

**MINUTES OF
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON APRIL 30, 2013**

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

The Operations Committee of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (SLFPA-E or Authority) met on April 30, 2013, in Meeting Room 221, Orleans Levee District Franklin Administrative Complex, 6920 Franklin Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana. Mr. Wittie called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

Opening Comments: None.

Adoption of Agenda: The agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the April 4, 2013 Operations Committee meeting were approved.

Public Comments: None.

New Business:

A. Introduction of Mr. Jerry Viera, SLFPA-W Commissioner, and discussion of SLFPA-W projects and common interests and goals.

Mr. Wittie advised that he and Mr. Viera recently discussed some of the common issues and goals of the Flood Protection Authorities. He invited Mr. Viera to attend the meeting in order to introduce himself and bring this discussion to the Committee. Jerry Viera is a Commissioner on the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-West (SLFPA-W) Board and Chairman of the SLFPA-W Technical, Operations and Maintenance Committee.

Mr. Viera explained that he would like to open a dialog for a technical, maintenance and operations collaboration across the River and pointed out the benefit of addressing common issues and goals in a collaborative effort. The SLFPA-W has jurisdiction over the West Jefferson Levee District and the Algiers Levee District, which have been joined into a single administration. Mr. Viera discussed the background of the members of the SLFPA-W Board and the structure of the organization. He introduced Giuseppe Miserendino, SLFPA-W Regional Director. He noted that the SLFPA-W does not have any technical staff and pointed out the need for the Authorities to stretch resources as far as possible.

Mr. Viera stated that for a period of about four years the SLFPA-W's focus has been on the attempt to keep up with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on the construction of the Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS). He discussed some of the future needs and priorities that the SLFPA-W is now attempting to focus on, which include the following:

Mutual Concerns

- Operation and maintenance of Flood Control Structures
- Operation and Maintenance Manual
- Water Control Manual
- Levee Certification/Periodic Inspection
- RNA (Restricted Navigable Area)
- Armoring
- System wide survey system
- Levee monitoring tools
- Flood Protection Standards
- Benchmarking

Major Issues for SLFPA-West

- Operations and Maintenance of Algiers Canal Levee
- Completing repairs to WBV 14c.2 (debris in levee)
- GIWW Western Closure Complex (Keel Cooler Resolution)

Mr. Viera suggested that the technical committees for the two Authorities commence a dialog on issues that could be reviewed jointly. The SLFPA-W Technical, Operations and Maintenance Committee meets monthly. Mr. Wittie commented that he recognized some common interests and problems and that the joint influence of the Authorities could benefit everyone concerned. Mr. Viera suggested that he and Mr. Wittie have a follow-up discussion to determine whether there are grounds for a collaborative effort.

Mr. Miserendino commented on two current SLFPA-W efforts upon which the two Authorities could collaborate:

- 1) W. S. Nelson Engineering is assisting the SLFPA-W in analyzing the armoring pilot program. The firm suggested that a destructive test be conducted on a section of levee in the pilot program in order to locally test the performance of the armoring. The pilot program is located near a reservoir; therefore, a flume could be constructed for use in simulating a washout.
- 2) Language is being added to the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) bill currently in Congress to clarify the USACE's position on adding height to a levee, rather than using armoring.

B. Discussion of Mississippi River bank stability issue at the Bertucci Facility in East Jefferson.

Robert Turner, SLFPA-E Regional Director, explained that a section of the Mississippi River levee bank in Jefferson Parish has been modified over a number of years by a business with facilities located on the batture. The bank was built up and used to store materials. The additional weight is causing a bank stability issue and presents an issue with the factor of safety. The owners were notified about the problem, but have not taken any action at this point. A representative from the USACE was requested to attend today's meeting, but was unable to do so because of a scheduling conflict. The USACE representative has agreed to appear at the June Operations Committee meeting in order to fully explore the problem.

