs from the non-flood protection O&M costs prior to Hurricane Katrina. He explained that the extrapolated O&M costs for the levee districts were plotted using a trend line on a graph. In addition, a Future Value Calculation was used to determine 2011 dollar values for the O&M expenditures for each year from 2001 through 2005. He pointed out that each of the levee districts is different and have different maintenance requirements.

Mr. Preau discussed the additional HSDRRS O&M requirements and reviewed the results of the study for each levee district:

EAST JEFFERSON LEVEE DISTRICT (EJLD) RESULTS

TOTAL Pre-HSDRRS O&M Costs	= \$6,826,892
TOTAL Post-HSDRRS O&M Cost	= <u>\$7,654,017</u>
Additional Cost	= \$ 827,125

East Jefferson Levee District Cost Increase

	Pre-HSDRRS	Post-HSDRRS	Additional Cost
Mowing	\$946,196	\$1,014,315	\$68,119
Trash Collection	\$564,406	\$602,584	\$38,178
Foreshore Protection	\$524,992	\$629,507	\$104,515
All Weather Access Road	\$167,778.	\$186,913	\$19,134
Floodwalls	\$11,419	\$14,128	\$2,708
Slope Paving (Lake Only)	\$0	\$10,833	\$10,833
Clean/Seal Slope Paving Jts.	\$0	\$1,275	\$1,275
Floodgate Maintenance	\$70,924	\$128,202	\$57,278
Contingency (5% Pre, 10% Post)	\$325,090	\$680,384	\$370,729
Total	\$6,826,892	\$7,654,017	\$827,125

Major EJLD HSDRRS projects include a reconstructed West Return Wall, lakefront levee raisings, the replacement of several gates and foreshore protection.

LAKE BORGNE BASIN LEVEE DISTRICT (LBBLD) RESULTS:

TOTAL Pre-HSDRRS O&M Costs = \$4,371,090
TOTAL Post-HSDRRS O&M Cost = \$5,556,133
Additional Cost = \$1,185,043

Lake Borgne Basin Levee District Cost Increase

	Pre-HSDRRS	Post-HSDRRS	Additional Cost
Mowing	\$371,941	\$351,486	-\$20,455
Total All Weather Access	\$21,548	\$78,989	\$57,441
Total Floodwall	\$660	\$39,786	\$39,126
Floodgate Maintenance	\$63,731	\$424,511	\$360,780
Administration	\$1,005,500	\$1,175,000	\$169,500
Contingency (10% Pre, 20% Post)	\$397,372	\$926,022	\$528,650
Total	\$4,371,090	\$5,556,133	\$1,185,043

Major LBBLD HSDRRS projects include a section (approximately one-third) of the IHNC Surge Barrier, a T-wall constructed atop the existing hurricane protection levee, additional floodgates, replacement of the Bayou Dupre Control Structure with a new larger structure and the Caernarvon Floodgate. Mowing equipment was barged to maintain the levee between Bayou Bienvenue and Bayou Dupre prior to Hurricane Katrina. Mowing costs will be reduced with the construction of a swing gate at Bayou Bienvenue for access to this area. A higher contingency cost was used for the LBBLD due to the uncertainty of O&M costs for the new and larger gates.

Mr. Turner noted that the boundary line between Orleans and St. Bernard Parishes is the southern bank of Bayou Bienvenue. The O&M of flood protection structures

is the responsibility of the levee district where the structure is located, regardless of which parishes the structures service or protect.

Mr. Ledet pointed out that costs for floodwall specific maintenance problems, such as subsidence, have not been included. Mr. Turner added that the decision was made early in the process not to include items of uncertainty, such as levee lifts and repair of foreshore protection, since it was not known if these costs will be covered as a project at a future date or will be considered O&M costs.

