

**MINUTES OF  
SOUTHEAST LOUISIANA FLOOD PROTECTION AUTHORITY-EAST  
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING  
HELD ON NOVEMBER 7, 2013**

PRESENT: Louis Wittie, Chair  
Timothy Doody, Committee Member  
Stephen Estopinal, Committee Member  
Paul Tilly

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The Operations Committee of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-East (SLFPA-E or Authority) met on November 7, 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 9:30 a.m.

**Opening Comments:** Mr. Wittie stated that he received pictures of recent street flooding in Madisonville, LA, and that he wanted to bring this situation to the Committee's attention. Mr. Estopinal suggested that some of the marks (such as Alcoa located on the Lakefront) could be revisited with high precision GPS observation to determine whether a shift has occurred in one of the faults. Robert Turner, SLFPA-E Regional Director, advised that a SLFPA-E Indefinite Delivery-Indefinite Quantity (ID-IQ) Surveying contract could be used for this purpose. Mr. Estopinal noted that a funding source would need to be identified for the proposed work. He added that he would contact the Louisiana Spatial Reference Center to determine whether any vertical movement or other dynamic has been detected. Mr. Turner advised that the lake water, particularly in Lake Borgne, has stayed consistently high during the past three months. Mr. Estopinal also suggested that the SLFPA-E work with NOAA and develop a funding mechanism for the establishment of hardened gages, which would include instrumentation to detect geological movement. The hardened gages are estimated to cost approximately one-half million dollars each and would require additional funding for maintenance. He pointed out that the gages would need to be tied into a reliable datum. The SLFPA-E is developing an inventory of the gages currently in place.

**Adoption of Agenda:** The agenda was approved as presented.

**Approval of Minutes:** The minutes of the October 3, 2013 Operations Committee meeting were approved.

**Public Comments:**

Carol Byram commented that during a recent discussion on turning over the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Canal floodwalls to the Sewerage and Water Board, it was stated that a number of issues would need to be considered. She asked, what were the issues? Mr. Doody replied that eliminating the floodwalls from the Federal system would make them ineligible for future repair under PL 84-99. In addition, there are jurisdictional issues between the entities. A meeting will be held next week to discuss some of the issues.

Ms. Byram commented that representatives of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) indicated to her that only the floodwalls are part of the flood protection

system—not the land portion. Mr. Doody advised that the SLFPA-E would have to receive this information from the USACE in writing and noted that removal from the Federal system would require Congressional action.

**New Business:**

**A. Discussion of award of contract in the amount of \$394,455.00 to Cycle Construction, LLC, for the Florida Avenue Bridge Erosion Protection Project.**

Gerry Gillen, Orleans Levee District (O.L.D.) Executive Director, advised that two bids were received for the Florida Avenue Bridge Erosion Protection Project: Cycle Construction - \$394,445 and M. R. Pittman Group - \$459,099. He recommended that a contract be awarded to the lowest bidder, Cycle Construction. The project includes repair (steel sheetpile) to a secondary wall on the east side of the Florida Avenue Bridge and a sheetpile wall on the west side of the bridge to replace the sandbags currently in place.

The Committee recommended that a resolution be forwarded to the Board to approve the award of the contract for the Florida Avenue Bridge Erosion Protection Project to Cycle Construction.

**B. Discussion of award of contract in the amount of \$794,595.10 to Barriere Construction Company, LLC, for the Franklin Avenue Facility Parking Lot Improvements Project.**

Mr. Gillen advised that five bids were received for the Franklin Avenue Facility Parking Lot Improvements Project. The lowest bid was received from Barriere Construction Company in the amount of \$794,595.10. The bid item for landscaping, which is about five percent of the project, was \$30,000. He recommended that a contract be awarded to the lowest bidder, Barriere Construction Company.

The Committee recommended that a resolution be forwarded to the Board to approve the award of the contract for the Franklin Avenue Facility Parking Lot Improvements Project to Barriere Construction Company. Mr. Doody recused himself from the Committee's vote on this item.

**C. Discussion of award of contract in the amount of \$906,337.00 to Kostmayer Construction Company, LLC, for the Floodgate and Floodwall Repairs Project.**

Mr. Gillen advised that three bids were received for the Floodgate and Floodwall Repairs Project. The lowest bid was received from Kostmayer Construction Company in the amount of \$906,337. The project consists of replacing the rubber seals on about 70 floodgates, general adjustments to floodgates and the repair of 50 to 60 concrete spalls on the floodwalls. He recommended that the contract be awarded to the lowest bidder, Kostmayer Construction Company.

The Committee recommended that a resolution be forwarded to the Board to approve the award of the contract for the Floodgate and Floodwall Repairs Project to Kostmayer

Construction Company. Mr. Doody recused himself from the Committee's vote on this item.