Fran Campbell, East Jefferson Levee District (EJLD) Executive Director, further explained that the owners of the Bertucci Facility (Bertucci) built up the bank over a number of years. Bertucci hired an engineer and a design was developed to attempt to resolve the problem; however, the work was not accomplished. Discussions are taking place between Bertucci and the USACE on a resolution of this issue. If Bertucci does not resolve the problem by December, the USACE is planning to do the required work.

C. Presentation on proposed French Market Mural. (Orleans Levee District)

Gerry Gillen, Orleans Levee District (O.L.D.) Executive Director, advised that Max Bernardi and Robert Dafford are requesting approval to paint a mural on the Mississippi River Floodwall adjacent to the French Market.

Ms. Bernardi is a local muralist who has done work for the Audubon Institute. Mr. Dafford is a well known muralist from Lafayette, La. The proposed project to paint the historic French Market would be a joint venture between Ms. Bernardi and Mr. Dafford. Mr. Dafford advised that in the past twenty-five years he has painted thousands of feet of floodwall in West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois and Mississippi. The murals are well researched and very high quality historical paintings of each of the regions. A number of paint systems have been developed over the years for dealing with floodwalls and issues such as moisture transmission.

Ms. Bernardi explained that the proposed reach of floodwall (about 400-ft.) is located along St. Peters Street between Ursulines Avenue and Barracks Street. The floodwall is 11-ft. high and then drops down and tapers into another floodwall. She and Mr. Dafford are interested in painting some of the niches on the section of floodwall that rises behind where the wall tapers.

Mr. Dafford advised the Committee that he has worked with the USACE on floodwalls in many other states and has not had any problems. He pointed out that there has not been any problem with graffiti on the floodwalls that have been painted; however, occasional vandalism may occur. Images from the New Orleans Historic Collection will

be used as source materials for depictions of the French Market in the late 18th and 19th centuries painted in a sequence of archways.

Ms. Bernardi advised that she met with Ann Duplessis, Interim Executive Director, and Amy Kirk, Marketing Director, of the French Market Corp., both of whom strongly supported the proposal and suggested the possibility of developing an audio resource to supplement the mural. The French Market Corp. has protocols and a vetting process, and the proposal will be discussed at the next Marketing Meeting. A presentation could potentially be provided to the French Market Corp. Board at the end of the month.

Ms. Bernardi explained that an eco-friendly stripper would be used to remove some of the paint, the wall would be washed with low pressure, a renderer would be used to smooth the wall, and mineral silicates would be used to paint the mural. The mineral silicates will bond chemically with the concrete. Mr. Dafford added that the mineral silicates are a fifty year paint that is 90 percent vapor permeable and 10 percent penetrable. Funding for the project, which is estimated at \$350,000, will be pursued through several options after the approvals have been received. Typically, a contract is executed with the funding agencies for retouching and repainting the mural. A maintenance mechanism will be built into the plan.

Mr. Estopinal offered a motion to forward the proposal to the Board with instructions that the SLFPA-E engineers review the process. If there are no structural objections, then the proposal can be forwarded with a recommendation for approval. The Committee concurred with the motion.

D. Review of East Jefferson Levee District, Lake Borgne Basin Levee District and Orleans Levee District 2013 Emergency Operation Plan (EOP) Manuals.

Mr. Turner explained that the EOP Manuals are revised annually to include updated emergency contact information and other revisions. The SLFPA-E has an on-going initiative for the development of an overarching EOP Manual in a National Information Management System (NIMS) format. He stated that he did not anticipate that the consolidated EOP Manual will be up-to-speed for the upcoming hurricane season, but could be used alongside of the individual levee district EOP Manuals. The consolidated manual will have three distinct sections for the individual levee districts.

The Committee recommended that an item be placed on the Board agenda for the approval of the EOP Manuals.

