

**MINUTES OF
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING
HELD ON JUNE 6, 2013**

PRESENT: Louis Wittie, Chair
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 June 6, 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 8:30 a.m.

Opening Comments: None.

Adoption of Agenda: The agenda was approved as presented.

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the April 30, 2013 Operations Committee meeting were approved.

Public Comments: None.

Old Business:

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

Robert Turner, SLFPA-E Regional Director, explained that the bank stability issue near the Orleans/Jefferson Parish line was pointed out several months ago during a discussion of the Levee Safety Evaluation Report (LSER) and is the result of activities on the batture at the Bertucci facility. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) was requested to provide a briefing on this issue.

Don Rawson, USACE Channel Improvement Project Manager, explained that the subject area of concern is at Carrollton Bend. LADIR surveys were performed in 2007 of the entire Mississippi River and Tributaries (MRT) System. A stability analysis was performed in August, 2010, as part of the LSER work. The stability analysis showed five locations with stability problems. Carrollton Bend was one of the locations. Bank factors of safety as low as 0.96 were discovered. The USACE did a permit search and discovered that Bertucci Contracting (Bertucci) only had a permit for barge fleeting. Bertucci has been at this location since 1958. The USACE's analysis showed that Bertucci added between five and eight feet of fill to the batture. At a meeting in October, 2010, Bertucci admitting to adding concrete and fill to the batture for years to keep its facility from flooding. The USACE wrote a series of letters to Bertucci to address the issue. Bertucci retained Eustis Engineering to do a stability analysis which verified the results of the USACE's analysis. Bertucci applied to the USACE for a permit, which was

granted, to rectify the problem. Initial bank grading and berm construction started in May, 2012.

Mr. Rawson advised that the concern is a bank stability problem and not a levee stability problem; however, if the bank fails, the levee could potentially become unstable and require a setback. Bertucci is still working to grade and stabilize the batture. The USACE is monitoring the situation. Should the stabilization work not be completed by September, 2013, the USACE will complete the work when it performs revetment work along the Mississippi River Levee (MRL). Mr. Turner pointed out that the situation is not a major concern while the river level is high; however, it could become critical if there is a sudden drop in the river. The current river forecast for the next 28 days indicates a slow drop in the river.

Mr. Rawson added that Bertucci is currently building a ring levee to protect its facility from flooding. The ring levee is acceptable during high water; however, it must be removed during low water. The USACE in its permit process normally allows the placement of one foot of fill on the batture.

The Committee discussed the need to more closely monitor permits and the difficulty in monitoring the placement of fill on the batture. Robert Lacour, SLFPA-E General Counsel, recommended including a condition in all levee district operating permits to state that no fill shall be added to the batture without an additional permit. The USACE requires that a stability analysis be performed when applicants apply for a permit. The East Jefferson Levee District will coordinate with the USACE on the issuance of a permit to Bertucci.

New Business:

A. Discussion of erosion at Harrison and Filmore Ave. Bridges and potential fix to allow safe access for O.L.D. personnel through floodgates OCE-1 - OCE-4.

Felton Suthon, Orleans Levee District (O.L.D.) Engineer, explained that the USACE is reviewing the erosion problem along the Orleans, London and 17th Street Canals and potential long term solutions. However, there is a need to consider a short term solution for the erosion problem at certain floodgates along the London and Orleans Avenue Canals because of safety issues relative to personnel access. Submar, Inc. was requested to provide a brief presentation on a proposed solution.

Derek Dice, President of Submar, Inc. (Submar), advised that Submar is a certified Louisiana contractor specializing in engineering, manufacturing, installation and distribution, with innovative products for dealing with erosion control and flood defense. He described several products used in erosion and flood control: Articulating Concrete Mattresses, Transition Mats (ScourStop), Concrete Armor Units (AMAX), Structural Baskets (BarriCage) and Trapezoidal Bags (RIBS). Submar visited the Harrison Avenue Bridge, surveyed the erosion around the bridge abutments and prepared a proposal that included two different solutions for the two problematic areas at Harrison and Filmore Avenues. A customized fit is needed at these locations because of size and access; therefore, two options were recommended: 1) AMAX Solution consisting of two layers of

Concrete Armoring Units stacked on top each other to create a foundation, and 2) RIBS Solution consisting of two-foot concrete bags installed in a horseshoe fashion around the erosion area.

Mr. Suthon advised that the estimated cost of both recommended options for the two locations is essentially the same (\$84,000). The O.L.D. will consider the options recommended by Submar along with other potential options.

Mr. Turner noted that the SLFPA-E has been working for the past six to eight months with the USACE on the outfall canal erosion issue. The USACE is in the process of determining the critical areas and will provide information to the SLFPA-E shortly. Once a determination is made as to what work will be done by the USACE, the SLFPA-E can decide whether it will take additional action.