**D. Discussion of Cooperative Endeavor Agreements between the SLFPA-E/LBBLD and St. Bernard Parish for the Widening/Stabilization of the Congressmen Hebert, Creely and Bluebird Canals and Palmisano Drainage Upgrades, Phase I, under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.**

Mr. Turner advised that Nick Cali, Lake Borgne Basin Levee District (LBBLD) Executive Director, was attending a USACE Value Engineering Workshop on corrosion issues relative to the steel sheetpile used to construct the T-Wall in St. Bernard Parish; therefore, he was unable to attend the Committee meeting. He explained that several canals in St. Bernard Parish have been problematic over the years primarily due to limited access. St. Bernard Parish received Hazard Mitigation Program Grant (HMPG) funding to perform work on the canals and on drainage upgrades; therefore, a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement is required between the LBBLD/SLFPA-E and the St. Bernard Parish Government for each project. The CEAs have been submitted to legal counsel for review.

The Committee recommended that a resolution be submitted to the Board to authorize the execution of the CEAs for each of the subject HMGP projects.

**E. Discussion of Jefferson Heights Mississippi River Levee Raising Project.**

Fran Campbell, East Jefferson Levee District (EJLD) Executive Director, advised that the Jefferson Heights Mississippi River Levee (MRL) Raising Project will commence in December. A town hall meeting will be held to provide information on the project. The MRL levee will be raised in most areas between one and two feet. The project will be on-going for two years. The levee crown will be widened and the slope will be slightly increased on the protected side. The project will include the removal of trees within the levee section. At this time the USACE is not recommending that the contractor remove trees outside of the limits of the right-of-way. The project will impact the bike path located on the levee crown. Since there is no method for safely diverting bikers, the bike path will be closed. The bike path will be reconstructed as part of the project. Robert Lacour, SLFPA-E Legal Counsel, noted that the bike path belongs to Jefferson Parish. Mr. Turner added that the SLFPA-E requested that the USACE provide the GPS coordinates when it marks the levee toe.

**LEVEE DISTRICT REPORTS: (copies of reports appended to minutes)**

**Hurricane and Storm Damage Risk Reduction System (HSDRRS):** Mr. Turner reviewed the highlights of the HSDRRS report.

- Foreshore Protection Project in Jefferson Parish – The Notification of Contract Completion (NCC) was received from the USACE for Reach 3; however, a potential stability failure was discovered and is being investigated. In addition, erosion has occurred within five to ten feet landward of the rocks. The USACE performed some erosion repairs while Reach 3 was being turned over; however, the SLFPA-E did not agree with the method used since it did not prevent the creation of a path for materials to escape through the voids in the rock. Significant erosion has been

experienced along Reach 1. SLFPA-E, CPRA, EJLD and USACE representatives met on site on at least two occasions. The USACE will consider doing a short pilot project if the SLFPA-E provides details on its recommended method of repair. The SLFPA-E is currently working with one of its ID-IQ contractors on the plan. The USACE is also evaluating a recently discovered wet spot. The USACE anticipates turning over the next two reaches of the project within thirty days.

- West Return Wall – Some cracking has occurred on the northern segment (Recurve Area). A USACE contractor sealed the cracks after the NCC was issued.
- IHNC Surge Barrier and Seabrook Complex – The NCC is scheduled to be issued on December 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> for the projects and the SLFPA-E/O.L.D. will become responsible for their operation and maintenance (O&M). O.L.D. staff is receiving training from the USACE on the Seabrook Complex and the IHNC Surge Barrier Sector and Barge Gates. A SLFPA-E contractor is developing an on-going training program for O.L.D. personnel for the complex structures, as well as maintenance schedules and a computer program to track the maintenance of the structures.
- HSDRRS-MRL tie-in (Caernarvon) – The notice to proceed was issued on the USACE's modification of the tie-in. The project is anticipated to be completed by May, 2014.
- HSDRRS Armoring – Maintenance testing is taking place on the USACE pilot project. The desired root density was not achieved using the hydro-mulching application. The desired root density was achieved using sod.

Mr. Doody noted that the Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) bill is going to a conference committee. It is hoped that the House will draft the Senate language as part of the conference committee report and include authority for the USACE to operate and maintain the IHNC Surge Barrier Sector and Barge Gates. The O&M cost will be cost shared. Mr. Turner pointed out that WRDA is the authorizing legislation; however, money must still be appropriated for the USACE to take on this responsibility.

**Lake Borgne Basin Levee District:** LBBLD status report appended to minutes.

**Orleans Levee District:** Mr. Gillen reviewed the highlights of the O.L.D. status report.

**East Jefferson Levee District:** Ms. Campbell reviewed the highlights of the EJLD status report. An informal meeting will be held within the next two weeks with the architect on the EJLD Safehouse and Consolidated Facility Project and a presentation will be provided to the Operations Committee on the project.

Mr. Turner advised that the SLFPA-E has been successful in getting the USACE to address the erosion problem along the west side (East Jefferson) of the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Canal from Veterans Highway to the Old Hammond Highway Bridge through the placement of rip-rap. However, the SLFPA-E was unsuccessful in getting the USACE to address the erosion problems along any other section of the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Canal or the other Outfall Canals. The O.L.D. is planning to address the erosion problem around several bridge abutments adjacent to floodgates.

There was no further business; therefore, the meeting was adjourned at 10:55 a.m.