LEVEE DISTRICT REPORTS:

Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS) Status Report:

Mr. Turner informed everyone that the Mississippi River level is rising and is currently above 11-ft. at the Carrollton Gage. The SLFPA-E and levee districts are in Stage One Alert at this time. Surveillance is increased along the river during a Stage One Alert and

the SLFPA-E coordinates with the USACE. A Stage Two Alert is initiated when the river reaches 15-ft. A Stage Two Alert includes more comprehensive surveillance until the river decreases below 11-ft. The current forecast is for the river to crest at about 14-ft. around May 11th.

Mr. Turner reviewed the highlights of the HSDDRS Status Report (copy appended) and commented on some of the major items included in the report. He discussed the on-going issues with the IHNC Surge Barrier Barge Gate. The USACE is attempting to correct issues involving the uni-struts inside of the barge and the large mechanical units used to reel in the chain and swing the barge. The USACE must come to a decision about when it will begin exercising the Barge Gate and whether the Notification of Contract Completion (NCC) will be issued on portions of the IHNC Surge Barrier Project or on the project as a whole.

Gerry Gillen, Orleans Levee District (O.L.D.) Executive Director, advised that the draft report was received from GEC on the operation and maintenance (O&M) of the marine gate structures. Plans were laid out for regular maintenance and for emergency operations. The O&M of the structures will require five additional full time O.L.D. employees. Qualifications for the positions are currently being developed and will be submitted to Civil Service. During an emergency, as many as nine O.L.D. employees may be needed to operate the gate structures. Mr. Turner added that GEC estimated the cost to operate and maintain the structures at over one million dollars per year. GEC's comprehensive effort included the IHNC Surge Barrier Sector and Barge Gates, and the gates at Seabrook, Carnarvon, Bayou Dupre, Bayou Bienvenue and Bayou St. John. One additional employee will be needed at the Lake Borgne Basin Levee District (LBBLD) for the O&M of the structures. The LBBLD will also need to call upon other employees to assist in the O&M effort.

Lake Borgne Basin Levee District (LBBLD): Nick Cali, LBBLD Executive Director, reviewed the highlights of the LBBLD Status Report (copy appended). He commented that the USACE has started its twice weekly inspections (Tuesdays and Fridays) of the Mississippi River Levee under the Stage One Alert. LBBLD staff will coordinate with the USACE Flood Fight Coordinator and will perform a daily inspection of the MRL on the other days. A Stage Two Alert would initiative a more frequent inspection program. The LBBLD is maintaining contact with St. Bernard Parish Emergency Operations.

Mr. Cali reported that a 100kw generator is being installed at the LBBLD facility and will be operable by June 1st.

Orleans Levee District (O.L.D.): Gerry Gillen, O.L.D. Executive Director, reviewed the highlights of the O.L.D. Status Report (copy appended).

Mr. Turner advised that the USACE has verbally committed to doing some erosion protection on the west side of the 17th Street Canal. The USACE is investigating the possibility that some type of erosion protection may be required on the London and Orleans Avenue Canals, as well as areas on the east side of the 17th Street Canal. The

SLFPA-E is awaiting the completion of the USACE's study. As a part of the study, the USACE did some additional survey work to determine the actual cross sections and found some unanticipated scour in areas on the east side of the 17th Street Canal. The scour seems to be worse at the pumping stations. The USACE is doing an analysis to determine whether these issues will have adverse impacts on the previous analysis for calculating the factor of safety for the safe water elevation in the canals. Additional measures may be necessary to address the scour problem.

East Jefferson Levee District (EJLD): Fran Campbell, EJLD Executive Director, reviewed the EJLD Status Report (copy appended). She reported that the USACE has completed the 95 percent plans/specifications for the Jefferson Heights Levee Lift. The USACE is investigating several sites in the EJLD for its Mississippi River Levee staging area. The EJLD will be responsible for negotiating an agreement with the landowner for the staging site. EJLD police and maintenance personnel are doing daily inspections under the Stage One Alert. All permits for excavation within 1,500 feet of the levee are on hold. Police are patrolling the subject area to ensure compliance with this restriction.

There was no further discussion; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 11:22 a.m.