B. Discussion of the issuance of a task order to URS Corp. for the IHNC Florida Avenue Bridge Erosion Protection Design. (Orleans Levee District)

Mr. Suthon explained that the sheetpile southeast of the IHNC Florida Avenue Bridge from the bridge to the existing floodwall has deteriorated and become exposed due to settlement. Some of the floodwall, which only serves to protect the low roadway approach to the bridge, will be replaced with sheetpile. Hesco baskets were placed in an area northwest of the bridge to protect a roadway and railroad approach to the bridge from higher stages in the IHNC. The Hesco baskets will be replaced with a sheetpile wall that will tie into higher ground. Estimated costs are \$122,000 for consulting engineering and \$400,000 for construction. A Task Order will be issued under an existing ID-IQ Contract to URS Corporation for the consulting engineering work.

Mr. Doody offered a motion to recommend that the Board approve the issuance of a Task Order to URS Corp. for the aforementioned project. The motion was adopted.

Levee District Reports (copies of status reports appended to minutes):

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

Mr. Turner provided a brief report on the status of Tropical Storm Andrea, which was expected to move towards the upper Florida Gulf Coast. Higher than normal tides are expected to impact this region. He pointed out that the Mississippi River is unusually high at this time and is anticipated to remain above 11-ft. until the beginning of July. The SLFPA-E and levee districts are currently in a normal operational mode and will monitor weather bulletins and tides. The levee districts are operating the Bayou Bienvenue and Bayou Dupre Control Structures as needed. Alerts on the operation of the structures are being sent to mariners. A SLFPA-E Hurricane Table Top Exercise is scheduled for June 24, 2013, at the O.L.D. Emergency Operations Center. The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA) and USACE have been invited to participate in the exercise. SLFPA-E Commissioners are invited to participate.

Mr. Turner reviewed the highlights of the HSDRRS Status Report. He reported that the USACE has operated the IHNC Barge Gate twice a week for the past three weeks.

There were no issues the last time that the USACE operated the structure through nearly a full cycle. There are minor issues with some of the sensors that must be resolved. SLFPA-E/O.L.D. personnel are observing the USACE's operation of the structure. The testing of the structure has stopped for the time being and the barge is in the closed position. The barge is not fully ballasted so that work can continue on the unistruts and unistruct supports in the interior of the barge. Once the work is completed sometime during July, the current plan is to float the barge, swing it in the open position and set it on landing beams. The plan may be modified to leave the barge in the floating position; however, additional analysis is required to determine whether this is feasible.

Harold Daigle with the CPRA Operations Division advised the Committee about a maintenance issue that is being discussed with the USACE—the dredging of the access channel on both sides of the IHNC Surge Barrier. The USACE's design requires that the channels be dredged to negative 15-ft. Uneven levels in the channels located on either side of the barrier could potentially cause a stability problem. Dredging could become a major problem with back-to-back storms since there may not be enough time to accomplish the post storm assessment, surveys and dredging. The channels cannot be filled because the barrier is designed to be overtopped and has a splash pad on one side. The design is an impossible scenario to maintain with back-to-back storms and should be addressed in the Operations and Maintenance Manual. Full engineering should be performed and this issue re-evaluated.

Mr. Turner reported that the rip-rap placed on the shoreline on the floodside of the IHNC Surge Barrier east of the access canal immediately sunk. There is a concern that the SLFPA-E will be required to maintain the rip-rap, which was not an engineered solution.

Lake Borgne Basin Levee District (LBBLD): Nick Cali, LBBLD Executive Director, reviewed the highlights of the LBBLD status report. He reported that the LBBLD is working with the St. Bernard Parish Sheriff's Office by providing sand to its sandbagging operation in exchange for access to the stockpiled sandbags. The USACE has agreed to supply a safe room at Pump Station No. 8. The grant monies allocated for the construction of three safe rooms can now be used to construct two safe rooms and implement the telemetry system. The Request for Qualifications for the pump station engine upgrades will be issued on Friday.

Orleans Levee District (O.L.D.): Gerry Gillen, O.L.D. Executive Director, reviewed the highlights of the O.L.D. status report.

East Jefferson Levee District (EJLD): Fran Campbell, EJLD Executive Director, reviewed the highlights of the EJLD status report. She reported that EJLD staff discovered an empty pool located in a backyard along the MRL while inspecting the levee. The owner was required to fill the pool. Mr. Lacour pointed out that pool permits currently require that the permittee maintain a filled pool. He suggested that additional language be included in the permit to allow ingress and egress to the property and to fill the pool at the permittee's expense in the event that the permittee fails to maintain the pool as required.

There was no further business; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 9:53 a.m.