ORLEANS LEVEE DISTRICT (O.L.D.) RESULTS

TOTAL Pre-HSDRRS O&M Costs = \$13,312,015
TOTAL Post-HSDRRS O&M Cost = \$17,413,304
Additional Cost = \$ 4,101,289

Orleans Levee District Cost Increase

	Pre-HSDRRS	Post-HSDRRS	Additional Cost
Mowing	\$1,646,577	\$1,930,325	\$283,748
Foreshore Protection	\$0	\$582,245	\$582,245
Floodwalls	\$33,258	\$37,951	\$4,693
Dry Gates	\$1,100,925	\$1,105,215	\$4,290
Marine Gates	\$265,000	\$1,884,207	\$1,619,207
Contingency (10% Pre, 20% Post)	\$1,210,187	\$2,894,747	\$1,684,560
Total	\$13,312,059	\$17,368,484	\$4,056,425

Major O.L.D. HSDRRS projects include the majority of the IHNC Surge Barrier and the Sector and Barge gates, the Seabrook structure gate and the new Bayou Bienvenue structure gate. In addition, the old Bayou Bienvenue gate will remain in operation. The majority of the additional costs result from the O&M of the navigation gates. A higher contingency cost was included because of the uncertainties of operating the new navigation gates.

C. Discussion of selection of Coastal Engineering firms from respondents to the SLFPA-E’s Request for Qualifications.

Mr. Turner advised that a rating process was used by the selection committee to short list seven firms for interviews. The interviews were conducted and the firms were scored. The selection committee will meet to review the results. A recommendation will be provided to the Board at its next meeting.

D. Discussion of award of contract for Lake Borgne Basin Levee District VHF Tower Project (Project No. 2012-05-0002).

Nick Cali, LBBLD Executive Director, explained that the replacement of the VHF tower is a FEMA reimbursable project. Bids were solicited for two options: (1) a free standing tower and (2) a guide tower. This is a very small project in a specialized field. Only one

bid was received from Pittsburg Tank and Tower Co., Inc. in the amount of \$49,198 for Option 1. The LBBLD recommended Option 1 (free standing tower) since it was determined that the proposed footprint is too small for Option 2. The bid is for a turnkey operation, including a repeater, in compliance with all FCC regulations. The VHF tower is for the management of all internal LBBLD communications and does not tie into 800 MHz radio operability.

Mr. Doody offered a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Estopinal and unanimously adopted, to recommend that the Board approve the award of the contract to Pittsburg Tank and Tower Co., Inc.

Levee District Reports:

Lake Borgne Basin Levee District (LBBLD): Nick Cali, LBBLD Executive Director, reviewed the monthly status report (copy appended to minutes).

Orleans Levee District (O.L.D.): Gerry Gillen, O.L.D. Executive Director, reviewed the monthly status report (copy appended to minutes).

East Jefferson Levee District (EJLD): Fran Campbell, EJLD Executive Director, reviewed the monthly status report (copy appended to minutes). The New Orleans City Council approved the sale of land from the Louis Armstrong International Airport to the EJLD for the construction of a consolidated administration/safehouse facility. The EJLD is proceeding with the necessary survey, environmental and title work for the purchase, as well as the work required for acquiring several small parcels needed for the proposed construction project.

Mr. Doody informed everyone that Garrett Graves, the Governor's Executive Assistant for Coastal Activities, sent a letter to advise the USACE that all of the Notice of Construction Complete (NCC) letters are being returned by the State (the local sponsor). The USACE is attempting to turn over projects individually as they are completed; however, the State is of the opinion that the system should be turned over in its entirety when completed. Mr. Turner explained that a distinction has been made between the official NCC and the takeover of the operation and maintenance of a project. The CPRA's instruction is that receipt of the NCC letter is the latest time that the levee district should begin performing the O&M of a project; however, this is not an acquiescence that the project is completed and should be turned over to the local sponsor. The local sponsor does not want a project not to be maintained while its turnover and acceptance is being debated. Mr. Doody agreed that the O&M component should be separated from the RR&R (Repair, Rehabilitate and Replacement).

Mr. Doody reported that Senator Vitter's office advised that the Senate will be marking up a WRDA bill. It is hoped that the language to direct the USACE to take over the O&M of the navigation features of the HSDRRS and future levee lifts will be included in this legislative vehicle.

There was no further business; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.